

## **THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 14 APRIL 2015, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.30 A.M.**

#### **PRESENT:**

P. Ewen (Chairman), A. Robb, A. Birchfield, P. McDonnell, T. Archer, S. Challenger, N. Clementson, J. Douglas

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), M. Meehan (Planning & Environmental Manager), J. Adams (Consents & Compliance Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk)

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

**Moved** (Ewen / Archer) *That the apology from F. Tumahai be accepted.*

*Carried*

#### **2. PUBLIC FORUM**

There was no public forum.

#### **3. MINUTES**

**Moved** (Clementson / Birchfield) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 10 March 2015, be confirmed as correct.*

*Carried*

#### **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cr Ewen reported that he attended the Regional Transport Committee meeting on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March. He attended a Local Government NZ workshop on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April. Cr Ewen advised that he, The Chairman and the Chief Executive met with Hon. Damien O'Connor on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March to discuss matters relating to the West Coast as a region. Cr Ewen advised that he also dealt with ratepayer enquiries relating to gravel extraction.

**Moved** (Ewen / Robb)

*Carried*

#### **5. REPORTS**

##### **5.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP**

##### **5.1.1 STATE OF ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that State of Environment (SOE) report is prepared every three years. M. Meehan advised that the report reveals where water quality is declining or where it is showing improvement. M. Meehan advised that overall water quality is good. He advised that the results are assessed against the recently released national objectives framework under the National Policy Statement for Freshwater. M. Meehan advised that the majority of sites score well but there are some sites that could score better. M. Meehan introduced the two staff members who prepared the SOE report, J. Horrox and E. Chaney, to the meeting. J. Horrox

presented the SOE report to the meeting. J. Horrox provided an extensive overview of the report and spoke of various trends and answered several questions from Councillors. Cr Ewen thanked J. Horrox and E. Chaney for their presentation.

**Moved** (Archer / Robb) *That Council receives this report.*

*Carried*

### **5.1.2 STATE OF ENVIRONMENT REPORT ON SURFACE WATER QUALITY – POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

M. Meehan spoke to this report follows on from the SOE report and covers analysis of potential policy implications arising from the SOE report. M. Meehan advised that the majority of sites that Council monitors are either stable or improving in water quality. He stated that there are a couple of sites that are deteriorating and council does need to do some work on these sites. M. Meehan stated that the National Objectives Framework and the NPS for Freshwater was developed with a lot of input from scientists around New Zealand, and regional council staff. M. Meehan advised that this framework allows Council to look at their waterways and to see how they compare nationally. He advised most of the west coast waterways are in the A or B categories. M. Meehan stated that council has done some very good work around farm plans and working with farmers and the dairy company has also done some good work in this area. He advised that work done with the mining industry has also helped to improve water quality. M. Meehan advised that there has been a lot of improvement with point source discharges. M. Meehan advised that N. Costley has done an analysis to work out if the policies and objectives are actually being achieved. He stated that the results from the SOE report reveal that Council is sustainably using and developing its land and water resources because water quality around the region is looking fine. He answered various questions from Councillors. Cr Ewen stated that this is a significant result and is a good news story. Cr Ewen stated he would like a press release done to show the community the progress that is being made and that council is up there with the Proposed National Policy Statement. Cr Ewen passed on his congratulations to staff that put the effort into this report.

**Moved** (Robb / Challenger) *That Council receives this report.*

*Carried*

### **5.1.3 BATHING BEACH WATER QUALITY SAMPLING UPDATE**

M. Meehan and E. Chaney spoke to this report. This shows the results of the summer season's monitoring. M. Meehan stated that further testing occurred to ascertain whether the very poor results were due to bovine, avian or human waste. E. Chaney advised that at Hokitika Beach and Marrs and Shingle Beach samples were sent to a lab in Christchurch. If a high sample of E coli was found then the lab could run an extra test to give extra information on where this could be coming from. E. Chaney stated that there were not many high results this summer to enable extra investigations. She stated that the one sample from Hokitika Beach that did have a higher reading came back showing markers for human, ruminants and avian sources. E. Chaney advised that this type of testing could be undertaken next summer should there be concerns with E coli readings at these beaches.

Cr Clementson asked where the sampling point is at Marrs Beach. E. Chaney explained where the sampling point is. M. Meehan advised that with regard to water quality there is always an element of risk with swimming after significant rainfall, but the majority of times when there hasn't been rainfall the week prior to sampling the results are good.

**Moved** (Archer / McDonnell) *That Council receives this report.*

*Carried*

### **5.1.4 PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT'S REPORT ON AIR QUALITY**

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that currently Council is working under a NES for air quality which refers to PM<sub>10</sub>. This NES was developed a decade ago with the information that was to hand at the time. M. Meehan advised that a lot of work has been done with the Reefton Airshed within the last couple of years and this work is still continuing. M. Meehan advised that the Commissioner has advised that potentially PM<sub>2.5</sub> should be measured as this particle size has a bigger impact on health. M. Meehan stated that the Commissioner has looked at the World Health Organisation's health standards and has looked at what is being done around the world. She has

also looked at what is the actual risk of having short term exposure to PM<sub>10</sub> and what is the risk of having four or five days of exceedances when the rest of the year is not too bad. M. Meehan advised that that Commissioner is looking at changing the current NES to measure PM<sub>2.5</sub>. It is unclear what this would mean for the Reefton Airshed. M. Meehan stated that MfE are now looking at this to see if changes to the NES are required. Councils will have the opportunity to have input into this. M. Meehan advised that air sheds that are consistently exceeding the NES are air sheds mainly in the South Island, during winter in sub alpine towns like Reefton and Alexandra. He stated that this is a very difficult issue to deal with. M. Meehan advised that the Commissioner has made some recommendations to see if PM<sub>2.5</sub> should be measured as an annual average concentration, rather than looking at daily exceedances. Cr Archer stated that this is not helpful at all, considering all the work that this council has done with the Reefton Airshed Committee and the testing of Oeko tubes. M. Meehan stated that the work that has been done isn't wasted but this may mean some adaption to this work may be required. Cr Archer asked if anyone has done any Oeko tube testing on PM<sub>2.5</sub>? If so on coal? M. Meehan responded that he would need to check this with the manufacturer, he suspects that this could have been done. M. Meehan advised that an update is expected from MfE within the next month or two.

**Moved** (Archer / Challenger) *That Council receives this report.*

*Carried*

### **5.1.5 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGERS REPORT**

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that Council has now attempted to contact all Schedule 2 wetland landowners and some site visits have been made. Maps have also been supplied to those landowners who have requested them.

M. Meehan reported that the Select Committee for the Environmental Reporting Bill reported back on 30 March 2015. He advised that the Bill should come into effect later this year and there is no requirement for Council to do any more monitoring than is currently being done.

The RMA Reforms and the range of changes were discussed. M. Meehan spoke of various changes including avoiding appeals, decision making on plans and how MfE would like to have qualified commissioners on plan hearings and making collaborative processes for councils as easy as possible in order to get plan changes across the line.

M. Meehan reported that Council's Biosecurity Officer has assisted the Kongahu rating district with addressing Parrot's Feather in this catchment. Aerial and ground spraying work has been done which is shown positive results so far. Search work on African Feather Grass has also been done. M. Meehan advised that this grass has been known to be located in the Westport area but it has also been seen in the Cobden area recently.

M. Meehan advised that Ecan staff assisted with a nursery inspection on the West Coast. This was in accordance with the National Pest Plant Accord to ensure that nurseries are not selling any plants that they shouldn't. M. Meehan advised that there were no concerns raised.

Cr Archer commented that successive Parliaments are still not focussing on the real issue of what is causing all the problems and delays with RMA Reform. He stated that it is appeals that are taking up time and money and often they are frivolous and vexatious appeals.

**Moved** (Archer / Birchfield) *That Council receives this report.*

*Carried*

### **5.1.6 REGIONAL TRANSPORT PLANS**

C. Ingle spoke to this report. He stated that both the Chairman and Deputy Chairman are on the Regional Transport Committee (RTC) and have worked through the transport plans with the committee. C. Ingle advised that nine submissions were received for the draft Regional Land Transport Plan 2015 – 21 and one submission on the draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2015. He advised that the hearing panel made decisions on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February and the RTC met on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March and approved both documents. Cr Robb stated this has been a good process with good outcomes. He stated that N. Costley has done very well with getting these plans through. Cr Robb advised that he will be attending a meeting with the Visitor Driving Governance Group next week. Cr Robb stated that the West Coast has been a late arrival to this group but it is important that we are represented in this area. The widening of the road around Arthurs Pass was discussed. Cr Robb advised that this is out of our region but affects the West Coast. He stated that this work has been tendered and is about to be let, the work is expected to start next summer.

Cr Challenger drew attention to the section of the report that relates to maintenance of the cycleway. He noted that Grey District Council and DoC are mentioned but not Westland District

Council. Cr Challenger queried as to whether or not this could be an oversight as maintenance of the cycleway is a considerable cost. C. Ingle advised that this cost be being accounted for in a different way. Cr Robb stated that this has been discussed before. Cr Archer stated that both Plans are comprehensive and well balanced.

**Moved** (Robb / Birchfield) *That Council:*

1. *Adopts the West Coast Regional Land Transport Plan 2015 – 21 as per 18B(3)(a) of the Land Transport Management Act and submits this to the NZ Transport Agency; and*
2. *Adopts the Regional Public Transport Plan 2015 for the West Coast as per section 119(1) of the Land Transport Management Act.*

*Carried*

### **5.1.7 VARIATION TO THE REGIONAL LAND TRANSPORT PROGRAMME 2012 – 2015**

C. Ingle spoke to this report and advised that it is related to the previous report with five of the submissions received on the Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP) were to do with the High Street / Marlborough Street intersection in Greymouth. C. Ingle advised that originally this project was to be undertaken as a minor improvement project, being valued at less than \$300,000; but through consultation and a redesign the cost has escalated to \$600,000. He advised that in view of this, a variation to the RLTP needs to be done in order for this improvement to go ahead. Discussion took place on this intersection. C. Ingle advised that there are no budget implications for this council as it is an NZTA project but it does come under the umbrella of council's RLTP.

**Moved** (Archer / Clementson) *That Council:*

1. *Adopts the Variation to the West Coast Regional Land Transport Programme 2012 – 15; and*
2. *Submits the Variation to the West Coast Regional Land Transport Programme 2012 – 15 to the NZ Transport Agency.*

*Carried*

### **5.1.8 APPOINTMENT OF A DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION REPRESENTATIVE TO THE WEST COAST REGIONAL TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

C. Ingle spoke to this report. He advised that DoC is not currently a member of the RTC but they are the road controlling authority for the two glacier roads. C. Ingle advised that the DoC representative will not be a voting member of the RTC. It is suggested that W. Costello from the Franz Josef area will possibly fill this role.

**Moved** (Robb / Ewen)

*That the representative from the Department of Conservation be appointed to the West Coast Transport Committee as a non-voting member.*

*Carried*

### **5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT**

J. Adams spoke to this report. He advised that 20 non-notified resource consents were granted, four changes to consent conditions, and one limited notified consent were granted.

**Moved** (Robb / McDonnell) *that the April 2015 report of the Consents Group be received.*

*Carried*

### **5.2.1 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT**

J. Adams spoke to this report and advised that 79 site visits were made during the reporting period. He reported that of the 56 dairy farm inspections four were found to be non-compliant, with one awaiting sampling results. J. Adams advised that the four non-compliant dairy farms are now compliant. J. Adams reported that ten complaints were received during the reporting period and no formal enforcement action was taken during the reporting period. J. Adams reported that four work

programmes were received during the reporting period. Three of these were approved at the time of writing this report and the fourth one has since been approved. J. Adams two mining bonds were received and two have been recommended for release.

**Moved** (Archer / Robb)

1. *That the April 2015 report of the Compliance Group be received.*
2. *That the bond held by Whyte Gold Ltd RC04027, Ian Whyte RC05067 and Astral Mining Ltd RC11145, are released.*

*Carried*

## **6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 12.22 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date