

## **THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 9 FEBRUARY 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, F. Tumahai

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

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

Mr Jeffrey Allen addressed the meeting. Mr Allen stated that he has concerns regarding the restoration of his land at Duganville. He stated that his concerns relate to resource consent number RC05067. Mr Allen was not happy with the standard of restoration so he did the work himself. He provided Council with a background to this mining operation and displayed photographs of various stages of the restoration work. Mr Allen answered various questions from Councillors. Cr Ewen thanked Mr Allen.

#### **3. MINUTES**

**Moved** (Archer / Challenger) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 9 December 2014, be confirmed as correct.*

*Carried*

#### **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

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

Cr Ewen reported that it has been very quiet over the Christmas and New Year period. He advised that he assisted with the tender opening for the cleaning contract for the Council building. Cr Ewen advised that he was unable to attend the meeting for the Coal Creek rating district to view the erosion in this area as he was on holiday. Cr Ewen advised that Cr Birchfield updated him with the course of action for this rating district. Cr Ewen stated that he is happy with this.

**Moved** (Ewen / Birchfield)

*Carried*

#### **5. REPORTS**

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

##### **5.1.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGER'S REPORT**

M. Meehan reported that funding from MfE has helped to kick start the Grey Valley Water Resource work. He stated that the funding is going to NIWA so they can build three models which will be able

to be used in other catchments around New Zealand. M. Meehan advised that staff have been doing low flow work over the summer in the Mawheraiti catchment. The data from this work will help with resource consents and planning working in this catchment.

M. Meehan reported that the Draft Coastal Plan has been sent out for pre-consultation. He advised that an extension of time has been granted to some parties who requested more time. A new draft will be presented to either the March or April Council meeting.

M. Meehan advised that all Schedule 2 wetland owners who are not seeing a change to their wetland have been written to advising them that a plan change is to be notified early this year. He stated this will give the landowners a final opportunity to contact Council to discuss their wetland to see if there can be any boundary adjustments made. M. Meehan advised that these landowners have already received two letters from Council and this will be the third letter.

M. Meehan advised that two submissions have been received on the Flood Protection Bylaw. He stated that it is unlikely that a hearing will be required.

M. Meehan advised that work is progressing for improvements to water quality in the Lake Brunner catchment. He advised the MfE have granted an extension of time, up until the 31<sup>st</sup> of March, to allow four or five farmers who have been unable to do their planting and fencing for various reasons.

M. Meehan reported that the Pest Plant Workshop held in December was very well received with DoC and NZTA in attendance. He stated that these parties are now looking at opportunities to combine resources.

M. Meehan answered various questions from Councillors regarding the letters being sent to wetland owners. He advised that around 100 of these wetland owners do not have any boundary adjustments to be made to their land. C. Ingle advised that the message to the landowners who have not yet been in touch with Council is that they need to get in touch with Council now, Council has written two letters to them already and they need to advise Council as to whether or not they need a boundary change. C. Ingle advised that if these landowners don't contact Council then the Plan will stay as it is. Cr Robb stated that a reasonable number of people may not be concerned with having a wetland that has been mapped on their property. M. Meehan stated that the landowner has the opportunity to get a consent should they wish to develop their land. He stated that DoC has a staff member who is solely focused on land exchanges and land purchases. Council can put landowners in touch with this person. Further discussion took place. M. Meehan gave an example of when Council's Wetland's Coordinator went out on site with the DoC Ecologist, the landowner was able to work out an area and come up with a mutual agreement and they all then went through the consent process to then be able to develop the area. Cr Birchfield stated that this is private land, and the DoC have told the landowner what he can and can't do. Cr Ewen stated that this is the third and last opportunity for these landowners and therefore he would like a council officer to ring each of these landowners and to remind them that this is their last opportunity to make a submission on this. C. Ingle agreed that staff would do their best on this.

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

*Carried*

### **5.1.2 REGIONAL TRANSPORT UPDATE**

C. Ingle spoke to this report and advised that one submission was received on the Regional Public Transport Plan and nine submissions on the Regional Land Transport Plan. He stated that submissions closed on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January. Hearings are scheduled for the 17<sup>th</sup> of February but C. Ingle advised that at the moment none of the submitters wish to be heard. C. Ingle advised that Elected Members will still meet and make decisions and both plans will be put to Council at the April meeting for adoption.

C. Ingle advised that the Government Policy Statement on Road Transport which was released on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2015. He stated that this reflected the priorities council put in the Regional Transport Plan which were economic growth and productivity and value for money.

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

*Carried*

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

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that all the exceedances that occurred relate to rainfall during the previous week. M. Meehan advised that following on from work done in Buller last year where results had been inconclusive, it was agreed at that time that sampling would be increased in

both Buller and Westland sites. M. Meehan stated that the latest results are good and a summary report at the end of the summer period will be prepared outlining exactly what has been done. Cr Challenger stated that he wonders if dates and asterisks could be put in on the report on the date row. He feels that in some areas septic tanks or animals could be causing problems in some catchments. M. Meehan agreed to put the asterisks on the dates of rainfall. M. Meehan advised that he would follow up on the two results from Lake Kaniere to see if further work needs to be done to trace this.

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

*Carried*

### **5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT**

J. Adams spoke to this report. He advised that 15 non-notified resource consents were granted and four variations were processed. Two limited notified resource consents were granted. J. Adams reported that all information requests were processed during the required timeframes.

**Moved** (Robb / Archer) *that the February 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 171 site visits were made during the reporting period. J. Adams reported that 22 complaints were received during the reporting period, nine of these were unsubstantiated. J. Adams reported that RC09084 bond is recommended for release. He advised that the resource consent for this has changed hands.

**Moved** (Archer / Clementson)

1. *That the February 2015 report of the Compliance Group be received.*
2. *That the bond for RC09084 (Humphreys Mining Ltd) be released.*

*Carried*

## **6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

C. Ingle informed Councillors that a letter has been received from the Ombudsman following a complaint. He advised that the complainant has been considered a vexatious complainant regarding unsubstantiated complaints about odour in Hokitika. C. Ingle advised that the Ombudsman has backed up the Compliance staff in their response and has told the complainant that staff have been more than fair and reasonable. C. Ingle stated that it is good to see an independent body reviewing how Council does things and has supported Council's decisions.

The meeting closed at 11.20 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date