

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 JULY 2017, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

M. Meehan (Chief Executive Officer), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), R. Beal, N. Costley (Strategy & Communications Manager), T. Jellyman & C. Rae (Minutes Clerks)

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

3. MINUTES

Moved (Archer / Challenger) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 13 June 2017, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cr Clementson reported that it has been a quiet month with nothing to report.

5. REPORTS

5.1 PLANNING AND OPERATIONS GROUP

5.1.1 DRAFT PROPOSAL TO ACHIEVE ONE DISTRICT PLAN FOR THE WEST COAST REGION

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that this matter has been talked about in many forums for a long time and was listed as an item to work towards in the Triennial Agreement. M. Meehan advised that currently the three district plans are in quite different states with Buller recently reviewing their district plan but Westland and Grey have not reviewed theirs for a long time. M. Meehan spoke of various inconsistencies in the planning framework throughout the region with crossovers of districts for vegetation clearance and mining for example. He stated that the Regional Council has a vested interest in ensuring that planning is consistent throughout the region, for the community and users of the plan. M. Meehan advised that he has secured matching funding from the Local Government Commission for this work with \$25,000 from the four councils and \$100,000 from the Local Government Commission to fund the work. He stated this funding will be for a project manager, legal advice and potential other advice. M. Meehan advised that the timeframe is two years and if done collaboratively then it is achievable.

He stated that combining resourcing is the way forward for local government and the West Coast. M. Meehan spoke extensively and answered questions from Councillors.

F. Tumahai spoke of the recent hui with M. Meehan, himself, S. Wallace and Ngai Tahu, he stated that they are very excited and supportive of this piece of work.

Extensive discussion took place; M. Meehan answered a variety of questions from councillors regarding potential risks, appeals, funding and liability. Cr Ewen suggested that the word "may" is replaced with "will" in the third recommendation. All agreed with this change. Further questions were answered regarding bylaws and appeals, and appeals on points of law. Cr Robb confirmed that Grey and Westland District Councils have already given their support to this and the Mayors are behind the project. Cr Robb stated that this has not yet been put before the Buller District Council. Cr Robb stated that the district plans need to be reviewed and if this can be achieved in one single process it should be cheaper for the West Coast as a whole and if each Council does their own process this would triple the cost. Cr Robb stated that the ultimate end result is to have a consistent district plan across the whole region. M. Meehan advised that once in principle support is given to go ahead then the makeup of the committee can be fleshed out and the structure and any associated risks can be worked through. Cr Birchfield stated that the Local Government Commission may well come up recommendations for a totally different type of structure before the next elections. Cr Robb stated that the Local Government Commission can make recommendations but the government could still decide to merge councils but the West Coast community would still need to agree to a unitary council. Cr Birchfield stated that the two year timeframe is too optimistic and he feels that planners will object to the changes. Cr Archer stated he agrees with Cr Birchfield and that it is very important that the right person gets this done. Cr McDonnell asked if the funding for staff time will come back to this Council. M. Meehan advised that the project manager will be housed here and employed by this Council. Cr Robb stated that by taking a joint approach this will enable a very high calibre person to be appointed to run the project.

Moved (Archer / Birchfield)

1. *The report is received and discussed.*
2. *That the Resource Management Committee supports the proposal in principle.*
3. *That further information and reports are prepared to finalise the proposal, which will include the formation of a joint committee of the four Councils and iwi.*
4. *That the appendix – relevant legislation on pages 6 – 8 is received.*

Carried

5.1.2 DRAFT SUBMISSION ON NATIONAL PLANNING STANDARDS

M. Meehan spoke to this report. He advised that he would like to include a further recommendation that the council endorses the submission as it is. Cr Archer commented that the structure of the submission is very sound, and very relevant to our Council. Cr Archer suggested that the third paragraph on page 11 of the report is moved to the top of the page as an opening comment. He also suggested a minor amendment to the third line of D8 on page 12.

Moved (Archer / Birchfield)

1. *That the report is received.*
2. *That Resource Management Committee approves the submission with the two minor amendments made.*

Carried

5.1.3 MARRS / SHINGLE BEACH AND SAWYERS CREEK WATER QUALITY PROJECTS

M. Meehan spoke to this report and stated that the report follows on from the workshop following last month's meeting. He stated that engagement with the community and stakeholders is necessary in order to come up with workable solutions. Cr Birchfield stated that he does not see any point in proceeding with work for Sawyers Creek as there is a major issue with sewage in this area. He stated that when it rains sewage goes into the stormwater and the stormwater ends up in Sawyers Creek. Cr Birchfield stated that this is a compliance issue, and

Grey District Council should be made to complete work on the sewage system. He stated that until this is done the problem will not be solved. Cr Birchfield stated he is not in favour of the recommendation. Cr Ewen agreed with Cr Birchfield. Cr Archer stated that this could be an opportunity for community input into what the problem is in these areas and could be an opportunity to put pressure on the district councils to come up with a solution. M. Meehan stated that staff have been working with Grey District Council to speed the process up. He agreed these matters could be an opportunity to engage with communities and district councils and could be used as a blueprint on how similar matters can be dealt with. Cr McDonnell stated that he feels more could be done in the Marrs / Shingle Beach areas before a working group is appointed. M. Meehan stated that the community may be happy with the work that has already been done. Cr Robb stated that this is an opportunity to engage with the community and to point out to them that they may be contributing to water quality issues in their catchments. He stated that this type of engagement worked well for the Reefton community with regard to air quality issues and is a great way to let communities make decisions and be a part of solutions. Cr Robb stated that district councils need to be given the time to come up with solutions. Cr Archer stated that this is a good step of working towards achieving the Clean Water standards for fresh water management. Cr Clementson agreed with Cr Archer.

Moved (Archer / Challenger)

1. *That the report is received.*
2. *That the Resource Management Committee agrees the draft Terms of Reference.*
3. *That the Resource Management Committee establishes two working groups in accordance with the agreed Terms of Reference.*

*Crs Birchfield, Ewen and McDonnell against
Carried*

5.1.4 REEFTON AIR QUALITY SUMMARY

M. Meehan spoke to this report and took it as read.

Moved (Robb / McDonnell)

Carried

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to this report. He stated that just under 90% of whitebait stand resource consents have been granted but there are still some consent holders yet to respond and they are now risking their consent expiring. M. Meehan advised that these consent holders have been sent three or four reminder letters. Cr Archer asked what happens if people don't respond and can they lose their consent. M. Meehan advised that council may need to apply for these consents to ensure that they remain current and valid and then transfer them back to their owners. M. Meehan answered various questions from councillors.

Moved (Archer / Ewen) *That the July 2017 report of the Consents Group be received.*

Carried

5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that some of the formal enforcement action follows on from queries from last month's meeting. M. Meehan spoke of the commitment to review the Enforcement Policy as the last time this was reviewed was February 2013. He stated that a workshop will be held at the conclusion of the next Council meeting. Cr Ewen asked M. Meehan how many of those issued with infringement notices were first time offenders or are they repeat offenders. M. Meehan offered to follow up via email on this matter. M. Meehan answered various questions relating to compliance matters from Councillors. M. Meehan stated that he has a lot of confidence in the staff in this area and they do a good job.

He stated that reviewing the Enforcement Policy will give Councillors a greater understanding of this policy. Cr Clementson agreed with Crs Ewen and Birchfield regarding the repeat offenders.

Moved (Archer / Challenger) *That the report be received.*

*Cr Ewen Against
Carried*

GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Challenger asked M. Meehan for an update on the proposed works at Franz Josef. Cr Challenger stated that he has received quite a few phone calls about this matter. M. Meehan advised that he met with Westland District Council yesterday and was told that they are not doing any work on the sewage ponds except for repairing the infiltration gallery. He stated that a rock protection wall is being built to protect the district council assets. M. Meehan has requested a plan from Westland District Council which is currently being worked through. M. Meehan stated that he does not have a complete picture on what is being done but he has been informed that no new ponds will be created. He advised that resource consents have been discussed and council staff are liaising with Westland District Council staff. Cr Challenger stated that he is interested in what resource consents are in place for this work. M. Meehan stated that until the plan is sighted it is difficult to form an opinion. Further discussion took place on what is expected to happen in this area.

The meeting closed at 11.52 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date