

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 13 NOVEMBER 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, P. McDonnell, A. Birchfield, S. Challenger, J. Douglas.

IN ATTENDANCE:

M. Meehan (Chief Executive Officer), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), R. Beal (Operations Manager), H. McKay (Consents & Compliance Manager), N. Costley (Strategy & Communications Manager), H. Mills (Planning Science & Innovation Manager), C. Rae (Minutes Clerk)

1. APOLOGY

Moved (McDonnell / Challenger) *That the apology from Cr Archer be accepted.*

Carried

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

3. MINUTES

Moved (Challenger / Robb) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 10 October 2017, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters Arising

Cr Ewen asked if there has been any progress on the incident in Ross. M. Meehan advised that a decision has been made to proceed with enforcement action. Further information is awaited from Westland District Council on this matter.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman spoke to his report and advised that he attended the Kongahu and Karamea rating district meetings at the end of October. He also dealt with phone calls relating to an incident at Waimangaroa.

Moved (Clementson / McDonnell) *That the report is received.*

Carried

M. Meehan introduced Heather McKay, the new Consents and Compliance Manager to the meeting, and C. Rae who is taking the minutes today.

5. REPORTS

5.1 PLANNING AND OPERATIONS GROUP

5.1.1 PLANNING REPORT

H. Mills spoke to this report and advised that the Regional Policy Statement is currently under legal review with hearings expected to take place next year.

H. Mills reported that further work is being done on wetland boundary adjustments and proposed changes for sphagnum moss harvesting. He advised that a workshop was held with submitters recently with Land and Water Plan hearings scheduled for mid 2018.

H. Mills advised that the report on Our Atmosphere and Climate 2017 does require any actions that Council needs to be deal with at this stage. Cr Birchfield stated he will be voting against the recommendation as he does not accept the implications contained in the report. Cr Birchfield stated that the world climate has not been warming for the last 20 years and it has been cooling for 20 years. Cr Birchfield stated that 93% of carbon comes from nature and the other 7% comes from human activity and there is no proof that carbon has any effect on the climate. Cr Clementson stated that he does not believe in sea level rise.

Moved (Ewen / Challenger) *That the report is received.*

*Against Cr Birchfield
Carried*

5.1.2 PROPOSED REGIONAL COASTAL PLAN – EXTENSION OF TIME

H. Mills spoke to this report and advised that the RMA allows for a two year extension and staff will then hold pre-hearing meetings with submitters with the hearing being held late 2018.

Moved (Robb / Birchfield)

1. *That Council receives this report; and*
2. *That Council resolves to extend the time to release decisions for two years, to 1 December 2019, on the Proposed Regional Coastal Plan.*

Carried

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

H. McKay spoke to this report and advised that nine non notified resource consents were granted during the reporting period. She reported that all whitebait resource consents have now been processed and issued. McKay answered questions from Councillors and agreed to follow up on questions relating to Griffin Creek Hydro Ltd. Cr Ewen drew attention to RC-2017-0119 and expressed concern that there could be asbestos contamination to land. Cr Challenger advised that the demolition site did not contain any asbestos as the area was tested.

Moved (Robb / Birchfield) *That the November 2017 report of the Consents Group be received.*

Carried

5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

H. McKay spoke to this report and took it as read. She advised that 102 site visits were undertaken during the reporting period. H. McKay reported that have been no issues relating to whitebait inspections to date.

H. McKay reported that six formal warnings were issued during the reporting period, five mining work programmes were received and two bonds are recommended for release.

Cr Birchfield raised the matter of the diesel spill in the Greymouth Lagoon. M. Meehan advised that this is a crossover between this Council and Grey District Council. He stated that Council staff tracked the diesel down to a stormwater drain. M. Meehan advised that these types of spills can be hard to locate as was the case with this one.

Cr McDonnell spoke of the case where a farmer reported that his effluent pump had failed and was then given a formal warning. Cr McDonnell asked if Council is discouraging farmers from

self-reporting. H. McKay responded that in this case there was a clear breach and Council needs to record that a breach has occurred.

H. McKay answered various other questions from Councillors. Discussion took place on self-reporting. It was agreed that this matter could be discussed at the workshop next month.

Cr Ewen raised the matter of conflict of interest with regard to staff and Councillors being involved in the dairy industry. He spoke of the recent discharge into the Hokitika River which Westland Milk Products Ltd took responsibility for. Cr Ewen stated that those with conflicts of interests should remove themselves from the discussions. M. Meehan stated that Westland Milk Products Ltd is now making good progress with the ocean outfall resource consent. Cr Robb reconfirmed that he has declared in the Interests Register that he is a shareholder / supplier with Westland Milk Products Ltd.

Moved (Birchfield / McDonnell)

1. *That the November 2017 report of the Compliance Group be received.*

2. *That the bond for RC98024 held by Alluvial Mining No.2 Ltd for Woods Creek is released.*

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 10.55 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date