

## THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 13 MARCH 2018, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.32 A.M.**

#### **PRESENT:**

N. Clementson (Chairman), A. Robb, T. Archer, 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), H. Mills (Planning Science & Innovation Manager), N. Costley (Strategy & Communications Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk), The Media.

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

#### **3. MINUTES**

**Moved** (Archer / Robb) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 13 February 2018, be confirmed as correct.*

*Carried*

#### **Matters Arising**

M. Meehan advised that GNS have received funding to progress Phase 1 of the Definition Study. H. Mills advised that he will bring an update to next month's meeting.

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

The Chairman spoke to his report and stated that it was part of last Tuesday's Marris Beach Working Group. He stated this was extremely helpful and very educational.

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

*Carried*

#### **5. REPORTS**

##### **5.1 PLANNING AND OPERATIONS GROUP**

##### **5.1.1 PLANNING REPORT**

H. Mills spoke to this report. He stated that there was an exceptional turnout for the Marris / Shingle Beach workshop with eight community members, Councillors from this Council and Buller District Council attending. H. Mills advised that there will be another workshop later in March. H. Mills advised that two Councillors will be required to be Commissioners for the Land and Water Plan hearing panel. He stated that as agreed at last month's meeting there will be an independent Chairman appointed to the hearing panel.

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

*Carried*

### 5.1.2 DRAFT REGIONAL TARGETS FOR SWIMMABLE LAKES AND RIVERS

H. Mills spoke to this report and advised that West Coast Rivers and lakes are already at 99% and the Ministry for the Environment have set a target of 99.5% for the West Coast region. He stated that this is business as usual for our region as lakes and rivers are trending in the right direction for E. coli. M. Meehan advised that the previous Minister, Nick Smith, wanted regional council to get to 80% by 2030 and 90% by 2040. M. Meehan advised that the new Minister is talking about more practical ways of looking at swimmability and considering excluding winter, and times of very high flow. M. Meehan stated that the new government has a more practical approach to swimmability targets. H. Mills advised that there is quite a time period between the draft target and the final target. Cr Challenger stated that he feels farmers are being unfairly targeted and they should be referred to as stakeholders. It was agreed that the wording would be altered with the word "farmers" being replaced with "stakeholders". Cr Birchfield commented that birds could be causing failures, he asked how this could be controlled. M. Meehan advised that potentially there could also be exemptions for water fowl. He stated that the work that comes out of the Marrs Beach working group will be of value in this area. Cr Clementson spoke of the work being done in this area and possible funding opportunities. Cr Birchfield stated that he does not agree with trying to achieve 99.5% swimmability in view of the bird problems in some areas. Further discussion took place with both H. Mills and M. Meehan answering questions from Councillors. Cr Robb stated that an extra .5% is not a big ask and is achievable. M. Meehan stated that this is a big issue but there is a lot of work being done by Government in this area. H. Mills advised that the worst E. coli spots are known and extra work in these areas will help get to the extra .5%. Cr Ewen suggested a change to the wording on page 9 to read "*Depending on future direction from central government we may have to work with stakeholders to enhance waterway environments*". Councillors agreed to this change.

**Moved** (Archer / Robb)

*That Council sets a draft target for the West Coast region of 99.5% of rivers and 99.5% of lakes swimmable by 2030, and make this target publicly available with the information sheet (Attachment 1), with the amendment made to attachment 1 on page 9.*

*Cr Birchfield against  
Carried*

### 5.1.2 BATHING BEACH WATER QUALITY SAMPLING UPDATE

H. Mills spoke to this report and advised that the few exceedances recorded were related to heavy rainfall during the week of sampling.

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

*Carried*

### 5.1.3 HYDROLOGY & FLOOD WARNING UPDATE

H. Mills spoke to this report and stated there were a few flood alarms triggered during Cyclone Fehi. He stated that the Haast River recorded its second highest flood during this time.

**Moved** (Robb / Archer) *That the report is received.*

*Carried*

### 5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

H. McKay spoke to this report and advised that five non notified resource consents were granted during the reporting period along with five changes to consent conditions and two limited notified resource consents granted.

**Moved** (Challenger / Birchfield) *That the March 2018 report of the Consents Group be received.*

*Carried*

**5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT**

H. McKay spoke to this report and drew attention to the minor changes in format. She advised that 36 site visits were undertaken during the reporting period. H. McKay advised that two formal warnings were issued during the reporting period. H. McKay answered questions from Councillors.

**Moved** (Archer / Birchfield) *That the March 2018 report of the Compliance Group be received.*  
*Carried*

**5.2.3 SOLID ENERGY – SPRING CREEK MINE**

H. McKay spoke to this report. She advised that Council’s lawyer has looked over this matter and advised that he has no concerns. Cr Ewen stated it would be smoother, more transitional if bond transfers go from one to the other without a gap before new bonds are in place. Cr Ewen requested a copy of the mine closure report. H. McKay advised that the bond held for Spring Creek Mine was only associated with one consent out of a suite of many consents. M. Meehan confirmed that this is a return of a bond where a site has been remediated to the satisfaction of the Council, and there does not need to be a new bond put in place to cover. It was confirmed that there is no consents for bonding in this case.

**Moved** (Archer / Robb)

- 1. *That the report is received.*
  - 2. *That bond 8514R (\$50,000) is released and the respective bond release letter be signed.*
- Cr Ewen against*  
*Carried*

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.10 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date