

## **THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 OCTOBER 2019, 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, T. Archer, P. Ewen, A. Birchfield, P. McDonnell, S. Challenger, J. Douglas

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

**Moved** (Clementson / Challenger) *That the apology from F. Tumahai be accepted.*

*Carried*

#### **2. MINUTES**

The Chairman asked the meeting if there were any changes to the minutes of the previous meeting. Cr Challenger was present.

**Moved** (Birchfield / Archer) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 10 September 2019, be confirmed as correct.*

*Carried*

#### **Matters Arising**

P. McDonnell apologised for not getting to two local meetings for the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management. He stated that he will be putting in a submission on this. Cr Robb advised that he attended the meeting held at Shantytown. M. Meehan advised that senior officials from MfE will be visiting the West Coast in November. He stated that they will be taken to a sphagnum moss operation and the following day they will visit a farm in Ross, to view and discuss wetlands. Cr Robb stated that the West Coast is a good case study to show that water quality can be improved by having fences where they are currently.

#### **3. PUBLIC FORUM**

There was no public forum.

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

Cr Clementson reported he attended the Kawatiri FMU meeting and the Westport 2100 meeting.

#### **5. REPORTS**

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

##### **5.1.1 PLANNING REPORT & HYDROLOGY REPORT**

H. Mills spoke to his report and advised that the reconvened hearing for Plan Change 1 was held on 16 September and the Hearing Panel is now drafting recommendations to Council.

H. Mills reported that the final mediation sessions for the RPS was held on 1 & 2 October. He advised that agreement was reached and staff are hopeful that the appeal will be resolved.

H. Mills reported that an Envirolink grant has been approved for further work on gravel extraction which will enable assessments on how geomorphology affects gravel stocks.

H. Mills advised that the RMA Amendment Bill has now had its first reading in Parliament. He stated the Bill supports the establishment of new Freshwater Planning Processes which is in parallel with the central Freshwater package. H. Mills advised that part of this will be to have specific Freshwater Commissioners who will go around the country for each Freshwater Hearing, can sit on hearing panels and be Chairperson for these hearings. Cr Birchfield stated that they will be appointed by Government and this will be government control. M. Meehan advised there will have to be an independent person appointed who will need to have certain qualifications and experience, this is for Freshwater hearings. H. Mills advised this is a recommendation to Councils, not a decision. He stated there will also be an iwi representative appointed.

H. Mills stated that Council's submission on the Minerals and Petroleum strategy is strong. It supports the strategy in its high level intent and outlines importance of minerals on the New Zealand way of life and on the West Coast, it also encourages further work for mineral stock availability. The submission also outlines concerns regarding conflicting national policy, such as no new mining on conservation land, which conflicts with current central government policy. The submission also outlines Council's concern with a lack of protection of mineral resources, lack of direction on coal extraction and the need for a more long term view in the strategy.

H. Mills advised that there are three main parts to the Essential Freshwater Package around the changes to the current NPS, introduction of an NES, and the proposed stock exclusion regulations. H. Mills advised that staff are preparing a detailed submission. He stated that senior MfE staff will be visiting various areas of interest on the West Coast to outline the impact for the West Coast. M. Meehan advised that a weekly hui is being held with staff from impacted organisations and industries, iwi, councils and DWC to ensure that information is shared and that everyone is working together on this. M. Meehan stated that DWC are putting the economic picture together, with each organisation having a different role to play.

Cr Ewen asked if staff could provide him with the hectareage from each schedule of wetlands. M. Meehan agreed to send this to Councillors.

H. Mills answered questions from Councillors regarding the various submissions, and the Budget Support Package (who can get this and or can't). Cr Archer asked if the Budget Support Package is only for stock regulations. H. Mills advised that this is for \$230M, but there has not been much detail released to date. M. Meehan advised that no money will be coming to regional councils to offset some of the increased charges that will be associated with the Freshwater package. Cr Archer expressed concern that there is even more coming than what was originally planned. Cr Archer expressed his concern that government doesn't seem to have a mind to grasp this situation. Cr Archer noted that there is likely to be a requirement in the major metropolitan areas for those areas to plant out significant areas. Cr Archer stated that this land might need to be brought by the government. He stated that the landowner is being denied from having the lawful use of the land. Cr Archer expressed concern that legitimate landowners will have no rights, no compensation, and this is very concerning. Cr Archer stated that this is an area of gross unfairness by both governments. Cr Archer is concerned about new councillors coming in, with a significant number of new faces around this table, they need to prepare themselves for these new NPS, strategies and environmental standards, the cost to the ratepayer is going to skyrocket. Cr Archer stated this will require huge great planning input to develop new plans to satisfy the NPS's and NES's. he stated there is no money from government and no indication of costs. H. Mills drew attention to page 15 of his report. M. Meehan advised that the response from officials at the recent meeting at Shantytown when asked about costs, they stated that they were hoping the council would tell them what the costs would likely be. M. Meehan stated that there are extra requirements for both regulatory monitoring, but also physical monitoring with regard to water quality monitoring. He stated that this will be detailed in Council's submission.

**Moved** (Robb / Archer)

- 1. That the report is received.*
- 2. That the Council approves the submission on the proposed National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land.*

*Carried*

## 52.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

H. McKay spoke to this report and advised that three site visits were carried out, 14 non-notified resources consents were granted, and no variations or changes to and reviews of consent conditions were granted during the reporting period.

**Moved** (Archer / Challenger) *That the October 2019 report of the Consents Group be received.*

*Carried*

## 5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

H. McKay spoke to this report and advised that 113 site visits were carried out during the reporting period. She reported that there were 28 complaints or incidents received with seven non-compliances occurring during the reporting period. H. McKay advised that a further 21 complaints or incidents are still under investigation.

H. McKay reported that one formal warning was issued during the reporting period and one abatement notice was issued.

H. McKay reported that ten mining work programmes were received during the reporting period, with nine being approved. Two bonds are recommended for release.

Cr Birchfield asked about fill being dumped in Grey Riverbed just up from Cobden Rail Bridge. H. McKay stated that she is unaware of this but advised that there is a consent for fill for this area. She agreed to follow up on the matter.

Cr Archer asked if gravel extraction at Hokitika is a consented or permitted activity. H. McKay stated that it is likely that this is related to a consented activity.

H. McKay answered further questions from councillors.

**Moved** (Archer / Birchfield)

1. *That the October 2019 report of the Compliance Group be received.*

2. *That the bonds for RC00084 of \$8,000 held by Phoenix Mining Ltd, and RC13082 of \$12,000 held by Eldon Holdings Ltd are released.*

*Carried*

## GENERAL BUSINESS

J. Douglas wished everyone all the best for the Local Body Election. She also thanked departing Crs Archer, Clementson, McDonnell and Robb for their contributions over the past three years.

Cr Clementson reciprocated J. Douglas's comments. He stated that she and F. Tumahai have been the iwi representatives on this committee. Cr Clementson stated that iwi's knowledge and integrity has added value to the meetings. He stated that they have opened his eyes to the day to day needs and requirements and the issues that iwi is exposed to. Cr Clementson stated the strong iwi representation on Council is greatly needed moving forward. Cr Clementson thanked J. Douglas and F. Tumahai for their contributions and stated that iwi has a strong voice and hopes this continues.

Cr Clementson also thanked H. McKay and H. Mills for their contributions to the Resource Management Committee.

The meeting closed at 10.56 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date