

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 12 FEBRUARY 2019, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

M. Meehan (Chief Executive), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), H. McKay (Consents & Compliance Manager), R. Beal (Operations Director), N. Costley (Strategy & Communications Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk), The Media.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the first meeting for the year.

1. APOLOGIES

Moved (Robb / Archer) *That the apology from N. Clementson be received.*

Carried

2. MINUTES

Moved (McDonnell / Birchfield) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 11 December 2018, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. PRESENTATION

Today's presentation has been postponed to the March meeting.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Due to Cr Clementson's absence there was no report.

5. REPORTS

5.1 PLANNING AND OPERATIONS GROUP

5.1.1 PLANNING REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to this report in H. Mills's absence. He advised that the hearing panel for Plan Change 1 reconvened on 31 January.

M. Meehan reported that the Grey Freshwater Management Unit held their third meeting recently. He stated that work is progressing well with the group.

M. Meehan advised that the NPS for Indigenous Biodiversity is likely to have a different impact on the West Coast compared to other regions. He stated that a detailed analysis is yet to be done on this but can be provided for a future meeting.

M. Meehan expressed his disappointment with the theft of hydrology equipment from the Mokihinui River and the Te Kuha site on the Buller River. He stated that this equipment is critical for flood warning purposes, investigations are underway to ascertain what can be done to prevent future thefts.

Cr McDonnell expressed concern regarding the Summary of the Draft NPS on Indigenous Biodiversity as he this could create SNA and scheduled wetlands. M. Meehan advised that this matter will need to be incorporated into the One District Plan process.

J. Douglas asked when the FMU for Westland will be commencing. M. Meehan agreed to follow up on this matter with H. Mills.

Cr Archer spoke of the draft NPS on Indigenous Biodiversity and stated that the reason why no SNA's have been identified on the West Coast so far is because there has been no conversation. He feels that a five year timeframe has been put in place where all SNA's are meant to be identified and included in planning documents. Cr Archer warned that those sitting around the district council tables will face the vitriol of landowners who are going to have to give up their land when already there is around 84% of the region already locked up in conservation land, leaving 16%. Cr Archer queried how the government is going to be able to incorporate this into plans within the timeline with appeals and counter appeals. Cr Archer stated that individual landowners' rights to their land are going to be totally eroded, customary rights will be no more. Cr Archer is concerned that the costs will fall onto individual ratepayers. Cr Archer stated that he is violently opposed to the NPS the way it is proposed to be adopted. Cr Archer feels that Council should reinstitute strong opposition based on the fundamental issues, without compensation or land swap for landowners, or let central government politicians face up to their communities. Cr Robb agreed with Cr Archer and stated that they have both had first hand experience with this via Plan Change 1. Cr Robb stated that landowners did not understand the process as they thought the regional council had implemented the plan and taken their land off them. Cr Robb stated that Council needs to submit on what comes out of central government.

Further discussion took place on the theft of flood warning equipment. M. Meehan answered questions regarding the security of sites and the possible use of cameras. M. Meehan stated that these areas need to be accessible.

Cr Birchfield agreed with Cr Archer's comments regarding the NPS on Indigenous Biodiversity

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

Carried

5.1.2 CONTACT RECREATION WATER QUALITY SAMPLING UPDATE

M. Meehan spoke to this report.

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

Carried

5.1.3 ONE BILLION TREES FUND REPORT

N. Costley circulated an updated version of this report. She advised that for this council the main area of focus will be partnership grants as there are opportunities for community working groups and rating districts. N. Costley advised that staff will be working with organisations on the West Coast to ensure that this is dealt with efficiently and that Council is kept up to date with progress in this area. N. Costley answered questions from Councillors. Cr Ewen stated that he feels the government's timeframe is unattainable.

Moved (Birchfield / Ewen) *That this report be received.*

Carried

5.1.4 ENDORSEMENT OF THE DRAFT ACCESSIBLE TE TAI POUTINI WEST COAST STRATEGIC PLAN

N. Costley spoke to this report and stated that it follows on from the presentation to the December Council meeting. Cr Ewen asked if there are any costs to Council. It was noted that there are no costs at this stage. Cr Archer stated that this strategy is a statutory requirement which has been in place for many years.

Moved (Archer / McDonnell)

That Council endorse the Draft Accessible Te Tai Poutini West Coast Strategic Plan.

Carried

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

H. McKay spoke to this report and advised that four site visits were carried out, 15 non-notified resources consents were granted, three changes to consent conditions, and two limited notified resource consent were granted during the reporting period. H. McKay advised that one of the limited notified resource consents granted was for Westland District Council's new and upgraded oxidation ponds at Franz Josef, with work now progressing.

Cr McDonnell asked for further information regarding the consent process for RC-2018-0120 to undertake vegetation clearance work within Schedule 2 Wetland at Whataroa. H. McKay offered to provide additional information on this matter. M. Meehan advised that consents have been granted for similar cases. H. McKay agreed to follow up on questions relating to RC02116-V1.

Moved (Archer / Birchfield) *That the February 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 84 site visits were carried out during the reporting period, which covers two months.

H. McKay advised there was an aerial flight covering the Westland area to check on whitebait stand compliance. Of the 523 stands inspected, there was no non-compliance's detected.

H. McKay reported that 29 complaints / incidents were reported with 19 of these resulting in site visits.

H. McKay reported that one formal warning and two abatement notices were issued during the reporting period.

H. McKay clarified that 16 work programmes were received and 13 work programmes were approved and three bonds were received during the reporting period.

J. Douglas asked if there has been any progress with identifying those responsible for the cull of Canadian Geese at Okarito and if the rotting carcasses have been disposed of. H. McKay responded that she has not had any reports from staff regarding identifying those responsible, she advised that the carcasses have not been removed.

H. McKay answered questions from Cr Ewen regarding water sampling and disturbed mining areas. H. McKay explained the pathways used with regard to disturbed mining areas to ensure compliance.

Moved (Birchfield / Ewen) *That the February 2019 report of the Compliance Group be received.*

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

The meeting closed at 11.08 a.m.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date