

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2020, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL,
388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.33 A.M.**

PRESENT:

S. Challenger (Chairman), A. Birchfield, P. Ewen, D. Magner, B. Cummings, J. Hill, L. Coll McLaughlin, J. Douglas, F. Tumahai

IN ATTENDANCE:

R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), H. McKay (Consents & Compliance Manager), H. Mills (Planning, Science & Innovation Manager), R. Beal (Operations Director), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk), J. Hawes (IT Support), The Media.

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. MINUTES

The Chairman asked the meeting if there were any changes to the minutes of the previous meeting.

Moved (Magner / Coll McLaughlin) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 10 December 2019, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cr Challenger stated that he received numerous phone calls during the recent heavy rainfall event.

5. REPORTS

5.1 PLANNING AND OPERATIONS GROUP

5.1.1 PLANNING REPORT & HYDROLOGY REPORT

H. Mills advised that J. Hawes (IT support staff member) is present should Councillors require any assistance with their devices as this is the first paperless meeting.

H. Mills spoke to his report and advised that all issues relating to the RPS have now been resolved. He stated that work is progressing well with the Grey Mawhera and Kawatiri Freshwater Management Units, along with the Hokitika FMU which now held two information sessions.

H. Mills reported that the submission staff are preparing on the proposed (Draft) NPS for Indigenous Biodiversity will be lengthy and will oppose various parts. He stated that Council will argue for regional exemptions as the West Coast is quite different to other parts of the country, and will be the odd one out

nationally due to the makeup of our region. H. Mills stated that compensation packages will be sought for SNA's on private land, SNA's on public land and DoC estate.

H. Mills reported that Council will support DoC's "Improving Whitebait Management Discussion Document", as most of the parts of this are about bringing other regions into alignment with the West Coast. He stated that the main concern is around proposed closure of rivers for up to two years and potentially more than two years. The submission will be circulated to Council for their comments.

H. Mills reported that Council has now gone through a lengthy process on Plan Change 1 to the Regional Land and Water Plan. He stated that the recommendations from the Hearing Panel are now to hand. H. Mills advised that the Plan Change is removing wetland classifications from property owners and is tidying up wetland boundaries, essentially. He advised that sites were visited to ascertain whether they were wet land or not, or if they are perhaps a road, firm underfoot, or had no indigenous vegetation, then Council's recommendation is that this is removed. H. Mills advised that landowners are awaiting a decision as this will be positive for them. He stated that sphagnum moss harvesters are hoping that the rule will come through as this will allow for the harvesting of sphagnum moss on Schedule 2 Wetlands. H. Mills advised that once the decision is made, it then goes into an appeals period where submitters can appeal decisions. H. Mills answered questions from Councillors. Extensive discussion took place with both H. Mills and Cr Birchfield providing background and historic information on Plan Change 1. Cr Ewen stated that there is considerable hectareage on the West Coast of state coal reserve and he queried if this could be transferred into the Crown parcel. He stated that this was done at Stockton in 1953. Cr Ewen stated that he is mindful that the 85% of land may only be temporary, and the hectareage of state coal reserve could be many thousands of hectares. Cr Birchfield stated that approximately 500 hectares of private land have effectively been put into the DoC estate. He stated that anyone who want to develop a wetland needs to apply for a resource consent, and DoC are an affected party. H. Mills agreed and advised that this plan change is outside of the Environment Court decision years ago. Cr Birchfield stated he would like to know how much is private land, how much land is being taken into SNA's, and wetlands. It was agreed that it would be good to have this information. Cr Coll McLaughlin stated that Council does focus on DoC and Crown land but there is also a recognition that freehold land is uncovered and it would be good to have this as a separate category. H. Mills advised that today's decision and recommendation is quite outside of the SNA discussion, this is specifically wetlands, and specifically taking out wetlands off Schedule 1 & 2. Cr Coll McLaughlin stated that she would like to better understand decision 1.45, as sphagnum moss is one of the most critical decisions. H. Mills advised that an extension will need to be requested in view of the deferral. H. Mills answered questions relating to boundary changes, assessments of wetlands and wetland identification. Cr Birchfield stated that there was no proper assessment done of potential wetlands before they were put into the plan, and landowners were not notified. He stated that landowners are now lumbered with the cost of getting an ecologist in, and landowners have effectively lost around 5,000 hectares of private land into the DoC estate. Cr Birchfield stated that landowners have to pay rates on this land, as DoC don't pay rates. Cr Coll McLaughlin stated that some landowners may not have submitted on the Plan Change and are affected and may have wanted to appeal, but there are landowners who did submit, and are still affected, is not unduly high that would potentially require some support to work through the assessment. H. Mills advised that this could be considered. Cr Birchfield provided an extensive history on this matter. It was noted that this could also impact on the One District Plan. It was agreed that a special meeting would be arranged for a week's time.

H. Mills advised that December was a particularly wet period with a large number of flood alarms triggered during this time. He stated that the flood warning team was in constant contact with civil defence personal during this time.

Moved (Hill / Birchfield)

1. *That the report is received.*
2. *That a decision is deferred, for one week, and a Special Council meeting is held to consider the Hearing Panel's recommendations as the Council Decisions on Submissions to the proposed Plan Change 1 to the Regional Land and Water Plan.*

Carried

5.1.2 CONTACT RECREATION WATER QUALITY SAMPLING UPDATE

H. Mills spoke to this report and advised that the higher readings at various sites relate to heavy rainfall during the reporting period.

Moved (Coll McLaughlin / Cummings) *That the report is received.*

Carried

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

H. McKay spoke to this report and advised that two site visits were carried out, 18 non-notified resources consents were granted, and nine changes to consent conditions were granted during the reporting period. H. McKay advised that the reporting period was two months and therefore numbers are slightly higher than usual. She reported that three limited notified resource consents were granted during the reporting period, with one going on to a hearing.

H. McKay answered questions from Councillors relating to monitoring and bonds.

Moved (Ewen / Birchfield) *That the February 2020 report of the Consents Group be received.*

Carried

5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

H. McKay spoke to this report and advised that this is also a two month reporting period. She reported that 104 site visits were carried out during the reporting period. H. McKay reported that there were 31 complaints or incidents received with 14 non-compliances occurring during the reporting period. H. McKay advised that 17 complaints or incidents were reported and some are still under investigation.

H. McKay reported that three formal warnings were issued, 10 infringement notices, and seven abatement notices were issued during the reporting period.

H. McKay reported that 11 mining work programmes were received during the reporting period, with all being approved. H. McKay advised that four bonds were received. H. McKay answered questions from Councillors.

Moved (Magner / Coll McLaughlin) *That the February 2020 report of the Compliance Group be received.*

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.07 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date