

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 MARCH 2022 AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOOUTH, COMMENCING AT 1:02 PM.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

H. Mabin (Chief Executive) via zoom, C. Helem (Consents & Compliance Manager) via zoom, R. Vaughan (Acting Planning, Innovation & Science Manager) via zoom, R. Beal (Operations Director), L. Sadler (Planning Team Leader) via zoom.

Present: B McMahon (Grey Star).

1. WELCOME

Cr Challenger opened the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. PUBLIC FORUM, PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

There was no public forum.

PRESENTATION

There was no presentation.

5. MINUTES

The Chairman asked the meeting if there were any changes to the minutes of the previous meeting. There were no corrections.

Moved: (Cummings/Hill) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 8th February 2022 be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters Arising

Cr Coll McLaughlin indicated she had a question for C Helem regarding the Whataroa FMU sessions. When Mr Helem joined the meeting she asked whether the MPI workshops for farm plans could be available to farmers via zoom. C Helem confirmed that it was a pilot programme and would roll out over 5 months, and would be a combination of zoom and face to face workshops with a BBQ planned for 17th March to bring everyone together.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (VERBAL UPDATE)

Cr Challenger provided an update on the Local Government sector meeting he attended recently which included a session on the local government reforms. The Chair noted a lack of clarity from the government regarding the reasons for the reforms. He also updated the Committee on Te Mana o te Wai as presented by the Ministry for the Environment, commenting that he felt this Council had very good relationships with Iwi in place already.

Moved: (Birchfield/Cummings) *that the Chairman's report be received.*

Carried

REPORTS

7. PLANNING AND RESOURCE SCIENCE GROUP

7.1 PLANNING AND RESOURCE SCIENCE GROUP REPORT

R. Vaughan spoke to this report and took it as read. She noted that a lot of staff time was being taken up with reviewing a number of government discussion documents, including the resource management reforms. Staff have developed 3 submissions to government putting across the West Coast view, which have been lodged. R Vaughan noted there were no water quality transgressions to report, which was pleasing. Hydrology had seen extremes, with low flows and then two flood events over the reporting period.

Cr Coll McLaughlin asked for clarification about environmental domains and monitoring requirements. R Vaughan advised that the government's proposal was that Councils use additional background data in the reporting that will be required, although it remains unclear who is to undertake the information gathering and who is to fund it.

Cr Ewen commended staff for the number of submissions lodged recently, and noted that with the 3 Waters Reform process it appeared there had been predetermination of the outcome, despite consultation being subsequently undertaken by government.

Moved (Ewen/ Coll McLaughlin):

1. *That the report is received; and*
2. *That the Committee agrees with the updated staff advice in Appendix 1 to the report about which national documents to submit on.*

Carried

7.2 TE TAI O POUTINI PLAN UPDATE

J Armstrong was an apology for the meeting. H Mabin took the report as read. There were no questions.

Moved (Birchfield/Hill) *That the report is noted.*

Carried

7.3 SOUTH WESTLAND FMU GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

The Chair welcomed Rob Wilson (Chair of the South Westland FMU Group) and Brenda Monk (Group member) who joined the meeting via zoom. L Sadler joined the meeting.

Rob Wilson updated the Committee on the process and recent meetings, and noting the attached report and recommendations. He advised of the Group's concern that their rohe was being treated the same as those in Canterbury, and felt that compliance with the national standard would not be relevant for their area. He thanked the Committee for coming to South Westland and thanked L Sadler, T Thorp and J Horrox for assisting the Group, and advised that the Group would be happy to help further if approached.

B Monk noted that the river licence renewals coming up with DoC were a concern, as was freedom camping when tourism resumes. She hoped that the process was going to continue and that the Group's recommendations would be taken on board by the Committee.

Cr Challenger noted that it was a very worthwhile endeavour. L Sadler noted that this was the last of the four FMU group's reports and that it was a great achievement for the groups. This year staff are aiming to start drafting freshwater changes to the Land and Water Regional Plan which would incorporate the recommendations where possible.

Cr Coll McLaughlin noted that some of the recommendations in the report to do with stewardship land needed to be actioned quite urgently. R Wilson noted concern from the Group about the unnecessary restrictions and cost of having to comply with water treatment requirements when water quality was not an issue for South Westland. He also noted there would be general support for hydro-electricity development in South Westland.

J Douglas thanked the Group and the Council staff and Councillors for their work. She was very impressed with the work of the FMU Group. She asked how the question of aquatic weeds would be dealt with. R Wilson confirmed this was an issue that had been highlighted and noted that discussions were ongoing with DoC.

In response to a question from the Chair, L Sadler advised the process from here was a minor plan change to the Regional Policy Statement, which would be done before the Land and Water Regional Plan change.

Moved (Douglas / Magner) *That the Committee approve the South Westland Freshwater Management Unit Group's Recommendations, to be implemented as much as practicable, to give effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020.*

Carried

8. CONSENTS & COMPLIANCE GROUP

8.1 CONSENTS REPORT

C. Helem spoke to this report and took it as read.

Cr Birchfield asked for an update on the Barrytown mining application. C Helem confirmed the consent application had been declined, and the decision was currently in the appeal period. Cr Birchfield noted his view that a list of local Commissioners should be put together.

Moved (Tumahai / Cummings) *That the March 2022 report of the Consents Group is received.*

Carried

8.2 COMPLIANCE REPORT

C. Helem spoke to this report and took it as read. There were no questions.

Moved: (Birchfield / Cummings) *That the March 2022 report of the Compliance Group is received.*

Carried

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

J Douglas asked about the timing of the Resource Management Committee meetings as following Council meetings, asking whether it served the public and the media and whether there were any issues. F. Tumahai felt that the order of the meetings could be changed, so that there was no uncertainty for members as to when the meeting started. There was general support for this. H Mabin to organise this for the April meetings.

The meeting closed at 1:56 p.m.

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Chair

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Date