

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FRANZ JOSEF RATING DISTRICT HELD AT THE ST JOHN'S ROOMS, FRANZ JOSEF ON 22 NOVEMBER 2019, COMMENCING AT 2.30 PM.

PRESENT

L. Skinner, P. Cumming, G. Gibb, I. Hartshorne, D. Ferguson, P. York, C. Roy, B. McGlynn,
J. Williams

IN ATTENDANCE

West Coast Regional Council
D. Magner (WCRC Councillor), S. Challenger (WCRC Councillor)
R. Beal, B. Russ, T. Jellyman, R. Mallinson (Staff)

APOLOGIES

V. Whittington, T. Skinner, A. Tschampel (Scenic Circle Hotel), T. Gibb, P. Wilson

BUSINESS

Cr Magner opened the meeting and welcomed those present. She introduced herself and the Council staff.

Moved: *"That the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting held on 29 October 2018, be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting.*

G. Gibb / P. Cumming - Carried

Minutes

L. Skinner stated that he would like some corrections made to the minutes. He stated that the 4th paragraph of general business should read *"the rating district would like stockpiled rock moved to the north side of river in case the bridge is out"*.

It was agreed that the words "significant value" would be added to the section of the minutes where the stockpile of rock was discussed.

MATTERS ARISING

L. Skinner asked for an update regarding the relocation of the occupier on the south side of the river. B. Russ advised that this has been mentioned to NZTA but there is no update. It was noted the occupier is no longer a member of the rating district.

L. Skinner asked if NZTA have changed their approach with regard to continuing to use rock spurs on the Waiho River. B. Russ advised that spurs have been used for the work that has recently been done, which is above the bridge on the true right.

R. Beal advised that the global consent which OPUS has been working on over the past year is still 90% complete. He stated that this has been very slow but this is being done by OPUS, not council. It was noted that other consents have been applied for and granted during this time. R. Beal agreed to follow up on the global consent and report back to the Spokesperson.

Extensive debate took place on the purpose of the rating district. B. Russ advised that a few years ago Council had wanted to extend the stopbank which would offer protection to the town, but the rating district turned this down. B. Russ stated that the costs were correct at this time. R. Mallinson advised that the reason rating districts are established is contained in the River & Soil Conservation Act 1941 which empowered regional councils as the successors to Catchment Boards to carry out measures to help mitigate soil erosion and flooding. R. Mallinson advised that the way to do that is by using various assets such as building stopbanks and other protection structures. R. Mallinson advised that the rating district members have a very important consultative device for Council to hear the voice of the community as to how this is gone about. Cr Magner advised that

the statement in last year's minutes is correct, but how the rating district wishes to drive this is why they are consulted. It was agreed that the purpose of the rating district is to talk about protection in accordance with the Soil & River Conservation Act 1941.

Action Points from last year's meeting

B. Russ confirmed that when he sought prices for emergency works for the Milton & Others Stopbank rates would be held for this year. He agreed to renew this in April 2021.

L. Skinner asked for an update on whether or not an asset management plan would become the holistic management plan for the Waiho River. R. Beal responded that the asset management plan is simply a plan to manage the assets in the particular rating district, if a holistic plan was designed this would sit outside of the asset management plan.

R. Beal advised that modelling for the Waiho Loop (cut) was circulated earlier this year. L. Skinner stated that the cut was in the wrong place. B. Russ advised that this work was going to cost \$3M, he stated this would work for a while but gravel would soon get stuck behind it. R. Beal advised that modelling has been done, estimates of costs have also been done and reviewed, and came out at \$10 per cubic metre to move the material.

B. Russ advised that all resource consents are current but they will all be null and void once the holistic consent comes into effect.

FINANCIAL REPORT

R. Beal presented the financial statements for the financial period ending 30 June 2019. He reported that the opening balance was \$391,694.69, total expenses were \$33,997.39 and the closing balance is \$420,902.06. L. Skinner asked what are the resource consents costs made up of. B. Russ responded that the costs for the resource consent for river training, and annual fees for resource consents. B. Russ answered questions relating to individual and historic resource consents and agreed to follow up on questions asked of him.

WORKS REPORT

B. Russ spoke to this report and confirmed that \$39,325 worth of works was carried out during the financial year to the end of June 2019. He advised that the work carried out in April is insurance claim work and will be paid by Council's insurer, and MCDEM. B. Russ advised that there is some work that was carried out in October with the D11 which has not yet be paid for, as well as some work from November 2018. This work will be paid for and will be included in next year's financial report.

B. Russ reported that following discussion with the spokesperson no maintenance work has been identified but \$120,000 has been allowed for to strengthen the stopbank at the Heliport. This work has now been completed. He recommended that \$30,000 is allowed for unforeseen maintenance. B. Russ answered questions. It was agreed that the Heliport stopbank would now be referred to as the rating district's heliport, or RD Heliport Stopbank.

Discussion took place on rock prices, and rock sources. R. Beal advised that Council has no control over rock prices, and it is likely that rock prices will increase to around mid 20's per tonne. Extensive discussion on rock recovery took place. It was noted that currently there is 5000 tonne of rock stockpiled.

RATES 2020 / 2021

Cr Magner advised that the recommended rate strike for the 2020 / 2021 financial year is \$50,000 GST Exclusive. She advised that the balance in the rating district account at the beginning of the 2020 / 21 financial year is likely to be \$310,000 GST exclusive.

It was noted that the prudent reserve for this rating district is \$550,000. Extensive discussion took place and it was agreed with the rate strike of \$50,000.

Moved: *"That the rate strike for the 2020 / 2021 financial year is \$50,000 GST Excl."*

L. Skinner / P. Cumming - Carried

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Cr Magner read out the names of the current members of the rating district committee. She asked if those currently on the committee are happy to remain on it. L. Skinner advised that V. Whittington would like to be on the committee. Ian Hartshorne advised that he does not wish to be the co-spokesperson any longer. Discussion took place on possible co-spokesperson. Both P. Cumming and G. Gibb declined the position. L. Skinner advised the meeting that he has no engineering experience and is not qualified to inspect stopbanks.

Moved: *"That the present committee, namely:*

Chris Brooks

Chris Roy

Grant Gibb

Tim Gibb

Ian Hartshorne

Peter York

Logan Skinner

Paul Cumming

Vicki Whittington

be appointed as the committee for the 2019 / 2020 financial year."

G. Gibb / I. Hartshorne - Carried

Moved: *"That L. Skinner be elected as spokesperson for the 2019/ 2020 financial year."*

I. Hartshorne / C. Roy - Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

R. Beal and B. Russ answered questions relating to rock recovery from the river. It was agreed that staff would follow up on this with NZTA.

D. Ferguson spoke of the holistic rating district concept. She asked if a plan could be put to the rating district on this matter. R. Beal stated that there needs to be willingness from the community before work is commenced. L. Skinner stated that they are desperate for a river management plan but they do not want a combined rating district.

Extensive discussion took place on the development of a river management plan. R. Beal advised that OPUS think a height increase of eight metres will be required over the next 40 years on the south side stopbanks. R. Beal advised that OPUS also think that over the next 100 years a 17 metre rise may be required. R. Beal advised that this information is yet to be peer reviewed. Options were discussed. R. Beal suggested that other agencies are asked for their five year plans. L. Skinner stated that a plan has been sought for a long time and has not been forthcoming. Cr Challenger stated that maybe this is too hard. He stated that the Waiho River has been investigated for years, and it is very difficult to come up with a plan for a river such as the Waiho. Cr Challenger stated that even if the river was to be released to the south, it will still rise, and would only buy time. Cr Challenger stated that other options for the town might need to be looked at as is stated in the Tonkin & Taylor report. He acknowledged that investments need to be considered with zoning and district plans needing to be taken into consideration. It was agreed that in the short term a plan is needed for the next five years. L. Skinner spoke of the uncertainty faced by the community. Cr Challenger stated that one of the main issues is money, and the limited funding that is available via rates as the rating base is very small. He advised that buying out the south side would be very expensive. It was agreed that all parties, including both councils would need to be involved with a long term plan for the Waiho River. R. Beal asked the meeting if the rating district would be prepared to fund a river management plan. It was agreed that the rating district would make a financial contribution. B. Russ suggested that staff from WCRC, WDC, DoC and NZTA all get together to progress a plan. L. Skinner stated that pushing the Waiho River in the Tartare River might be the cheapest option and might buy ten years. L. Skinner stated that this should not be a big job as there has been so much work done previously. B. Russ stated that options that are not going to work have previously been ruled out. He stated that current options are raising stopbanks, flood the south side, or moving the town. D. Ferguson asked if there is a possibility of taking a plan, or options, to government because at the moment all that is being done is the topping up of stopbanks. Cr Magner asked R. Beal if it realistic to try to progress a long term plan for the Waiho River. R. Beal responded that funding agreements from other

stakeholders would be required to co-fund development as council could not do this by itself, as council does not have the internal resources to do this. R. Beal advised he would ask NZTA to give him their 5 – 10 year infrastructure plan. L. Skinner suggested a plan is put together to compensate neighbouring properties on the south side. L. Skinner read out a statement to the meeting and offered to email it to Council. L. Skinner stated that economic development is at the heart of this, not the river. Cr Magner suggested getting Development West Coast on board to help develop the long term plan for the Waiho River as economic development is their role in the region.

C. Roy stated that the Waiho River is a risk as far as any newcomer coming into the area, along with the consequence of an earthquake or landslide. A. Tschampel stated that Scenic Circle Hotel is noticing a downturn in tourism, he stated that China is very unsure of the West Coast, with tours having been lost already, after the loss of the Waiho Bridge in March. A. Tschampel stated that tourism is impacted by road closures and slips as well. L. Skinner agreed and stated that there were three road closures last summer.

Discussion took place on whether or not stopbanks need to be raised. It was noted that NZTA has recently raised the stopbank on the glacier side. L. Skinner stated that in the past NZTA has offered to help fund the raising of rating district stopbanks, should NZTA raise the height of their stopbanks.

Discussion took place on the co-designed extension to the Heliport wall, the design was rejected by the rating district committee.

Cr Magner thanked those present for their attendance.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.42 p.m.

Action Points:

- R. Beal to follow up with OPUS on the global consent and report back to the rating district spokesperson.
- B. Russ to renew the rate card for rock recovery in April 2021.
- B. Russ to provide an update of current resource consents, and which ones the rating district is being charged for, along with which resource consents the rating district can use.
- B. Russ to update the asset register.
- The Heliport Stopbank is to now be known as the RD Heliport Stopbank.
- B. Russ and R. Beal to follow up with NZTA regarding rock recovery from the Waiho River.
- B. Russ to check with NZTA regarding the possibility of NZTA helping to fund the raising of rating district stopbanks, should NZTA raise the height of their stopbanks.
- R. Beal to approach all agencies involved to provide him with their five year long term plans for the Waiho River, and a funding agreement from stakeholders to progress a short and long term plan. Along with an infrastructure plan.