

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
KONGAHU RATING DISTRICT
HELD AT THE LITTLE WANGANUI HOTEL
ON 23 OCTOBER 2018, COMMENCING AT 11.02 AM

PRESENT

B. Jones, K. Kees, G & F. Volckman, L. Kees, R. Anderson, K. Gavigan, F. Bjerring (arrived 11.12 a.m).

IN ATTENDANCE

West Coast Regional Council
T. Archer, N. Clementson (Councillor)
R. Beal, P. Birchfield, J. Ellis, T. Jellyman (Staff)

APOLOGIES

S. McGregor, R. Hedgman

Moved: *"That the apologies be accepted".*

B. Jones / G. Volckman – Carried

BUSINESS

Cr Archer opened the meeting and welcomed those present. He introduced himself and the Council staff.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Moved: *"That the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting held on 24 October 2017, be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting, with the amendment below made."*

B. Jones / L. Kees - Carried

B. Jones advised that he had voted against the rate strike.

MATTERS ARISING

P. Birchfield advised that the resource consent application for work in the estuary has been adjusted to be for one year and DoC has now signed off on this. She stated she will be reapplying shortly to seek if this can be continued for another year or so.

P. Birchfield advised that L. Kees's drain is yet to be cleared out but a date will be set for this today.

B. Jones spoke of the Land and Water Plan hearing. Cr Archer advised that this has now gone into recess and further work has been carried out on the wetlands. A report is due and the hearing panel will then reconvene.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2017 / 2018

R. Beal spoke to this report. He advised that the opening balance was \$11,699.32, total revenue was \$10,640.73, total expenses were \$7,057.50 and the closing balance as of 30 June 2018 was \$15,252.52.

Agreed Level of Service

P. Birchfield advised that Audit NZ have requested that agreed levels of service are discussed at each rating district meeting. She advised this actually relates to heights of riverbanks and not drainage systems as for this rating district. P. Birchfield advised that it is important that this rating district keeps the drains to their original dimensions. R. Beal advised that this was an outcome of the Edgumbe disaster and is about making sure the rating district is comfortable with the level of service they are receiving.

Willow Tree Loss

Cr Archer introduced J. Ellis to the meeting. J. Ellis advised that his background is in River Engineering. He stated that Karamea has very large areas covered in willow and there are a wide variety of willows in this area. J. Ellis spoke of the Large Willow Aphid which was found in NZ in 2013 and is now well established NZ wide. J. Ellis stated that the full effect of the aphid is not being seen in this rating district but is in other places around Westland. J. Ellis stated that during autumn and winter the trunk and limbs will turn black and drip honey dew. He stated that bees and wasps are attracted to this honey dew and the aphid is now killing willows. J. Ellis spoke of the root system on willow trees and the protection the willow trees provide. He provided information on potential planting options.

J. Ellis advised that Hon Shane Jones, Regional Development Minister, has set up an initiative to plant one billion trees over the next 10 years. Government funding is available to communities via the Provincial Growth Fund. J. Ellis advised that the trees to be replanted are likely to be a combination of exotics and native trees. He advised if this work is started soon then what happened during the Edgumbe flood could possibly be avoided here as dead willows caused added damage during this flood event.

R. Beal explained J. Curry's role as Council's Biosecurity Officer. R. Beal stated that further information will be forthcoming via the Weedbusters newsletter and once the annual meetings have been held throughout the region, depending on interest, then a combined application will be made to this fund. It was noted that willows are not really an issue for this rating district and is more relative to the Karamea rating district.

WORKS REPORT

P. Birchfield spoke to this report advising that \$4,865 worth of works were done during the reporting period. This included the clean outlet of Blackwater Creek channel, and spraying for Parrots Feather.

Extensive discussion took place on the locations of and spraying of Parrots Feather. It was noted that helicopter spraying is a very good option.

P. Birchfield advised that \$17,000 has been allowed for future works, this includes \$7,000 for maintenance of existing works and spraying and \$10,000 for swamp drain cleaning and maintenance.

B. Jones expressed concern regarding the mouth of the Otumahana Estuary being blocked and water from Blackwater and Granite Creek is now flowing into the Karamea River. Extensive discussion took place and it was agreed this would be discussed at this afternoon's meeting of the Karamea rating district. P. Birchfield stated that one of the proposals from Murray Hicks (NIWA scientist) was to reopen the channel from Granite Creek around to Blackwater as there is old rock in this area.

Moved: ***"That the Kongahu Rating District supports isolating the Karamea River from the Otumahana Estuary, and reopening the Otumahana Estuary back out to sea."***

B. Jones / K. Kees – Carried

Parrots Feather Control

Discussion took place on the eight items from the works report relating to Parrots Feather eradication. R. Beal advised that J. Curry (Council Biosecurity Officer) was unable to attend

to today's meeting. R. Beal asked the meeting if they wished to continue with the same approach or were interested in an eradication approach. L. Kees stated that work has been done for six years now and last year was the worst he has seen with complete blockage of some channels. It was noted that last year's spraying was done months too late. Extensive discussion took place on where to from here. R. Beal stated that the rating district could keep spending \$10,000 and Parrots Feather will still be there. He suggested getting a feasibility study done via an Envirolink grant, and setting a budget with the goal being eradication. G. Volckman suggested a spray now and a further spray in the autumn. R. Beal advised that spraying is the most effective tool but it needs to be done regularly. Discussion on the costs eradication and consideration being given to increasing the rate strike to fund a more intensive attempt at eradication.

Moved: "That the Kongahu rating district supports a feasibility study, Envirolink Funding Application and investigations into an eradication programme for Parrots Feather".

B. Jones / R. Anderson – Carried

It was agreed that \$10,000 for the rate strike is not sufficient to fund two spraying applications. Extensive discussion took place on the cost of helicopter spraying, the ordering and cost of spray. Discussion took place on farmers carrying out their own on farm spraying. It was agreed that \$14,000 would cover the costs of two lots of spraying of the main drains. It was agreed that at the moment farmers are responsible for spraying their own land. Discussion took place on individual farm spraying. L. Kees stated that he is against paying for on farm spraying of drains but he feels it is a waste of money carrying on doing what has been done over the last six years. L. Kees supports B. Jones's idea of buying the spray, but on the same day as the channel is sprayed farmers have to get their drains sprayed at their expense but the cost of the chemical is paid by the rating district. B. Jones stated that S. McGregor supports a group approach to the spraying of Parrots Feather.

Moved: "That the Kongahu rating district pays for all chemical (Garlon) for all on farm spraying and spraying of drains".

*B. Jones / F. Bjerring
L. Kees Against
Carried*

Cr Archer asked the meeting how they would like to address the application of spray on private drains. G. Volckman stated that he would do his own spraying and would not get a helicopter in. It was agreed that all spraying would be carried out during a practical time frame.

Moved: "That individual farmers will be responsible for making the arrangements and applying the spray to their private drains".

*B. Jones / F. Bjerring
L. Kees Against
Carried*

2019/ 2020 RATE STRIKE

The recommended rate strike is \$10,000 for the coming financial year. The balance in the rating district account at the beginning of the financial year is likely to be \$8,722.

G. Volckman stated that in order to carrying out two rounds of spraying, to cover the costs of the chemical and the application (by helicopter) the rate strike needs to be increased substantially and possibly doubled. G. Volckman suggested buying spray now for next year. It was noted that an increase in the rate strike will be a one off, specifically for the 2019 / 2020 financial year.

Moved: *"That the rate strike for the Kongahu Rating District is \$20,000 for the 2019 / 2020 financial year."*

G. Volckman / B. Jones – Carried

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE AND SPOKESPERSON

It was noted that all ratepayers in the rating district are members of the committee. It was agreed that the status quo would remain for this financial year.

Moved: *"That the entire rating district are on the rating district committee for the 2018 / 2019 financial year."*

G. Volckman / R. Anderson - Carried

Moved: *"That B. Jones re- elected as the spokesperson for the 2018 / 2019 financial year."*

G. Volckman / R. Anderson – Carried

Cr Archer thanked B. Jones for the work he does on behalf of the rating district.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Resource Consent Application:

P. Birchfield advised that the resource consent for the cleanout of the drains has one section where this could be difficult due to the wetlands status of this area. She advised the application needs to be submitted next month as it expires in May 2019.

P. Birchfield advised that the resource consent for the estuary needs to be renewed.

Cr Archer thanked the meeting for their attendance.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.36 pm.

Action Points:

- P. Birchfield to progress both resource consent applications.

Council Infrastructure Insurance Details

Information provided by R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager)

Council exited LAPP in 2011 following the Canterbury earthquakes, as it was going to be unaffordable to continue. We then established a designated Catastrophe Fund, which has grown to \$1M.

As from 1/11/17 WCRC Infrastructure is covered under the AON Lloyds scheme. We are in a grouping of South Island Councils (Nelson, Tasman, Buller, Grey, Westland, WCRC, Queenstown Lakes, Environment Southland) with total programme cover of (now) \$300M.

WCRC carries cover of \$35M and the annual premium is paid for from interest earned on the \$1M Catastrophe Fund. The excess is \$250,000.

See details of actual cover below taken from the actual Policy wording: The infrastructure cover includes (quoting direct from Policy).

"Materials damage natural catastrophe insurance" including: Earthquake, Natural landslip, Flood, Tsunami, Tornado, Windstorm, Volcanic eruption, Hydrothermal and geothermal activity, Subterranean Fire, And Business Interruption resulting from them.