

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
LOWER WAIHO RATING DISTRICT
HELD AT THE ST JOHN'S ROOMS, FRANZ JOSEF
ON 9 NOVEMBER 2016, COMMENCING AT 11.04 AM.

PRESENT

C. Brooks, R. Richards, N. L. K & D. Frendrup, P. Halford, K. Nolan, R. Neil

IN ATTENDANCE

West Coast Regional Council
P, McDonnell (Councillor), S. Challenger (Councillor)
M. Meehan, R. Beal, B. Russ, T. Jellyman (Staff)

APOLOGIES

B. Rietveld, R. Molloy

R. Richards / K. Nolan - Carried

BUSINESS

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

Moved: ***"That the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting held on 21 October 2015, be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting."***

R. Richards / K. Nolan - Carried

MATTERS ARISING

Action points were updated. Canavan's Knob rating district has now been disbanded.

FINANCIAL REPORT

R. Beal presented the financial statements for the financial period ending 30 June 2016. He advised that the opening was \$13,501.09, total revenue was \$97,501.09, which included \$84,000 for rates, and the closing balance is \$15,615.13.

WORKS REPORT

B. Russ presented the detailed works report, which covered the 12-month period; 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016. He reported that \$31,325 worth of works was carried out during the reporting period. B. Russ reported that the rock came from both Waiho Loop Moraine and from the quarries nearby.

B. Russ reported that he carried out an inspection on 19 September with the spokesperson and advised that the stopbanks and the rock work was all in good condition. B. Russ advised a spur on Canavan's Knob needs to be topped up, along with some topping up near Milton & Others stopbank area. He stated that \$17,000 worth of works were identified, this includes \$10,000 for unforeseen maintenance. R. Richards agreed with the proposed works and stated that it is important that the river does not get behind spurs. Discussion took place on previous works and what could be required in the future. B. Russ answered various questions from those present.

M. Meehan stated that it has been made clear to the Franz Josef rating district that the work that they do, must not compromise work downstream which could impact on this area. B. Russ explained the work that is proposed for Franz Josef rating district which is four days' work on a digger to straighten up and deepen the channel. M. Meehan advised that there is now a resource consent in place to take rock from anywhere in the river.

RATES 2017 / 2018

Cr Challenger advised that the prudent reserve for this rating district is \$120,000 and the recommended rate strike is \$84,000. Cr Challenger advised that at the start of the 2017 / 18 financial year the balance in the rating district account is likely to be \$44,000, included in this figure is the loan repayments. M. Meehan advised that the interest rate for the loan is fixed at 5.5% until February 2017 but it will then decrease when the loan is refinanced. He is hopeful that the interest rate will then be in the 3%'s. N. Frendrup asked if the rate strike could be lowered for the coming year. Cr Challenger advised that another \$84,000 will be going into the account this year and recommends that the rate strike stays at \$84,000 for another year and then reconsider. Cr Challenger stated that if there is a flood event in the river, then it is important that the money is there to fix it straight away. Cr Challenger stated that if things go well then there should be enough funds in the rating district account next year to consider cutting back the rate strike. M. Meehan gave the example of the Inchbonnie rating district, where they had reached their prudent reserve and Council was then able to halve the rate. N. Frendrup stated that it is the dairy farmers are paying a significant share of the rate. M. Meehan agreed with N. Frendrup's comments but advised that it is important that the rating district works towards the prudent reserve as previously advised. Cr Challenger encouraged further discussion on the rate strike. K. Frendrup asked what the process would be if a ratepayer could not afford to pay their rates, and would they still have to pay interest on their rates. M. Meehan advised that Council is able to work with landowners to develop through payment plans for individual ratepayers. He confirmed that council has done this in the past, but it is important that ratepayers talk to council about any financial difficulties they might be having. N. Frendrup moved that the rate strike be \$54,000 for the financial year. There was no seconder and the motion was lost. M. Meehan gave examples of the financial situation of various rating districts. Further discussion took place, staff answered questions. Cr McDonnell reminded the meeting that it is next year's rate strike that is being discussed. It was agreed that the rate strike would remain at \$84,000 for this financial year.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Cr Challenger read out the names of those currently on the committee. He acknowledged the passing of Mrs Richards. Cr Challenger asked those present if they would like to remain on the committee and if anyone else present would like to join.

Moved: ***"That the present committee is all those present namely:***

Lee Frendrup

Neil Frendrup

Robin Richards

Chris Brooks

Peter Halford

John Stone

Peter Dennehy

Dean Frendrup

K. Frendrup or the 2015 / 2016 financial year."

Discussion took place on the election of spokesperson. R. Richards stated that he has been involved with the rating district since 1967. B. Russ stated that it is important to have a local person on the ground. He stated that should something go wrong the rating district has a lot to lose. R. Richards nominated P. Halford. P. Halford declined the nomination as he is not always

in the area. N. Frendrup stated that the spokesperson needs to be someone who lives in the area. N. Frendrup nominated C. Brooks. C. Brooks stated that he is busy, but he is prepared to take this role on for one year. K. Frendrup seconded the nomination.

Moved: *"That C. Brooks is elected as the spokesperson for the 2016 / 2017 financial year."*

N. Frendrup / K. Frendrup – Carried

Moved: *"That Robin Richards be elected as the deputy spokesperson for the 2016 / 2017 financial year."*

N. Frendrup / K. Frendrup - Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

M. Meehan advised that there has been some discussion about potentially forming a north side rating district to cover all works on the north side and working in with NZTA. M. Meehan stated that this matter has been discussed previously.

M. Meehan asked the meeting if they have been receiving feedback from members of the Franz Josef Working Group (FJWG). P. Halford advised that he has been receiving emails. M. Meehan stated that there has been a lot of discussion with central government on Franz Josef and the future of Franz Josef. He stated there are no radical decisions being made but there is a clear interest from the government and acknowledgement that Franz Josef is an icon, and that tourists come to New Zealand to visit this area. M. Meehan advised that there is interest from government, NZTA, the Ministry of Tourism and DoC in Franz Josef to be able to expand as a town. M. Meehan advised that the government has agreed to look at doing work on hazards, and to put cost benefits in place on how to mitigate the hazards. There will also be discussion on what to do about the river to the south and whether or not NZTA will consider re-aligning the highway. M. Meehan stated that all of this has been discussed about 20 years ago. M. Meehan advised that in view of the current situation with the Waiho River something does need to be done. He stated that short to medium term options will be investigated and that once the work is done, there will be a considerable amount of community consultation done. M. Meehan advised the meeting that they can expect to hear more about this in the next few months.

C. Brooks asked if investigations have been done on what might happen should the Waiho River drop into the Tartare River. M. Meehan responded that LiDAR work was commissioned in conjunction with NZTA to see what the likelihood of this occurring is. M. Meehan stated that there are concerns on what could happen on the south side as well. R. Richards stated that this would have a major impact on the south area. He gave a history of when the river broke through in this area in the 1967 and it took months to get the river back into the right channel again.

M. Meehan confirmed that the potential northern rating district would include Westland District Council's sewage ponds. Discussion took place on the current state of the sewage ponds. M. Meehan advised that the West Coast Regional Council has a regulatory role and has given Westland District Council a year to fix the problem. M. Meehan stated that it is important that a compliant system is put in place.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.58 a.m.

ACTION POINT:

- Council to consider a \$54,000 rate strike next year.