

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WAITANGI-TAONA RATING DISTRICT HELD AT THE WHATAROA COMMUNITY CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY, 4 APRIL 2001 COMMENCING AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT

A. Nolan, R. Vincent, D. Dennehy, A. Wells, W. Nolan, M. McBride, B. Graham, F. Graham.

IN ATTENDANCE

West Coast Regional Council
B. Duckett (Councillor)
R. Lowe & W. Moen (Staff)

APOLOGIES

J. Clayton, T. Day, D. Davidson (West Coast Regional Council)
P. Dennehy, A. Dennehy, G. Dennehy, D. Sealby, R. Pamment, P. Northcroft, V. Northcroft

BUSINESS

B. Duckett opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

Moved: *“That the minutes of the previous Annual General meeting held on 3 May 2000, be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.”*
W. Nolan/ R. Vincent - Carried

MATTERS ARISING

W. Moen explained that no further financial support, in lieu of rates, had been forthcoming from the Department of Conservation. He had discussed this with the property officer in Hokitika with the result of no movement from the department.

As a result of questions from P. Northcroft at the previous annual general meeting, W. Moen produced photocopies of the Westland District Council rate demand outlining the appropriate costs.

W. Moen pointed out that the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting had been produced within 2 weeks of that meeting and sent to the Chairperson for response.

FINANCIAL MINUTES

W. Moen presented the financial statements for the 2000 calendar year for the period from 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2000.

Moved: *“That the Financial Report for the 2000 calendar year commencing at 1 January 2000 and ending 31 December 2000 be adopted.”*
A. Nolan/R. Vincent - Carried

MATTERS ARISING

W. Moen advised that the second installment of the 2000/ 2001 rates strike, being \$5,000, had to be added to the 31 December 2001 balance to give a more accurate figure to date. He also advised that the 50% share of the fencing with Purcell's property had to be debited from that figure. This figure was approximately \$3000.

R. Vincent asked when the lease to the Williams's was due and if it should be included in the revenue. He also pointed out that the income had been shown in last year's income and felt that it should be in this year's.

W. Moen was to check this out with the Corporate Services Manager and report back.

W. Nolan sought clarification on the level of Westpower's contribution for the 2000 financial year. W.Moen explained that this component was handled by the Corporate Services Manager. He would ascertain the situation and report back to the Chairperson.

W. Nolan also asked if any information had been forthcoming from the cross section surveys undertaken by Transit N.Z.

R. Lowe advised that to date no information had been forthcoming from Transit N.Z.

R. Vincent asked if any information was available, if it could be forwarded to the Chairperson.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Moved: ***"That R. Vincent be re-elected as Chairperson/Spokesperson of the Waitangi-taona Rating District for the 2001/2002 financial year."***
W. Nolan/B. Graham – Carried

Moved: ***"That the committee be the status quo for the 2001/2002 financial year."***
W. Nolan/R. Vincent – Carried

R. Lowe explained that the committee could appoint extra people onto the committee as long as the West Coast Regional Council was notified in writing.

RATES 2001/2002

W. Moen commented that no new proposed works were evident at this stage, but also indicated the "annualised" rate strike as indicated in the Asset Management Plan for the Waitangitaona Scheme.

R. Vincent asked if the Asset Management Plan figure was inflation adjusted and if any allowance was allowed for accrued interest.

W. Moen explained that the figure was not inflation adjusted nor was interest included.

W. Nolan felt that as the account was in a healthy credit situation a reduced rate, similar to last years' was recommended.

Moved: ***"That due to the healthy credit balance another reduced rate of \$10,000 + GST be struck for the 2001/2002 financial year."***
R. Vincent/W. Nolan – Carried Unanimously

GENERAL BUSINESS

R. Vincent asked if Council was contemplating any gravel removal operations from the bed of the Waitangitaona River.

R. Lowe answered that it had not.

He also pointed out the economics of placing a pilot cut over the full length of the channel as opposed to raising the stopbanks.

Discussion ensued on Transit N.Z's plan to apply for resource consents to raise the southern stopbank.

W. Moen explained that he had sought notification from the Regulations Section when and if such a consent application was made. To date no such notification had been received.

B. Duckett spoke on the varying aspects of notified and non-notified resource consents.

R. Vincent asked if Transit N.Z. could undertake works under emergency provisions.

R. Lowe stated that, in his opinion, they could not; as the works could be foreseen and therefore could not be classed as "emergency" works.

D. Dennehy asked if any extra gravel has been moving through the system as a result of the Gaunt Creek slip.

R. Lowe said that until analysis of the cross section information was gained no indication could be given.

D. Dennehy also asked if any studies had been undertaken to ascertain the likelihood of Lake Wahapo being filled in with gravel.

R. Lowe felt that some calculations had been carried out in conjunction with the Wahapo Power Scheme and thought that an estimate of approximately 120 years was probably the figure used.

R. Vincent pointed out that the University of Otago had made studies of the Gaunt Creek slip and wondered if the Council had any information / feedback from that group.

W. Moen said that he had seen no evidence of any reports to date.

D. Dennehy raised the question of the LAPP Fund and potential payouts.

B. Duckett responded by saying that, in her view, Central Government were devolving its responsibilities, by pulling out of any funding agreements that were already in place. She explained that any flooding problems were to be the sole responsibility of Local Councils, while the Government would retain earthquake related problems.

D. Dennehy asked, that under the circumstances, could rating districts arrange their own insurance.

W. Moen pointed out that as the assets were officially under the ownership of The West Coast Regional Council, it was their responsibility.

B. Duckett felt that anything was possible.

W. Moen also explained that he would be investigating alternative insurance options for a number of rating districts and would report back in due course.

R. Vincent asked where the "pool" monies were.

R. Lowe said that the LAPP monies were not part of the central government consolidated fund. He also explained that to date, any private insurance investigations had proven to be uneconomic.

He also pointed out that if the LAPP Scheme had to find 100% of the total damage, LAPP premiums would have to rise by approximately 30% to cover this.

R. Vincent asked that in future contracts, the grading of the access road should be included as part of the total contract costs.

Discussion took place on the liabilities of the scheme, under the O.S.H. Act.

Moved: “That the Council arrange for signs be erected at strategic access points to the stopbank, pointing out a disclaimer from injury and that being a private road, all users enter at their own risk.”

R. Vincent/ W. Nolan – carried

R. Vincent also raised the question of the new tendered leasing of Council land adjoining the stopbank.

R. Lowe told those present, that the tenders had ranged from \$1,350 to \$7,100 (G.S.T. Exclusive) per annum.

The successful tenderers being W. & A. Nolan.

A formal agreement for a term of 5 years was currently being drawn up for signing.

It was assumed, correctly, by the committee, that the annual lease would be credited to the rating district account. This would be payable in advance.

R. Lowe also reiterated that any costs, including the fencing, would be likewise debited to the rating district account.

D. Dennehy asked if the Williams’s lease had been advertised.

R. Lowe explained that it had not been advertised and as it was impractical to fence this area off, the decision was made to lease the area to the Williams’s.

W. Nolan asked A. Wells, the Department of Conservation representative, what the department was doing about willow infestation in the main channel.

A.Wells explained that DOC had drilled and poisoned some willows and had carried out about 5 hours aerial spraying.

Nothing had been done regarding stockpiling the willow trees to prevent downstream movement in flood events.

M. McBride felt that it was not fair that the ratepayers were paying for the protection of DOC land downstream. It was explained that it was DOC policy not to pay in to communal protection works.

R. Vincent asked that the calf sales be taken into consideration when scheduling the next Annual General Meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.45am

Wayne Moen
Senior Engineering Officer