

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WANGANUI RATING DISTRICT HELD AT THE HARIHARI COMMUNITY CENTRE, HARI HARI ON MONDAY, 22 APRIL 2002 COMMENCING AT 8.00 P.M.

PRESENT

R. Berry, P. Denham, J. Stewart, B. McGrath, B. Thomson, L. Molloy,
M. Molloy, A. Campbell, J. Shearer, R. Cunniffe, A. Harris

IN ATTENDANCE

West Coast Regional Council
J. Wood, P. Ewen (Councilors)
R. Lowe & W. Moen (Staff)

APOLOGIES

T. Denham, D. Davidson, J. Clayton.

BUSINESS

J. Wood opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

Moved: *“That the minutes of the previous Annual General meeting held on 4 April 2001, be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.”*

R. Berry / J. Stewart - Carried

MATTERS ARISING

W. Moen explained that he had checked for G. Muir's name on the database and it was included. A mail delivery problem seemed a likely cause of not receiving notice.

W. Moen explained that a financial statement was drawn up at six monthly intervals. R. Berry and L. Molloy pointed out that this was unacceptable and reiterated that they wished to be supplied with quarterly, or three monthly, statements. W. Moen promised to ask the Corporate Services Manager to supply these to the Chairperson.

L. Molloy again expressed concern at the apparent lack of supervision on the drainage contracts. He felt that the spoil heaps were not satisfactory and not up to specifications.

R. Berry felt that it would be a good policy to give a clearance to the contractor before allowing them to leave the property.

He also said it was essential that the operator liaise with the property owner at all times.

R. Lowe stated that the contracts in the future would be more prescriptive.

W. Moen said that a contract had been let to spray the stopbank to H. Spiers Ltd. J. Wood asked why the landowners didn't carry out their own stopbank clearance? Staff felt that some frontage owners were responsible, however the only way to ensure complete coverage was to carry out a comprehensive spraying programme. W. Moen stated that access to all parts of the bank was critical in emergency situations.

FINANCIAL REPORT

W. Moen presented the financial statements for the 2001 financial year.

Moved: ***“That the Financial Report for the 2001 financial year ending 31 December 2001 be adopted.”***

L. Molloy / A. Campbell – Carried

MATTERS ARISING

W. Moen outlined the current favourable credit balance of approximately \$316,000
No other discussion took place.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

L. Molloy pointed out that two members stood down on rotation, but were available for reappointment. The two this year being L. Molloy and R. Cunniffe.

Moved: ***That the following nominated individuals form the committee for the 2002 / 2003 financial year:***

<i>L. Molloy</i>	<i>R. Berry / B. McGrath</i>
<i>J. Stewart</i>	<i>R. Cunniffe / L. Molloy</i>
<i>A. Campbell</i>	<i>J. Stewart / B. Thompson</i>
<i>R. Berry</i>	<i>A. Harris / R. Cunniffe</i>
<i>N. Adamson</i>	<i>R. Berry / A Harris</i>

Moved: ***“That R. Berry be re-elected as spokesperson for the Rating District for the 2002 / 2003 financial year.”***

L. Molloy / A. Campbell – Carried

RATES STRIKE 2002 / 2003

Discussion took place on an appropriate rate strike.

R. Lowe explained that he had not carried out an annual inspection.

R. Berry felt that approximately 600 tonnes of rock was required. This equated to approximately \$9,000

L. Molloy said that a committee inspection was required to ascertain requirements for the coming year.

J. Wood commented that the inspection should occur one month before the Annual General Meeting.

L. Molloy was strongly opposed to a rate strike this year as he felt that a \$300,000 “buffer” was adequate.

Moved: ***“That a “zero” rate strike be set for the 2002 / 2003 financial year.”***

L. Molloy / B. Thompson - Unanimous

GENERAL BUSINESS

J. Wood opened discussion on the Council’s quarrying activities, giving his thoughts on the subject.

He said he was concerned that the Council’s quarries had been running in a deficit situation for the last two years and that there was an unnecessary burden on the general ratepayer to have to “top up” the operation.

B. Thompson asked what the range of figures were.
R. Lowe mentioned the variation in rock prices throughout New Zealand.
These varied from \$5.00 per tonne up to \$30 per tonne in some privately owned quarries.
M. Molloy felt that the comparison with outside quarries was flawed.
L. Molloy pointed out that the quarry operations should remain with the Council in order to keep the price of rock to a minimum.
He did not want to see monopolies developing as this tended to inflate costs because a profit margin would be introduced
M. Molloy wanted a readily available quantity of rock available at all times.
J. Wood stated that using 6% of general ratepayers' funds was not an option to him.
R. Berry read out a letter from two years ago stating the committee's view on quarrying.
His view that the committee's support for the retention of Council involvement hadn't changed.
P. Ewen spoke in general support of the status quo.
J. Wood still opposed the retention of uneconomic quarries.
L. Molloy asked J. Wood if he would support a "user pays" scenario.
J. Wood said that he could possibly support this.
M. Molloy said that ratepayers have to be protected, although the operation should be economically viable.
L. Molloy asked if there was a year's supply of rock in the stockpile?
R. Lowe explained that there normally was barring unforeseen circumstances.
J. Wood wanted to see 4000 tonnes of rock on the floor at all times.
J. Stewart asked what the life of the quarry was?
J. Wood explained that most quarries had a 42-year licence period under normal circumstances.
R. Lowe pointed out hidden costs such as rehabilitation of the quarry area once operations had finished.
He explained that these costs had to be accrued in order to complete the "repair" costs at the end of the quarry life.

The ratepayers felt that the status quo should remain.

A. Campbell sought information on the LAPP Fund.
M. Molloy felt that the money had been taken under false pretences.
R. Lowe and W. Moen felt that the scheme should stay in given the lowering premiums.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.19pm.

Wayne Moen
Senior Engineering Officer

