

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF
THE WHATAROA RATING DISTRICT
HELD AT THE WHATAROA COMMUNITY HALL
ON 13 OCTOBER 2011, COMMENCING AT 12.05 PM

PRESENT

B & D Friend, A. Lash, D. Gordon, A. Kennedy, B. Graham, K. Kelly, D. Routhan, P. Kennedy, J. Spencer, T. McBride, M. Potae, P. Carroll, D. Bowater, M. Dennehy, D. Horton

IN ATTENDANCE

West Coast Regional Council
D. Davidson, B. Chinn (Councillors)
M. Meehan, W. Moen, T. Jellyman, P. Birchfield (Staff)

APOLOGIES

Kamari & S. Philips, A. Van der Poel, I. Bolton, D. Dennehy

BUSINESS

Cr Davidson opened the meeting and welcomed those present. He introduced himself and the Council staff. Cr Davidson advised that there is a need for some emergency works to be carried out by the Whataroa River and following a request from ratepayers a rating district has now been set up. Cr Davidson advised that initially the Whataroa rating district would be for those identified emergency works only. Cr Davidson read the motion from Tuesday's Council meeting as follows:

That Council resolves to form a new Whataroa Special Rating District as per the attached map, for the primary purpose of funding the emergency river works identified in the attached aerial photo of the river within 1.5km of the State Highway Bridge, other than capital works; which will be decided at a later date.

Cr Davidson advised that it would be up to the rating district to decide if they wish to fund capital works in the future. Cr Davidson advised that this is a public meeting but only those ratepayers who pay into the rating district can speak at this meeting or move motions or second any motion. D. Davidson asked if there is anyone present who does not fit into this category.

It was confirmed that all present are members of the Whataroa Rating District. It was noted that there are no previous minutes as this is the inaugural meeting of the Whataroa Rating District.

SUGGESTED WORKS

W. Moen advised that he has tendered out the emergency works which will include the river frontage area immediately downstream from the State Highway Bridge. W. Moen advised that three tenders were received, he advised that the pricing was very close and the successful tenderer is Westland Contractors Ltd from Hokitika at a price of \$79,000. W. Moen advised that they could start work on Wednesday.

M. Meehan explained the function of a rating district to the meeting. He advised that at the Council meeting on Tuesday, Council resolved to form a rating district for the emergency works 1.5 kms down from the State Highway Bridge but not to include any capital works.

Cr Chinn addressed that meeting and stated that at Tuesday's council meeting he moved a resolution that said, "that the Whataroa rating district be established to maintain the existing works up to 1.5km down from the State Highway Bridge". Cr Chinn stated that the reason for this is because a rating district scheme has not been formed in Whataroa for capital works and he feels

it is up to the people here today to decide if they want the rating district to pay for capital works. Cr Chinn explained to the meeting how some other rating districts work and that the landowner pays for capital works and then these works are included in the scheme and after two years the scheme then maintains the works.

Discussion took place on the meeting that took place on the 21st of September. Various speakers stated that they did not have enough notice of this meeting and some were unable to attend. M. Meehan apologised to the meeting and advised that no decisions were made as a result of this meeting. He advised that council resolved to form a rating district at Tuesday's council meeting and this decision was based on the survey sent out to ratepayers. Cr Davidson explained the advantages of having a rating district and stated that this is the most efficient way of getting works done. Cr Davidson stated that this is a large area and people have indicated that they want a rating district. Cr Davidson advised that at this stage capital works have been excluded and maintenance works only will be done but once the rating district is up and running if the capital works are wanted then capital works can be included.

M. Meehan advised that everyone in the proposed rating district has been sent two letters outlining the proposal. Mr Routhan addressed the meeting and stated that this meeting is about the future and not the past and it is time that something was done to protect everyone's land. Mr Routhan stated that if something is not done about the small amount of damage there now it could turn into a major job.

Cr Chinn advised the meeting that it is up to them to decide what works they want included in the rating district and what they are prepared to pay for.

W. Moen explained how the consent process would work for emergency works and answered questions relating to resource consents. W. Moen stated that there is no intention to try and divert the river or push the river away. W. Moen advised that the structures are designed to hold the river where it is along the left bank. Discussion took place on previous works undertaken on the Whataroa River. Cr Davidson advised that today's meeting is about progressing the rating district.

W. Moen advised that the number one priority is the river frontage area immediately downstream on the State Highway Bridge downstream including Mr Des Routhan's property. W. Moen advised that the cost of these works is around \$100,000 and the special rate should cover these works. W. Moen advised that once the rating district forms a committee then he and the committee could work out exactly what they would like the contractor to do.

M. Meehan advised that typically rating districts do not pay for capital works, they pay for maintenance works. Cr Chinn's concern and council's concern was that the first priority is the three spurs (that are capital works) but if this rating district decides to go with W. Moen's recommendation to pay for these capital works, then the rest is maintenance of existing structures. M. Meehan advised that the capital works will cost around \$50,000 and this would use about half of the money if the rating district strikes a rate of \$100,000.

Discussion took place on the apportionment of rates. M. Meehan explained the rating classes to the meeting and advised that those closer to the river (class A) will pay more than those further back from the river (class B). M. Meehan advised that some rating districts further south have decided to have an independent assessment of their classifications. M. Meehan advised that W. Moen has based the classification on his knowledge of the river and with discussions with those affected. Discussion took place on the basis of forming a rating district. M. Meehan advised that the river has changed since 2009 when the formation of a rating district was first considered. Cr Davidson said it is now up to the rating district to decide what work they want to do.

Moved "That the maintenance and the proposed capital works take place".

J. Spencer / M. Potae

Seven people were for this and eight were against. This motion was lost. P. Kennedy moved an amended motion.

Moved *"That the rating district is for maintenance works only and no capital works."*

P. Kennedy / P. Carroll

This motion was also lost.

P. Kennedy stated that he is opposed to putting in money to protect every farmer all the way along the Whataroa River. He stated he sold his farm to get away from the Whataroa River. He feels that the farmers on the river need to protect their own land. Discussion took place on this motion. M. Meehan advised that the capital works proposed would not go further downstream. He advised that what the meeting is voting on now is whether or not they wish to do the 1 and 3 priority works as one off capital works to keep the river where it is. Intense discussion took place on the current motion. D. Routhan stated that the Regional Council is trying to help and people need to do something. Another speaker suggested that capital works do need to be considered.

W. Moen suggested that time is taken to consider a workable system as if rash decisions are made now the whole scheme could be jeopardised. M. Potae stated that by not having capital works included does not make any sense.

P. Kennedy withdrew his motion.

M. Potae stated that wording of the motion needs to be correct so people know exactly what they are agreeing to. A speaker suggested number the groyne so that there is no confusion and include it in the motion. W. Moen clarified that the yellow crosses on the map indicate proposed new works, the green crosses are all existing works and the blue numbers are priority of works. Discussion took place on the formation of the committee and the function of a rating district.

Moved

"That the Whataroa Rating District undertakes the capital and maintenance works in the attached map number x – 7, with the capital works being undertaken as a one off."

This motion was lost.

M. Meehan advised that the works are still subject to resource consent and consent needs to be applied for within seven days of completing the works. A speaker asked if spur number 1 was necessary. W. Moen stated he believes this spur is necessary as there is a long section of unprotected bank. A speaker suggested that spur number 1 could be left out this year and kept an eye on in the meantime.

Cr Davidson advised that a decision needs to be made on what capital expenditure is required for this year and how much money is needed.

It was agreed that the incoming rating district committee would decide on what works are to be done.

RATES 2011 / 2012

Discussion ensued on rate strikes. D. Davidson explained that each year is a separate rating year. W. Moen explained that rate strike that they are going to set today is for the works that are planned in the next few months. W. Moen advised that if a rate of \$100,000 were struck now it would cover the cost of the proposed works.

RECOMMENDATION

"That the rate strike for the 2011 / 2012 financial Year is \$100,000(GST Incl)"

P. Carroll / M. Potae – Carried

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Cr Davidson advised the meeting that they need to appoint a committee and / or a spokesperson. W. Moen explained the role of the rating district committee and spokesperson. He stated that in his role as River Engineer it is important that there is someone who he can get hold of if any work needs doing. W. Moen explained that the spokesperson saves the rating district money by liaising with him and that should there be a large issue then the decision is made whether or not a meeting or visit is required. B. Friend asked if the spokesperson is a member of the committee. W. Moen confirmed this. The rotation policy that the Wanganui rating district has in place was also explained to the meeting. It was suggested to the meeting that they have representatives from both the A & B classifications.

John Spencer was nominated by P. Kennedy seconded by M. Potae.
Des Routhan was nominated by J. Spencer seconded by K. Kelly
Mary Anne Potae was nominated by D. Routhan seconded by A. Lash
Keith Kelly was nominated by D. Bowater seconded B. Graham
Dale Bowater was nominated K. Kelly seconded A. Lash
Terry McBride was nominated by D. Horton seconded P. Kennedy
Dave Friend was nominated by J. Spencer seconded by Dale Bowater

It was agreed that a spokesperson and deputy spokesperson would be nominated.

Moved: ***"That John Spencer be elected as the spokesperson and Keith Kelly as deputy spokesperson for the 2011 / 2012 financial year."***

Moved: ***"That John Spencer, Des Routhan, Maryanne Potae, Keith Kelly, Dale Bowater, Terry McBride and Dave Friend be elected as the committee for the 2011 / 2012 financial year."***

D. Routhan / K. Kelly - Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

D. Davidson invited that meeting to have their say on matters relating to the rating district.

It was noted that the meeting had agreed that the new committee would decide on what works are to be done in 2011.

M. Meehan stated that it would be helpful if a meeting were arranged for early next year to discuss the longterm strategy for the Whataroa Rating District. He stated that research needs to be done to work out what needs to be done with regards to the maintenance of existing works.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1.30 p.m.

Action Points for follow up

- Arrange meeting for early next year to discuss the longterm strategy for the Whataroa rating district.