

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF TE TAI O POUTINI PLAN COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 MAY 2020, VIA ZOOM, (DUE TO COVID – 19) COMMENCING AT 12.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

R. Williams (Chairman), A. Birchfield, J. Cleine, S. Roche, T. Gibson, B. Smith, A. Becker, L. Coll McLaughlin, P. Madgwick, L. Martin

IN ATTENDANCE:

J. Armstrong (Project Manager), L. Easton, E. Bretherton, M. Meehan – joined meeting at 2.00 p.m. (WCRC), S. Bastion (WDC), S. Mason (BDC), P. Morris, (GDC), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk)

WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He reminded those present that this is a public meeting and members of the public as well as media are welcome to attend. The Chairman welcomed any members of the public who may be viewing the meeting via Council's Facebook page.

APOLOGIES:

Moved (Cleine /Smith) *That the apology from F. Tumahai be accepted.*

Carried

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved (Becker / Martin)

That the minutes of the meeting dated 20 April 2020, be confirmed as correct.

Carried

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

J. Armstrong advised that today's meeting is a continuation from last month's meeting. J. Armstrong stated that everyone was pleased with the video presentations which were sent out prior to the meeting. She advised that from now on papers would be talked to rather than PowerPoints, and videos and papers would be circulated on Microsoft Teams prior to meetings.

J. Armstrong advised that the budget from the previous meeting has been recommended to WCRC but WCRC has not held their meeting yet. J. Armstrong advised that M. Meehan has advised her that WCRC is hoping for a zero rate increase. It was noted that M. Meehan will phone in later at 2pm to discuss the budget further. The Chairman noted that funding for research has been postponed, and less will be spent on travel this year.

Te Tai o Poutini Plan Technical Overview – Infrastructure Issues, Objectives and Policies Summary

E. Bretherton spoke to this report and outlined the four potential issues for consideration. She covered renewable energy and explained how important this will be in relation to the National Policy Statement. E. Bretherton advised that renewable energy is very important nationally, regionally, and locally. Cr Birchfield stated that hydro energy is a good option rather than solar energy for the West Coast. Mayor Cleine stated that solar energy could be an option for Buller as they have higher sunshine hours, and wind also an option for Buller if right technology is available.

E. Bretherton outlined Issue 2, which covered constraints that are felt by infrastructure. She spoke of the impact of natural hazards on infrastructure, and the impacts that severe weather events can have on local roads and advised that resilience is important. E. Bretherton advised it is important that West Coast communities make themselves as resilient as possible, and to have their own power on the West Coast. She spoke of the importance in ensuring that policies can stand by themselves.

E. Bretherton advised that objectives for our infrastructure need to work for communities and need to be safe and effective. She advised that reverse sensitivity must be considered and gave the example of airport infrastructure requiring protection. Cr Birchfield stated that if the port is developed the area would need to be protected and there should not be residential structures in these areas. L. Easton advised that she is looking at a special purpose zone for ports, as these areas would have their own specific zone. Cr Coll McLaughlin stated that "objective 3 "most efficient" ideally but practicality and costs direct people to be efficient.

E. Bretherton advised it is important to ensure positive benefits are recognised. She spoke of the importance of design and sites and explained co-locations. She answered questions on subdivisions, stormwater contaminants and flooding issues. E. Bretherton advised that policies are in place to enable activities. Discussion ensued and it was agreed that minor changes to wording would be made. The Chairman suggested that these wording changes are provided to E. Bretherton and L. Easton and they will feedback to the committee and this will be presented at a future meeting and will be displayed on Microsoft Teams.

Moved (Gibson / Martin)

That the Committee receive the report and that the Committee provide feedback to the next meeting on the revised wording of the draft Issues, Objectives and Policies for Infrastructure.

Carried

The meeting adjourned for a five minute break.

Te Tai o Poutini Plan Technical Update – Natural Hazards and Climate Change

L. Easton spoke to this report and advised she omitted a reference from the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) on preparing for coastal hazards and preparing for climate change. She advised this is an ongoing sequence for natural hazards and is just for information and no decision is required. L. Easton offered to answer questions. Cr Coll McLaughlin stated there are serious decisions ahead on where the zoning of residential areas might be. She asked what the situation is when a decision cannot be made that fits in with the guidance. L. Easton this is guidance only, and not requirements, and it is the committee's job to make decisions, based on the information provided. She stated this is about timeframes and different types of activities will have different guidelines. P. Madgwick stated that everything is well documented in the report provided to Ngai Tahu, except for sea level rises as this area is a bit vague. He acknowledged that there are big problems with coastal erosion, sea surges and cyclones on the West Coast. L. Easton advised the report contains tables with the range of projections. She stated that MfE has provided guidance in this area. L. Easton confirmed there are a lot of different natural hazards on the West Coast and this is contextual information. She advised that new development in areas where there has not been previous development needs to be considered especially when making decisions where these new developments might go. She gave the example of Ross Beach where hazards could arise in the future. Cr Birchfield stated he will be voting against the report as he does not believe in climate change. Cr Coll McLaughlin asked about timeframes for the district plan. L. Easton responded that a District Plan is a plan for the next ten years but what occurs in that 10 years will have impacts for much longer. She advised that the Building Act advises that 50 years should be considered for reviews and changes, but the RMA needs to consider the next 100 years in decision making with regard to natural hazards. Mayor Smith stated that the plan is for ten years and this is the timeframe that is being worked with and best practice is 100 years. Mayor Smith queried the information relating to sea surges at Ross Beach. L. Easton responded that this information came from Civil Defence who advised that waves went through the camping ground. Mayor Smith expressed concern about sea level changes and is concerned what the receiving of this report could mean. Mayor Smith asked what planning is in place should the alpine fault should rupture. E. Bretherton responded to this and advised that is included in the work with natural hazards, but this is a huge topic for the West Coast and is as big as SNA's for the Coast. She stated that there are a lot of unknowns and uncertainty and nobody knows when this is likely to happen. E. Bretherton spoke of the implications of managed retreat. L. Easton advised that this report is information only and is something that elected members need to have regard to when making decisions on natural hazards but the weighting that is put on this is up to elected members. The Chairman advised that if information is not brought to member's

attention then there could be implications in the future. Cr Becker asked if these matters are not considered, is there liability on council. L. Easton advised that when decisions are about to be made legal advice around liability will be provided.

Moved (Cleine / Roche) *That the Committee receives the report.*

*Against Cr Birchfield
Carried*

Budget Update

M. Meehan advised that his understanding is that the committee is going to relook at the budget in light of Covid-19. He stated there is an opportunity for the Regional Council to borrow up to \$750,000 in next year’s annual plan. M. Meehan stated that research work is not proceeding, and work on SNA’s is not proceeding. M. Meehan stated that the budget is yet to be put in front of the regional council. He advised there is a shortfall of \$250,000 because the Local Government Commission and WDC not contributing. M. Meehan stated that there is some carry over. Mayor Smith stated that expenditure on SNA research has not been approved. He stated that he thought there is going to be more focus on ensuring important matters for each district considered first. Cr Roche asked J. Armstrong if a revised budget has been completed. J. Armstrong said that she has passed this onto M. Meehan. Cr Roche suggested that it might be helpful to get some figures back without research costs, as every Council will be looking at budget constraints. It was agreed that the financial report would be presented to the next meeting, with J. Armstrong providing a list of what needs to be spent and what research is required to give a robust plan for the Environment Court test. J. Armstrong stated that there are some areas that need to be confirmed. M. Meehan advised there is now a little more time as Council has now fallen in with the Long Term Plan, and there is no requirement for consultation on the annual plan for this year. He stated that a zero rate increase is hoped for this year. M. Meehan advised there is a \$100,000 carry over from the Local Government Commission, he suggested that over the next month a paper is put together for the committee to cover these concerns. The Chairman stated he would like to see this done sooner rather than later, and to ensure that the budget consists of spending and finances to come in. The Chairman asked that M. Meehan prepares a paper that contains the possible expenditure and possible income. The Chairman stated that information on what is expected in two to three years would be helpful with the context of this. He stated that the costs of \$500,000 to \$600,000 each year is required. M. Meehan stated that he is happy with this, as next year’s Long Term Plan will set out the budget for the next 10 years, with a particular focus on the first three years. Cr Coll McLaughlin stated that this is an important conversation as the budgeting and funding has been a really weak part of the whole thing, as this can be agreed to here, but then needs to be taken back to the regional council for confirmation. She stated there are two critical changes needed to get this through as projections for costs are needed to be able to show the costs as this will be questioned. Cr Coll McLaughlin stated it is also critical to have members from this committee, including J. Armstrong on hand when this is presented and one from each district is needed to ensure more context is provided and to ensure budgets get past regional council. Cr Coll McLaughlin stated that budgeting needs to go along with the work programme and need to lay out where costs are going. The Chairman stated this has been set out in a paper previously provided by J Armstrong. It was agreed that the paper from J Armstrong would also be brought to the 28 May meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 28 May, commencing at 0900 to be held at GDC, and via Zoom.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 2.23 p.m.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date

Action Points

- Feedback on agenda item one to be provided to E. Bretherton and L. Easton

Next Meeting:

- Thursday 28 May (Grey District Council) – commencing at 10.30.

Meeting Dates for 2020

- Thursday 28 May 09.30 – 12.30 (Grey District Council) + Zoom
- Wednesday 24 June 0900 – 11.00 venue TBC + Zoom
- Thursday 30 July (Westland District Council)
- Thursday 25 August (Te Tauraka Waka a Māui Marae, Bruce Bay)
- Thursday 24 September (Buller District Council)
- Thursday 29 October (Grey District Council)
- Tuesday 24 November (West Coast Regional Council)
- Wednesday 14 December (Westland District Council)