

MACKENZIE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE MACKENZIE FORESTRY BOARD HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, FAIRLIE, ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2014, AT 9.32 AM

PRESENT:

Cr Graham Smith (Chairman)
Cr Murray Cox
Cr Noel Jackson
Cr Evan Williams

IN ATTENDANCE:

Claire Barlow (Mayor)
Wayne Barnett (Chief Executive)
Paul Morris (Manager – Finance and Administration)
Kevin O’Neil (Forestry Manager)
Terry O’Neill (Ashburton District Council)
Arlene Goss (Committee Secretary)
Jack Montgomerie (Reporter, Timaru Herald)

APOLOGIES:

There were no apologies.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES:

The chief executive noted some errors in the minutes where the name Terry O’Neill needs to be changed to Kevin O’Neil. Terry O’Neill was not present at the meeting on June 10.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Mackenzie Forestry Board held on June 10, 2014, including such parts as were taken with the public excluded, be confirmed and adopted as the correct record of the meeting subject to the corrections noted above.

Murray Cox/Noel Jackson

MATTERS ARISING:

Cr Smith has spoken to the IT manager requesting correct maps of Mackenzie forestry areas. Terry O’Neill offered to produce these maps for the chairman and will forward them to Paul Morris for distribution to Forestry Board members.

The lease for Wreford Block has not been completed and signed. The chief executive said he will action this. The chairman was disappointed this had not progressed since the last meeting.

The minutes also contained a resolution to consider the council's strategy regarding forestry operations. Paul Morris said a report will come to councillors as part of the Long Term Plan process.

The chairman asked if a response had been sent to Jackson and Steetskamp following the last meeting. Yes.

REPORTS:

FORESTRY MANAGERS REPORT TO AUGUST 2014:

The Forestry Manager's report is included with the agenda. Kevin O'Neil noted some of the work he has carried out recently in various blocks. He said he was concerned about motorbikes on tracks in the Tekapo plantation as they could damage the tracks and start fires. He wondered if notices or signs are needed. The chairman asked what responsibility council has if an accident happens. The chief executive said if a danger has been identified we need to take appropriate action. The Forestry Manager suggested signage at each end of the track. Cr Cox said this could be raised at the next community board meeting.

Resolved that the Forestry Board ask the Tekapo Community Board to look into erecting signage to prevent motorbikes entering the Tekapo plantation.

Noel Jackson/Graham Smith

Rules regarding the use of motorbikes in plantations will change soon to prevent bikes from entering these areas. The chairman also asked regarding rabbits in that area. Kevin O'Neil said they were becoming a problem.

VISITOR:

Terry O'Neill, district forester, Ashburton District Council, said the council's thinning programme has identified an area that has not been budgeted for. This will cost \$32,000 to \$33,000. He has also identified possible areas for harvesting – none are of great value. There is a block at Cave that can be harvested but it is a small area with difficulties in terms of access. The only other area for harvest is the trees behind Whitestone.

The chairman said we have no income from logging coming in this year but did more logging last year than planned and picked up some good log prices. The Forestry Manager said there are some nice post trees, Corsican Pine, at Simon's Pass that can be harvested.

A lot of plantations that were due for harvest soon were affected by wind damage last year. There are going to be a few lean years for harvest as a result of this damage. There is potential to sell carbon credits.

Discussion was held on the thinning and pruning work planned in various blocks. The chairman asked regarding insurance, what does it cover? We have got fire cover only. There is other insurance cover available but it's very expensive. Terry O'Neill said with wind damage you get your money back with the salvage of damaged trees.

The chairman thanked Terry O'Neill for attending the meeting and for his verbal report.

FINANCE MANAGERS REPORT:

The Finance Manager said no internal interest had been included in the accounts due to the finance team being busy with auditors and the annual report. The financials were impacted by unanticipated milling and movements in log prices. Money is still due to be distributed from the Forestry Board to the community boards for the use of land in their areas. The budget for sylviculture will not be enough to cover expenses, however there was some unspent money expected in other parts of the budget which would be used to pay for the extra work in sylviculture. The board can also expect an impairment of the forestry carbon units due to the change in value of these units.

THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.04am

CHAIRMAN: _____

DATE: _____