

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF

THE GREYMOUTH JOINT FLOODWALL COMMITTEE

**HELD ON 14 OCTOBER 2008, AT THE OFFICES OF
THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH,
COMMENCING AT 3.02 P.M.**

PRESENT:

T. Kokshoorn (Chairman), D. Truman, I. Cummings, A. Robb, P. Berry, A. Birchfield.

IN ATTENDANCE:

P. Pretorius (GDC Chief Executive), C. Ingle (WCRC Chief Executive), W. Moen (WCRC River Engineer), S. Moran (WCRC Planning and Environmental Manager) K. Beams (GDC Property Manager), M. Sutherland (Assets Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk).

APOLOGIES:

Cr P. Ewen, M. Osbourne

A. Robb / D. Truman - Carried

BUSINESS

T. Kokshoorn welcomed all present to this meeting.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved: *That the minutes of the Joint Floodwall Committee meeting held 18 September 2007, as circulated, be confirmed as correct*

T. Kokshoorn / P. Pretorius - Carried

MATTERS ARISING:

There were no matters arising.

PUBLIC FORUM TIME – SPEAKING RIGHTS

There was no request for public speaking rights.

FINANCIAL REPORT

W. Moen presented the financial statement for the financial period 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 noting that the balance is \$993,185.40. W. Moen advised that the \$150,000 rate strike for this year is about to be sent out.

Moved: *"That the financial report for the 2007 / 2008 financial year be adopted."*

A. Robb / D. Truman - Carried

WORKS REPORT

W. Moen presented the 2007 / 2008 works report. W. Moen drew attention to the cost associated with opening the Cobden Cut and cleaning it out twice during the year. W. Moen spoke of the \$6,500 spent on consultancy fees for the concrete structure between the two bridges and the materials purchased from NIWA to set up the water level recording equipment in the Cobden Lagoon.

W. Moen reported that projected works were carried over from last year as the consent is yet to be approved but a hearing is being held next week for this consent. S. Moran confirmed that 100 – 350 mm of top up would be completed in various areas. He clarified which areas are to be topped up.

T. Kokshoorn advised that the resource consent for the cleanout of the bottom end of Range Creek has now been granted. The cleanout will be undertaken by GDC. It was agreed that a GPS survey of the whole lagoon area would be completed.

S. Moran confirmed that the cut has been graded, therefore the plug at the end of the lagoon only requires a few scoops of the digger to clear it as required.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That the Works Report covering the 2007 / 2008 financial year be adopted.***
- 2. That the 2008 / 2009 works proposals be approved.***

P. Berry / A. Robb – Carried

2009 / 2010 RATE STRIKE

Moved: *That the recommended rate strike for the 2009 / 2010 financial year be \$150,000 (G.S.T. Excl).*

D. Truman / I. Cummings - Carried

W. Moen advised that by the end of June next year there would be \$1.2M in the account.

S. Moran advised that once the consent is through and we know what the conditions are, then detailed design work will be done. C. Ingle alerted the meeting to the fact that the \$1.2M in the account most likely will not be enough and a loan may be required. S. Moran also suggested that it would be advisable to retain some of the current balance as a maintenance fund rather than use it all on the upgrade.

P. Berry stated that he is hopeful of getting some good tenders for the works. W. Moen advised that it is most likely that a low concrete wall would be constructed along Mawhera Quay. This could be built up to a 150 year standard. W. Moen spoke of the weak spot between the Cobden Bridge and the new rail bridge. Extensive fill will be required, major culverts and the relocation of some GDC services for water supply.

Cr Cummings stated that he visited New Orleans a few weeks ago, and with reference to the floodwall he stated we would be better with overkill rather than underkill. Discussion ensued regarding previous floods, the last big flood in 1997 came within 900mm of the top of the wall.

Cr Birchfield asked why an independent commissioner is being brought in even though the four submitters that opposed the consent application have withdrawn. He asked why isn't council just going ahead. S. Moran advised that this is because council operations area is applying to the council's consenting staff and it is considered best practice in this situation to seek advice from an independent commissioner.

P. Pretorius asked if the design for the floodwall is 150 year plus 600mm free board and asked if all areas will be looked at for this level. C. Ingle stated that we could look at what the cost differential would be between doing all of it up to the 150 level now and whether this is affordable or just do the strategic points along Mawhera Quay and between the two bridges and the goods sheds up to the 150 year level and do the rest to the 50 year level. C. Ingle advised it may be cheaper to do it to the 150 year level in 2008 or 2009 rather than waiting for 3, 5 or 10 years by which time contractor costs may have risen again. S. Moran offered to bring the costs back to the committee once the consent is granted and the designs are to hand. It was agreed that a special meeting would be held once the figures are to hand.

GENERAL BUSINESS

P. Pretorius asked what is the timeline for getting the floodwall upgrade completed. S. Moran advised that he thought it unlikely that the detailed designs would be completed before February next year. Once the design is done then tenders would be set up. S. Moran is hopeful that construction would start prior to the end of the financial year. C. Ingle stated that it is important that we have good liaison between the two councils in terms of the design of the concrete work on Mawhera Quay to make sure people are going to be happy with the look of it. S. Moran advised that options need to be considered as to what will blend in and the costs involved.

Insurance of Floodwall

Discussion took place as to the status of the insurance for the floodwall. P. Pretorius stated the floodwall has been insured through the LAPP fund since 1993. This provides cover for 40% of the value of the asset assuming Government will cover 60% of the asset value.

K. Beams advised that the floodwall is insured for \$5.4M but this valuation needs to be reviewed. K. Beams stated that he feels the actual premium is a legitimate charge against the rating district. Currently GDC pay the premium. S. Moran advised that following the Manawatu floods LAPP reviewed the exposure that regional councils have for flooding infrastructure compared to the urban infrastructure that LAPP insure. LAPP put the premiums up on regional council flood assets therefore in this case the premiums may be significantly lower by having the floodwall insured through GDC.

T. Kokshoorn asked C. Ingle how to best resolve the matter of insurance of the floodwall. C. Ingle advised that he would take the matter to his council for discussion, as there are only two councillors from the regional council present at today's meeting. C. Ingle will report back to GDC at the special meeting that is to be arranged to progress the upgrading of the floodwall. Cr Robb stated it should continue to be paid for by GDC especially if it is more expensive to be funded through the rating district. S. Moran clarified that as there have not been major disasters in the urban centres which LAPP have had to pay out on, district and city councils premiums have either gone down or stayed the same. But because of recent claims on the LAPP fund on regional council flood protection structures, regional council premiums have almost doubled. T. Kokshoorn asked S. Moran to prepare a report on the pro's and cons as to which council should pay for the insurance for the special meeting for this committee.

Range Creek

M. Sutherland advised that he is currently getting prices from contractors to carry out this work. He estimated the costs to be approximately \$30,000.

Proposed Amendment to the Greymouth Floodwalls Joint Agreement

C. Ingle advised that he asked WCRC lawyers to review this agreement. He stated that some of the legislation has been updated since the agreement was drawn up in 1994.

T. Kokshoorn asked what changes are necessary. C. Ingle advised that there have been changes to the Local Government Act. A meeting has been held with P. Pretorius, K.

Beams and M. Sutherland where matters such as the Cobden Cut now being managed by the Regional Council. K. Beams added that it updates changes that have taken place.

Moved: ***That the updated agreement be put to Grey District Council and West Coast Regional Council for approval.***

P. Berry / P. Pretorius - Carried

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.48 pm.

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Chairman

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Date

Action Point:

S. Moran to prepare a report on the pro's and cons as to which council should pay for the insurance for the floodwall and bring this to the special meeting for this committee.