

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE GREYMOUTH JOINT FLOODWALL EMERGENCY COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON 21 NOVEMBER 2011,  
AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL,  
388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 2.20. P .M.**

**PRESENT:**

D. Truman, T. Kokshoorn, T. Bowe (OPUS), Alison Elam, Rodney Beckett , Sgt Barker (Greymouth Police), Alan Wilson (Grey District Council), C. Ingle (WCRC Chief Executive), W. Moen (WCRC River Engineer), M. Meehan (WCRC Planning and Environmental Manager) K. Beams (GDC Property Manager), M. Sutherland (GDC Assets Manager), S. Beaumont (Hydrologist, WCRC), E. Chaney (TO), Nichola Costley (Planner WCRC), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk).

**BUSINESS OF MEETING**

M. Meehan welcomed those present to the meeting.

He advised that the Grey River is now 6 metres above its alarm level.

S. Beaumont provided a situation update. He advised that some technical details are being encountered at the moment. S. Beaumont stated that the Buller and Karamea Rivers are still rising but the Buller has slowed down quite a bit.

A. Wilson advised that road closure notices are now on GDC's website as they were getting inundated with phone queries.

**The Ahaura River** is at a record high. S. Beaumont advised that the flood recording equipment is not working as it has been damaged. He advised that NIWA has a device at this site that we have the use of.

**The Waipuna River** is showing signs of peaking but is still 3 – 5 hours from reaching the lower end of the catchment. This is tapering off but not dropping. This river is at its second highest recorded site since the 1970's.

**The Grey River** is still rising and is not beginning to slow. It is expected to slow over the next 3 – 4 hours but this depends on the Ahaura River and the water in the Paparoas. It is expected that the Grey River might reach 6.5 metres. S. Beaumont stated there has been a small amount of rain since this morning but the bulk of the rain is over.

Comparisons were made to the 1988 flood. It was noted that there is much more flow in the Ahaura River this time. S. Beaumont stated that there are no recordings for the western side of the Grey River. S. Beaumont stated that melting snow could also be contributing to this event.

**Forecast Prediction**

S. Beaumont stated that the Grey River is likely to peak at 6 – 6.5m at Dobson. P.

## **Actions**

Mel – barriers are now being put in, he is concerned at the rate of the rise.

Media release – M. Meehan a further media release will be sent out. K. Beams stated a lot of phone calls are coming in to GDC, he would like more media releases done. M. Meehan advised that the press releases will be put onto GDC's website. S. Beaumont stated WCRC don't have the resources for half hourly press releases.

Cobden, Blaketown and Ahaura schools closed at 2pm.

Port – Paul Pretorius stated that the port is on standby and all boats have been tied up.

Road Closures – these are the responsibility of the district councils.

Police – they are being inundated with phone calls and will advise callers to check GDC website. They have rescued some people from vehicles.

OPUS – state highway closures. Ikamatua, Blackball and Taylorville.

A. Wilson has put all civil defence wardens on standby.

Staff are to carry out an aerial inspection at 2.45 pm and will take photos.

It was noted that the groyne at Saltwater Creek / New River is working well.

There will be another meeting once the Grey River hits 6.3 metres.

**Meeting closed at 11.50**