

RECORD OF MEETING



P O Box 747, Gisborne, Ph 867 2049 Fax 867 8076
Email lynnette@gdc.govt.nz Web www.gdc.govt.nz

Held in the Wainui Surf Lifesaving Club, Moana Road, Gisborne on Wednesday 12 September 2012 at 6pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Brian Wilson

Gisborne District Council staff: Water Utilities Manager Kevin Strongman, Property Services Manager Grahame Smail, Special Projects Manager Kim Smith, Team Leader Water Conservation Dennis Crone, Utilities Administration Assistant Lynnette Brown and Secretarial Services Supervisor Jill Simpson.

Project Team Member/Facilitator: Sheryl Smail

IN ATTENDANCE:

Members of the public (refer to attendance register attached),

APOLOGIES:

Ingrid & Nicki Searancke, Adrian Cave and Michael Muir

Record of Wainui Beach Management Strategy (WBMS) – Public Meeting

1. Welcome & Purpose

Cr Wilson welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that Council has a strategy that covers how the coastal hazards at Wainui Beach should be managed. The Strategy addresses erosion, foredune protection and tsunamis. This Strategy is now due for review.

Cr Wilson told the meeting there would be two powerpoint presentations and Dr Amber Dunn and Richard Reinen-Hamill would be speaking to the presentations. At the end of the presentations there would be an opportunity for questions from the floor.

2. Apologies

Apologies listed above were noted.

3. Presentation by Dr Amber Dunn

Cr Wilson introduced Dr Amber Dunn to the meeting and Amber outlined her connection to Wainui Beach. She was raised in Gisborne and spent her teenage years on the beachfront and in the surf at Wainui Beach. Amber excelled at surfing and developed a strong passion for the coastal environment.

She completed a Masters degree on the erosion hazard at Wainui Beach and a doctoral thesis on coastal storm activity for the greater Gisborne region. Amber's field of expertise is coastal science and she has tribal affiliations to Te Airanga a Hauiti, Te Whanau a Apanui and Ngati Porou.

Amber's presentation was titled "Wainui Beach – Past, Present & Future". A copy of the presentation is available on Council's website.

4. Presentation by Richard Reinen-Hamill

Cr Wilson introduced Richard Reinen-Hamill to the meeting. Richard has extensive national and international experience on coastal related projects. He is the forefront of coastal engineering expertise in New Zealand and has over 20 years international experience in coastal processes, coastal hazard assessment and coastal management. Richard has designed coastal and marine structures using numerical and physical models.

Richard's presentation was titled "Wainui Engineering History". A copy of the presentation is available on Council's website.

5. Questions from the Floor

Cr Wilson thanked Dr Amber Dunn and Richard Reinen-Hamill for their informative presentations and invited questions from the floor.

Q: How does a catastrophic event such as an earthquake impact the coastline?

A: It is recognised that such events do impact on the coastline eg the Napier earthquake in 1931 where the land dropped one metre. This increased erosion in this area. There will always be a slow period of adjustment and realignment. This reminds us that natural events can happen quickly and not just over a long time period.

Q: It has been noticed that there is significant sand movement between Wainui Beach and Makorori Beach even though no swell is present. What could be causing this?

A: It is most likely to be the action of shelf currents. There is little evidence to say there is a significant amount of sand moving from Wainui Beach to Makorori Beach

Q: If the erosion at Tuahini Point continues what is the long term risk to the beach?

A: The beach will attempt to realign itself. Wainui Beach could be attempting to reorientate to face the south because this is the direction from which the largest waves approach Wainui. . Protection works can still be constructed at the southern end of the beach but protecting Tuahine Point will not bring the sand back. The headland is slowly eroding.

Q: How much energy should be put into protecting/maintaining Tuahine Point? Should the whole beach be considered?

A: Cannot conclusively say that Wainui Beach is a closed beach but research shows that there is a strong possibility it is. It should be noted that any protection work that is undertaken off the beach costs up to three times more than doing work on land.

- Q:** What work has been completed in Mission Bay, Auckland to stop the sand leak?
- A:** A training groyne has been built to train the stream so it no longer jets the sand away.
- Q:** What is the harm in providing insurance/protection to allow property owners to live on the beachfront?
- A:** It is more an issue of understanding how the system works and then coming up with intervention measures. Collaboratively, structures could be built that could be used in emergencies.
- Q:** Concern was raised around the volume of stormwater from the Wainui Stream. Will there be an increase in the jetting of sand?
- A:** Large flows will always travel straight out to the sea. The concern is more with the medium/low flows which could allow the channel to migrate and undermine the nearby sand dunes. It is a complicated issue. During storm events, the stream mouth is deflected to the north or south depending on the direction of the swell and this causes localised erosion issues at the mouth
- Q:** Why is driftwood being found in greater amounts and accumulating around stream mouths?
- A:** High water flow lowers the level of sand with the waves having greater ingress.
- Q:** Would it not be wise to control the flow of water downstream ie manage the volume of discharge?
- A:** The catchment size/volume would have to be looked at.
- Q:** Can we tidy up some of the structures that are not working?
- A:** This comes at a cost but it can be done. If it is agreed to around this time in the moons cycle would be a good time to do it? It must become part of the Strategic Plan.
- Q:** What is your opinion on how to effectively manage erosion?
- A:** The hard options need to be investigated at the southern end of Wainui. Sea levels should be lower over the next few years. Comprehensive protection works need to be investigated and where costs lie to be identified.
- To manage erosion we should learn how to manage ourselves. We need to identify what it is that is most important to us, what we really want and then manage the beach with these core values in mind
- Q:** Gabion baskets are working well in certain areas at Wainui Beach. Could they still be an option at Wainui?
- A:** Gabion baskets are designed for rivers and low energy environments. No doubt they do dissipate wave energy.
- Design guidelines recommend gabion baskets for waves less than one metre. They are a high maintenance option and can last from 5 to 15 years depending if they are buried or not.

Q: Tuahine and Makorori Points are providing protection. What can be done to protect them in some way?

A: The physical process should be looked at although it is probably not a possibility to protect the headlands due to the size of the system.

Q: Does the reef system at the southern end of Wainui Beach provide protection?

A: Yes, but with the headland retreating the wave energy is eroding the land away. Erosion is driven by storm events, rips, and large waves – we can't stop that.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm

Clr Brian Wilson
Convenor

Next Meeting: Monday 17 September 2012