

# MINUTES



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MEMBERSHIP: Her Worship the Mayor Rehette Stoltz, Deputy Mayor Josh Wharehinga, Meredith Akuhata-Brown, Bill Burdett, Andy Cranston, Shannon Dowsing, Sandra Faulkner, Larry Foster, Debbie Gregory, Isaac Hughes, Tony Robinson, Pat Seymour, Terry Sheldrake and Kerry Worsnop.

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## MINUTES of the CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GROUP

**Held in Te Ruma Kaunihera (Council Chambers), Awarua, Fitzherbert Street, Gisborne on Wednesday 11 May 2022 at 9:00AM.**

### PRESENT:

Deputy Mayor Josh Wharehinga, Meredith Akuhata-Brown, Andy Cranston, Sandra Faulkner, Larry Foster, Debbie Gregory, Isaac Hughes, Pat Seymour, Terry Sheldrake.

### IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive Nedine Thatcher Swann, Director Lifelines David Wilson, Director Internal Partnerships James Baty, Principal Scientist Dr Murry Cave, Civil Defence & Emergency Manager Ben Green, Senior Regional Emergency Management Advisor Ian Wilson, Democracy & Support Services Manager Heather Kohn, and Committee Secretary Tania Clarke.

The meeting commenced with a prayer.

**Secretarial note:** Cr Faulkner attended the meeting by audio visual link.

**Secretarial note:** Cr Akuhata-Brown arrived at 9.12am.

**Secretarial note:** Cr Faulkner left the meeting at 9.50am.

### 1. Apologies

MOVED by Cr Sheldrake, seconded by Cr Seymour

That the apologies from Cr Stoltz, Cr Burdett, Cr Robinson be sustained.

MOVED by Cr Seymour, seconded by Cr Cranston

That the apologies from Cr Worsnop and Cr Dowsing be sustained.

**CARRIED**

## **2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no interests declared.

## **3. Confirmation of non-confidential Minutes 23 February 2022**

### **3.1 Confirmation of non-confidential Minutes 23 February 2022**

MOVED by Cr Seymour, seconded by Cr Cranston

That the Minutes of 23 February 2022 be accepted.

**CARRIED**

### **3.2 Action Sheet**

## **4. Leave of Absence**

There were no leaves of absence.

## **5. Acknowledgements and Tributes**

There were no acknowledgements or tributes.

## **6. Public Input and Petitions**

There were no public input or petitions

## **7. Extraordinary Business**

There was no extraordinary business.

## **8. Notices of Motion**

There were no notices of motion.

## **9. Adjourned Business**

There was no adjourned business.

## **10. Reports of the Chief Executive and Staff for DECISION**

### **10.1 22-78 Tairāwhiti Civil Defence and Emergency Management Report April a**

- Cr Wharehinga acknowledged the attendance of CDEM team members Marcus Tibble and Kumeroa Papuni-Tuhaka.

Ben Green attended and spoke to the report.

- The addition of Marcus and Kumeroa to the team has built capability in how business is conducted. A fourth vacancy in terms of Welfare Recovery, will be going to market for approval.
- COVID is still relevant and with the onset of the flu, opening of borders and the new strain, it will continue to present a challenge for health.
- With respect to recovery of the June event last year, it has been a compounding set of circumstances, which has led to it to be included in the current Recovery Plan.

- As a result of cyclone season, our systems have been tested in terms of response and readiness, with the region withstanding the worst of these weather systems.
- A key priority is to develop resilience within community groups which are an extension of the people component.
- Acknowledgment was made to the volunteers who have given up their time and offered support to an integrated regional response.
- Public consultation commenced yesterday with regards to the Emergency Coordination Centre. The design has been confirmed and is ready for the site, initiating the resources consents process that runs parallel with it.
- Evacuations as a result of the March/April severe weather event did not occur on mass. This was a positive given the complexity and resources required to initiate these. Evacuations that took place were based on the flood warning system and occurred between 10pm and 3am.
- Rainfall data and the forecast provided time to connect with emergency services and community link groups. A proactive approach from these services/groups allowed for evacuation and public awareness and warnings to take place beforehand, making movements or evacuations possible.
- The level of significance noted in the report is a guide for staff to assess whether the decision required, is of high significance. The content may be of high significance to the district in terms of outcomes however it does not trigger Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

#### **Attachment 1 Assessment of the 20 June 2021 Weather Event**

Dr Murray Cave attended and spoke to the report and answered questions of clarification.

- An assessment is being done on the November event. Some of the areas were also affected in March. The Geo-technical team from Auckland University and the landslide team from Geonet, have been engaged to assist.
- Some properties are being closely monitored for significant effects from events.
- The report is in draft as it has not yet been shared with the Tokomaru Bay community.
- Tokomaru Bay is an ungauged catchment therefore reliance is on rain gauges and river gauges that are in separate catchments to understand what is taking place.
- It was an advantage having our building engineer who has his own rain gauge at Tokomaru Bay. This allowed the volume of rain that fell within a 12-hour period within that catchment, to be captured.
- Social media contained video footage and posts from locals that were used to determine the annual recurrent interval for the event.
- It was between a 1 in 35 and a 1 in 100-year event. This terminology needs to be used with caution.

- NEMA funding will assist in providing a better idea on how the weather systems impact the region. It will also allow for calibrating where our land gauge and river flow networks are.
- Irrespective of any issues with culverts, the volume of water that fell in a short period of time, would have overwhelmed any culvert - it was inevitable for Toa Street in Tokomaru Bay.
- Discussions have been had with the relevant people at Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) regarding the removal of the legacy landfill at Tokomaru Bay. There is funding available for this to be done.
- A rivers expert from Massey University is looking at the impacts of removing the landfill, based on the flow of the Mangahauini river. It influences the flow and the erosion downstream. Knowing what the impact will be on the river, from restoring it to a natural riverbed at the point of the landfill, along with the benefits and risks downstream, will ensure work done is done with the best knowledge at hand.
- The recommendations of the report have already been progressed. Part of the engagement with the Tokomaru Bay community could result in more.
- Tonkin and Taylor are working as part of our resource management with a specific focus on 2022 events and assessing what Council could be doing in terms of structure and what the community could be doing.
- The regional sector has put forward a funding request to central government for \$150 million that will go across the country with flooding being the number one hazard.
- A case study is being used in Buller to look at a private/public/local government/ central government/private partnership, around how a sustainable framework can be created going forward with climate change to address these issues. It was suggested that Tairāwhiti could be another case study in terms of the impacts on iwi/hapū connection to whenua.
- There has been an active approach in connecting with people when seeing information relating to events on social media. More community documenting will be promoted once the final report is completed. There is more work and conversations to be had with regards to red zone spaces. It is about educating communities around climate change impacts.
- An evaluation is still being completed on the debris on beaches. Community assistance is being sought for these assessments. A lot of the district has been canvassed and there is still debris on vulnerable sites, which has not made its way out to sea.
- The focus of the work has been on restoring access to areas where people have been cut off and ensuring that the roads are safe. Funding from Waka Kotahi has yet to come through.

- It is important to reinforce and remind forestry related businesses of environmental and safety issues.
- A key component of the Group Plan is the hazard and what the hazard is. Flooding has been a priority. Council's role in terms of readiness and preparedness is reinforcing the hazards relevant to each area. Choosing to live in those areas, requires a plan to mitigate the risks.
- In terms of preparedness on a national level, NEMA has released a "Get Prepared" website. It has also released a national app in respect to tsunami evacuation zones.
- Community links via grouping has enhanced the current response to events. The ability to connect online is a more efficient manner when it comes to time sensitive information and critical decision-making.
- The reform of certain areas of Community link groups is key in developing the workplan. Conveying the work going in and the priority across the four R's, and how they align, are key strategic outputs to the plan.
- The final report cannot be used to determine areas of deforestation.
- Collaboration with forestry to clean up the slash on Tologa Bay beach, was a one off. Part of the bigger plan was a short intervention to get beaches clear for summer and then medium to long term, look at addressing the region's issue with slash.
- It would be difficult to argue that the removal of the piles at Tokomaru Bay Wharf is a priority in terms of risk assessment.
- There is a budget to deal with culverts and drainage in the district however it is not enough to cover damage across the district throughout the year.
- Te Puni Kokiri are leading on a piece work around whenua Māori and the impact flooding has had from an economic and cultural perspective. As part of the National Adaption Climate Change Plan, there is the Te Ao Māori framework and applying mātauranga in terms of a resilient approach to climate change.

**Secretarial note:** The meeting adjourned for morning tea at 10.15am and reconvened at 10.25am.

### **Attachment 2 SIT REP 3 – Tairāwhiti Region Consolidated Recovery – March – April 2022**

### **Attachment 3 Tairāwhiti Recovery Transition Report April 2022**

James Baty spoke to the reports and answered questions of clarification

- Fortunate to have the assistance of Julian Reweti, Principal Advisor for Recovery Emergency Management, Bay of Plenty, on site for transition from response into recovery.
- A transition notice has come to pass where the purpose was to take the powers of the Controller across the recovery process for a period of 28 days with the exception of requisitioning.

- There is a 'Designation of Area' under the Building Act that is reviewed every 19 days. In the recovery space, it allows the utilisation of emergency powers as it relates to buildings over a period of time.
- Internally, a Recovery Office has been formed, working across the four environments – community, natural and rural, natural environment built and economic. The main goals are to reconnect community, restore our natural environment, rebuild our infrastructure, and regenerate our economy.
- Recovery involves the coordinated efforts of multiple agencies and organisations. A partnership meeting has been set up with these agencies, with a fourth one coming up next week, where discussions occur around the recovery process.
- There is considerable pressure in terms of access to contractors. Very few people can do this type of work and given the scale of the event and the work required, the capacity to do everything at once is limited.
- Funding of \$500,00 has been put into the enhanced task force green which has been stood up and led by the Ministry of Social Development. Turanga Ararau has been contracted to deliver the work on the ground, with Rural Support Trust as an intermediary.
- A substantial amount of work has been done to ensure there are processes in place and a capacity to take the silt.
- In terms of temporary accommodation, there continues to be a watching brief. There are many whanau living with other whanau however there may come a time when alternative options will be required.
- Ministry of Primary Industries have provided funding that is split across Gisborne and Wairoa. Part of that funding is used to fund Federated Farmers to complete an impact assessment survey, which combined with the GIS system, will provide more information on the impacts of the event, on the ground.
- The Recovery Plan is looking to be finalised next week.
- There are number of sandbags that Council holds with Fulton Hogan. Sandbags are not supplied for private properties. A number of places in town supply these should property owners require them.
- A section 124 under the Building Act is currently in place for the Tavern in Tokomaru Bay. It suffered a landslide into the food storage area and as part of their license, it has meant the bar cannot be opened as it cannot serve food.
- The public are not allowed to undertake works on the road. It is a health and safety risk and a liability to Council. Only approved people can perform this type of work. A paper regarding this, will be reported on at the Operations meeting.
- The Residential Advisory Service would likely involve us as part of the process in terms of insurance.

#### **Attachment 4 NEMA CE Update on Emergency Management System Reforms**

#### **Attachment 5 NEMA CE 2022 03 18 – For Discussion – Clarifying the functions of local authorities and CDEM Groups**

Ian Wilson from NEMA attended and answered questions of clarification.

- Ian congratulated Council, emergency services and the communities on the response to these events.
- Funding from NEMA is possible for recovery purposes. It requires a paper be put forward as it is not available to all.
- Charges were dismissed in court last week regarding Whakaari Island. It ruled that CDEM does not play a role in providing public safety functions.
- A test of the Emergency Mobile Alert will be conducted on 22 May 2022 between 6 – 7pm.
- NEMA work on a National level with the Ministry of Education, providing and developing advice, however Council are responsible at a regional/local level.
- The week prior to 5 March 2021, a collective engagement of all school, kura kaupapa and ECE took place for the purpose of informing them around planning for emergency events. Two key activities are aligned to each year – one of these being the International Shakeout campaign.

MOVED by Cr Seymour, seconded by Cr Sheldrake

That the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group:

1. Approves the draft report titled 'Assessment of the 20 June 2021 Weather Event' (Attachment 1), for circulation to the Tokomaru Bay community.

**CARRIED**

#### **11. Close of Meeting**

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 10:57 am.

Josh Wharehinga  
**CHAIR**