

## **Hokio Landfill Project Management Group Update to The Community Neighbourhood Liaison Group**

# **MEETING MINUTES**

Minutes of a meeting of the Hokio Landfill Project Management Group (PMG) update to the Community Neighbourhood Liaison Group (CNLG) on the Landfill Agreement held in Council Chambers, Horowhenua District Council, Oxford Street Levin on 6 July 2020 at 6.00pm.

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### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

<b>Facilitator</b>	Jenny Rowan
Mayor Wanden	Cr Christine Mitchell
Charles Rudd	Lisa Slade (HDC)
Kerry Wales	Greg Carlyon
Sam Ferguson (HRC)	Geoff Keith
Cr Sam Jennings	Kevin Peel (HDC)
Asli Crawford (HDC)	Lisa Slade (HDC)
Trevor Hinder	Viv Bold
David Moore	Jacinta Liddell
Gwyneth	Rachel Selby
Hayley Brewerton	Jennifer Atkinson
David Atkinson	Natasha Breen (HDC)
Rose Cotter	Peter Thompson
Leonie Brown	Peter Everton
Wayne Morris	Jennifer Atkinson

### **Karakia**

David Moore opened the meeting with a Karakia

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Jenny welcomed the group and asked for introductions.

David Moore: Community Representative on the PMG & Ngati Pareraukawa

Lisa Slade: Representative on PMG and Group Manager People and Culture at HDC

Bernie Wanden: Mayor

Leonie Brown: WECA

Christine Moriarty: HEKA and Hokio resident

Peter Thompson Long term resident Hokio Beach

Sam Ferguson: HRC Representative on PMG

Geoff Keith: Resident Hokio Beach, Chair WECA and member Hokio Collective

Trevor Hinder: Treasurer of WECA

Jennifer Atkinson: Levin resident and member of the Greenhouse Community  
Hayley Brewerton: Here to hear where we are up to  
Jacinta Liddell: Own property affected by the Landfill  
Kerry Wales: Resident Hokio Sand Road  
David Atkinson: Greenhouse Community and Anglican Church Group  
Viv Bold: Chair of Hokio Progressive Association and resident of Hokio all my life  
Charles Rudd: NLG, environmentalist  
Peter Everton: Original member of NLG  
Gwyneth: Levin resident and Greenhouse Community member  
Rachel Selby: Chair Ngātokowaru Marae Committee  
Greg Carlyon: Project Manager for the PMG  
Asli Crawford: Water and Waste Services Manager  
Kevin Peel: Group Manager Infrastructure Operations  
Cr Christine Mitchell  
Cr Sam Jennings  
Rose Cotter: Long term resident Hokio Beach and Treasurer Hokio Progressive Association  
Wayne Morris: Concerned neighbour  
Jenny Rowan: Community Representative on PMG

### **Apologies**

David Clapperton, Bronwyn Kerr, Bernadette Casey, Hamish Sutherland

### **Confirmation of Jenny Rowan as Meeting Facilitator/Chair**

Greg asked if there were any objections to Jenny Rowan facilitating this evenings meeting to which there was none.

Jenny welcomed Mayor Wanden and thanked him sincerely for attending.

### **Agenda Items from the Floor**

1. Charles requested an item be added for a facilitator of the meeting being held on 30 July 2020
2. Peter Thomson asked for a clear path forward and progress against the original agreement

### **Update on PMG Progress Since Last Meeting from PMG**

- Greg advised that the reason for the formation of the Project management Group is early closure of Levin Landfill which the PMG take very seriously.
- The PMG determined that they would like early closure of the Levin Landfill (by 2025) which is what is mostly discussed at PMG Meetings.
- Closure of a Landfill is a complex issue
- Tonkin and Taylor have been commissioned and have produced reports that will be made public next week in relation to early closure, leachate and odour management
- The PMG have agreed the best practicable option for leachate management is to intercept leachate, through a wetland process and be more actively involved at the old unlined dump, in order for this to occur negotiation to purchase the land with the landowner is required
- A broad concept for a wetland restoration project has been completed and the PMG invite community feedback around the potential for further work along Hokio Stream
- The PMG goal for leachate is the point at which it hits the Hokio Stream
- Impact and Social Impact Assessments undertaken will be made public on the HDC website in the next week
- Advice has been provided from the PMG to the Environment Court and proceedings of the Environment Court are now concluded

- As a consequence of this Resource Consent Conditions are live
- The PMG sees the framework for the PMG and the NLG as bottom lines/must dos and there is potential beyond that
- Council needs to make a decision about closure of the Levin Landfill by August or September of this year
- Council will follow a Special Consultative Process – timeline to be established by the end of July
- A reconciliation process needs to be concluded
- A refined process has been provided to Horizons Regional Council on how to handle Odour Complaints
- An independent assessment of Air quality was undertaken by Good Earth Matters which will be uploaded to the HDC website next week
- An independent review of compliance and monitoring is being undertaken by Dr Marie Doole and will be available in November of this year

### **Discussion on Issues This Raises for the Floor**

Trevor stated it has been 15 months since the signing of the agreement and surely that is enough time to identify contract details and come up with some kind of plan, things do not seem to be any further along than a year ago.

Greg responded that the reporting from the PMG has been consistent and if HDC makes the decision to close in 2021 or 2025 it is Greg's opinion that this is a significant improvement on what is currently consented.

Mayor Wanden advised that it was always the intention that a decision regarding the Landfill be made in the first 18 months of this term and that Council is well aware of the issues in front of them. Council have some big decisions to make and democracy is alive and well in this District.

Peter Thompson asked what the timeline is?

Mayor Wanden advised that a decision will be made before the end of the year.

Jenny asked that people try and manage their deep suspicion and mistrust and try to work our way through this process

Trevor asked if there was a critical path analysis.

Jenny responded that there was initially until the Annual Plan process started and is not aware why the two timeframes were not aligned.

Jenny further advised that we are dealing with statutory process and now coming into a critical time in the coming weeks.

Mayor Wanden advised there is another Landfill Briefing to Elected Members this week and from the briefing there will be a clearer idea of a timeline, there is every intention of making a decision as soon as possible and he does not think that the landfill process would have been given justice by putting into the Annual Plan Consultation.

The first decision is for Council to decide if the Landfill is to be closed or not, if the decision is made to close then that is a significant issue and consultation occurs, if a decision is made not to close then things will continue.

Peter Thompson asked what the consequences are of not making a decision by August/September?

Mayor Wanden replied that a decision has to be made and the contract with KCDC will not be renewed.

The contract with Midwest Disposals who run the Landfill expires in 2021.

Geoff asked if the timeline drags closer to Christmas what is the impact for public consultation?

Greg responded that the PMG discussed this today and there is flexibility in the way that the Special Consultative Process operates.

Mayor Wanden pointed out that there are 2 Senior Managers and 2 Councillors attending this evening and Council is just as eager to get a decision.

Charles asked if the PMG, HRC and HDC have taken into consideration the Government proposal on 3 Waters?

Greg responded that the PMG is very conscious of the amendments of the act and are having discussions with senior staff tomorrow.

Viv referred to a report from MWH and noted that the mineral build up is compounding itself in the last 10 years and it is frightening.

Greg responded that he has not seen the report and he will come with a response to the next meeting.

David Atkinson asked what % decrease of leachate will be seen using method that the PMG has chosen for a wetland?

Greg responded that the PMG formed the view that a Wetland Project would have some reasonable impact on retaining and addressing leachate and other community benefits would be provided. The PMG decided this was the best practicable option from around 19 options suggested by Tonkin & Taylor.

Geoff Keith suggested that perhaps a comparative analysis of the 2 reports could be done and the possibility of going to central government for additional funding.

Greg responded that the PMG are very conscious of looking for funding opportunities that are outside of the District.

Trevor asked if a lined collection pond is really expensive as that is what we are talking about.

Greg suggested that people familiarise themselves with the options that Tonkin & Taylor have advanced and that the PMG is happy to follow up on Government Funding for more strategic projects.

Jenny noted that whether the Landfill closes or not the leachate need to be addressed and the Stream cleaned up.

Gwyneth stated that there a lot to do with protocol and funding and asked if all that is more important than human health. People living there are definitely affected one way or another health wise and the main thing is health and people who are living in the environment. What about the plants, what about the ecosystem, what about the birds?

Mayor Wanden advised he is not aware of any significant health issues that the landfill has caused.

Christine Moriarty advised that there has been issues and there are two names mentioned in the Landfill Agreement and that during levels 3 and 4 had 11 odour issues and asked if finances are going to run out?

Geoff Keith advised Hokio Beach is not a place you would be wanting to swim and has concerns it is not signed at Hokio Beach not to swim there.

Charles advised that there are kiwi companies that can take all the contaminants out of the water.

Jacinta asked if it would be useful to have conversations around our values and asked if you guys (Council) have figured out what your values are around this issue for when you make the decision?

Mayor Wanden replied that ultimately it is a Councillors individual decision and he cannot predict how that will pan out.

Hayley suggested that Council t have a discussion amongst the elected people and lay out a set of values.

Mayor Wanden responded that he cannot predetermine how a fellow Councillor should vote.

Jenny advised that this is a frustrating process (David Moore agreed) and that she gets it and feels it.

Jenny referred to the reports that are going to be added to the website in the next week and encouraged all to read them.

Jenny stated that the CNLG are left with the PMG now ensuring that Council has the information it needs to read, assess and absorb and make its decision.

Jenny further advised that their values are very clear that they want an environmentally sustainable, viable environment for the Hokio Community and the eco systems restored.

Trevor advised that you cannot keep putting the problem off.

Geoff stated he hears signs of hope tonight and encourages everyone in the room to keep chewing away at this, it really matters.

Rachel Selby said that people talk about being at this for a year, the Marae Committee has had this for the last 20 years. Rachel further advised that there is only one solution and that is to close the Landfill, we should not pretend there is an option for Council, the only option is to close it and then get on with the job. We have so much to lose if we do not make this decision.

Peter Everton said that as an original NLG Member, there has been 20 years of broken promises and thanked the PMG for their work.

David Moore said he feels really supported by the response form the Community tonight that recognise that we have a problem here and the dump is a bit of a dog and an environmental ongoing running sore.

David further said that it is reassuring that there is strong a community voice who agree that the landfill needs to be closed and it has been accumulating debt for a number of years. David said his hope is that Council will consult with the Community before they make a decision and not afterwards.

Sam Ferguson said it has been helpful to hear from everyone this evening.

Greg confirmed that the MWH Report will be added to the HDC website.

Charles invited people to go on a pollution hot spot tour with Christine Moriarty and himself to see what is going into Lake Horowhenua and the Hokio Stream.

Jenny encouraged Councillors and the Mayor to take the tour.

### **Confirmation of CNLG Position in Relation to Early Closure of the Landfill**

Moved: Rachel Selby

Seconded: Christine Moriarty

*“That early closure of the Levin landfill in 2021, 30 June is supported by the Community Stakeholders present at a PMG Briefing 6 July 2020. Achieving this outcome will address the Social, Cultural, Health and Environmental challenges posed by the Landfill in its current form”*

CARRIED

### **Next Steps for the PMG**

Greg suggested thought be given to what the agenda for the NLG meeting could be on 30 July, rather than what the consent requires it to be.

There was group discussion on this.

Jenny advised that we are in a place to be able to come back to the next meeting and give some clear information alongside the Council.

Mayor Wanden asked that he has some time to take on board what has been said over and have a discussion and come back.

Charles said that there are only 2 steps, step 1 is to nominate a facilitator and step 2 to maybe add on some more people to the NLG.

David Moore responded he thinks that we approach the NLG meeting in a positive way and he thinks we should be trying to make it into an open meeting.

Charles responded that for that to occur the resource consent conditions needs to be changed.

There was further discussion on this.

David Moore nominated Jenny Rowan be the independent facilitator of the NLG Meetings. Geoff supported this.

Jenny said that the PMG will work on an Agenda for the July 30 meeting.

### **Meeting Closure and Karakia**

David Moore closed the meeting with a Karakia