



Minutes of Meeting

Date: Friday 9th February 2024

Time: 1pm

Venue: Wairoa District Council

Attendees: Peter Manson, Lawrence Yule, Phil Duncan, Andrew Sowersby and Tira Lee-Kirk

Purpose: Discuss Bar Management with Peter Manson

Discussion

Peter Manson advised:

- that daily management is required for the bar. Currently Hamish Pryde knows a lot about the management required and he is training his son Sam as a succession plan.
- Noted that no succession plan in place. Currently Antony Rewcastle is managing.
- RE: Monitoring: Potentially idea to have cameras installed. (Risk of having too many people involved and have 'too many chefs in the kitchen'. Need a local person to act on what is seen on the camera. Needs to be good understanding what to do.
- Staff have understanding, but issues lie with not having decision making capacity with regards to opening of mouth.
- If bar management issues can be resolved, risk will be lowered.

RE: Opening the bar, Peter Manson advised:

- Is a complex river mouth
- Risk is that bar is opened prematurely.
- Sometimes cannot open the bar due to sea conditions.
- Bar was in good position for Cyclone Bola and Gabrielle.
- Cultural impact - need someone to conduct Karakia etc on call.
- Not physically possible to leave the bar open.
- With the rising sea levels the bar will get worse.

How long will it take to learn how to manage the bar?

- 4-5 years as there is no written manual, this is how long it takes to learn through observation.
- Recommends putting together a bar management plan.

RE Comparison to Opotiki:

- Not fair comparison as different catchment, different hydrology, different water levels.
- Permanent bar opening structure will not work at Wairoa.