

FURNEAUX MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Confirmed Minutes

DATE: Wednesday 26th March 2014
VENUE: FAEC, Whitemark
COMMENCING: 10am

PRESENT:

Brian Barnewall, Carol Cox (Chair), Robyn Dilger, Chris Fenner, Ben Foot, Jeff Grace, Jim Grace, Raoul Harper, Bruno Imbs, Russell Judges, Mhairi Revie, Brett Sazackerly, Jacci Viney and Michael Withers.

APOLOGIES:

Chris Bowman, John Odell, Jan Schibrowski and Gary Sykes.

CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

There was a meeting called for December 2013 but was there not held due to the lack of a quorum.

Mayor Carol Cox congratulated Ben Foot in officially becoming the Deputy Coordinator for the Flinders Municipal Emergency Management Committee. Ben Foot was presented with a certificate.

AGENDA ITEMS

Item 1 Communications Plan

Satellite Phones

Satellite Phones have been purchased and are here on the island, they will be stored at the SES shed in Whitemark where they can be checked to ensure that their batteries are being charged. The phones are not quite operational; Mhairi is currently researching phones plans.

These phones will be added into the Communication Plan on how to access etc.

Q: Can others emergency groups borrow these phones?

A: Yes should be available but need to ensure that the phone bills are itemised so a charge back system can be arranged.

Bruno Imbs (Hydro):

Hydro are looking at buying a couple of Satellite phones, Bruno to put Hydro Tasmania Safety Operations Officer in contact with Mhairi in regards to phone plan options..

Purchasing Internet Data Device

The new Satellite phones can be used as a hot spot of the data though this could be expensive. Mhairi to check.

Communications Plan

Mhairi has 70% of the plan done; this plan will link to the Municipal Emergency Management Plan. This doesn't need to go to the Commander or Commissioner for sign off if made a Special Plan.

This plan is to ensure there is a plan if telecommunications go down on the Island. VHF, UHF, Telecommunications and Pager failures need to be addressed. There was a car accident about 12 months ago when there was one of these failures. Mhairi will be writing this section now and asked the Committee questions about the telecommunications on the island.

Police, Hydro and SES will speak about what access they have to all communications issues as they all have access to different options and Hydro has access to equipment that others don't.

There is a pretty major issue with Lady Barron telecommunications, it was highlighted that when the power is out, there are no mobile or landlines.

Mhairi has spoken with Telstra in regards to the Mt Tanner mobile tower and the issues that have been arising with the reception dropping out. They advised that there was a problem with the 'Card' but this has been hopefully resolved as they have had a coating applied to help protect from heat, salt and possibly wind. They are installing an air-conditioning system in the Mt Tanner shed/station to keep the machine cooler and at a stable temperature.

Vinegar hill is also being looked at, Mhairi will stay in touch with them about this.

Palana, Trousers Point, Docks, Blue Rocks, Killiecrankie, North East River and the back of Mt Strzelecki are all areas that have poor or no reception. Blue Rocks and Palana are hot spots in summer especially.

Could possibly bring back the UHF, the channel for emergency is 9 or 11. There is a repeater on top of Walkers Lookout (Channel 1) and Palana (Channel 2). There was discussion on whether there was a need to be promote ownership of UHF radios within the community. VHF channel 18 is the Flinders access.

Discussed but no decision was made regarding a process for purchasing UHF radios. Possibly offer a bulk order of UHF hand held radios to locals. Also give different options so they have choices.

Another major question is who would monitor the radio frequency?

There are lots of issues with the land lines on Flinders Island, the infrastructure is very poor.

Mhairi will bring the Communication plan to this group for approval.

Item 2 Community Protection Plan

There is currently three TasFire Community Protection Planners on the island doing their work The West side of the island will be done.

The finished Community Protection plans are on the TasFire website, there is a link on the front page.

These plans are for when a fire starts NOT to prevent a fire. The Flinders Fire Area Management Committee have met yesterday and they will be working on the prevention side of things.

Major changes have not been made to the way Tas Fire fight fires, they now fight a fire once the conditions have eased, but first priority is to warn people.

It was asked if Tas Fire would put something in the Island News to advise the community of the work being carried out and completed. There was also a suggestion that there be an information evening in December for the community on the Community Protection Plans as this is a time of year people are worrying about fire more.

Item 3 NDRP Funding

The grant round will be open as soon as the new government assigns a new Minister.

FMAC are looking at a plan for Fire Management Plan for Areas on Flinders and definitely would be interested in getting some funding for this.
Mhairi to work with Jacqui and Raoul on an application.

Item 4 Emergency Volunteer Fund

Mhairi and Ben have been speaking about this and these are the ideas they have come up with:

- Airport Exercise
- Portable Landing Lights (Helicopters, CBI and FLS) *Not sure as to whether these are needed, need to speak to the Rescue Helicopter Manager to see if they are needed on Flinders and CBI.*
- COMMS/Radio Training

Lions Club are looking at purchasing DeFibs for the Pubs and up at Killiecrankie.

Mhairi and Ben to work on an application once the grant round opens.

Item 5 Risk Assessment

There wasn't anything to report.

Item 6 AEMI Courses

Course guides were handed around the meeting, Ben Foot and Chris Fenner will be attending a Course in the first week of May.

Item 7 'Edac' Radios

SES has some of these here on the Island (Police have 4 on the island, SES have 2)
The programming needs to be done on the radios.

A discussion was held re the potential of programming the Aurora TMR radios to the Police/SES liaison channel. Mhairi to look into this.

Item 8 Committee Membership

Moved: Russel Judges

Seconded: Jim Grace.

That the committee recommends to Council that Ben Foot be nominated as the Flinders Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator and Chris Bowman as the Deputy Coordinator.

CARRIED

Item 9 Other Business

The CBI Representative is currently vacant, Mayor Cox will write to them.

SES to carry out tests on the different Radio Channels available on the island and where the black spots are.

Next Meeting is 2 July 2014

Meeting Closed 12pm