

Minutes Port Noise Liaison Committee #10

Date:	25 November 2009
Venue:	Port Nelson Board Room
Time:	6pm
Present:	Bob Dickinson (Chair), Matt McDonald (PNL), Thomas Marchant (PNL) Digby Kynaston (PNL), Jacquetta Bell (PNL minutes), Bruce Robinson, Sue Thomas, Albert Hutterd (residents' reps).

	Agenda	Discussion	Action Points Arising
1.	Previous minutes	Passed, Digby/Albert	
2.	Matters arising	Nothing that was not on the agenda.	
3.	Noise complaints	<p>Three complaints since the last meeting, four including Sue's call.</p> <p><u>28 Sept, from David Hogg</u>, Digby had tried to get David, Roger Gibbons and Tony Vining down for a crane tour. David Hogg reiterated his view that driver ability is at the root of noisy container handling. This call was about ship's horn blasts – Digby said it was testing. Masters are spoken to regularly about this, and most are compliant, but PNL cannot insist they don't run tests as required one hour before sailing.</p> <p><u>7 Oct: Tony Vining</u>, couldn't pinpoint the noise. There were three working vessels, noise may have been traffic on <i>Kent</i>. Matt noted there had been work on the fingers of the ro-ro berth. Tony feels vessels being worked at MWS are creating a more invasive noise problem. Digby said the <i>Kent</i> has to have BQ with ro-ro berth, leaving no choice but MWS - this is happening every Wednesday if they are both on time. Sue asked if Tony had requested notification when MWS was going to be used.</p> <p><u>25 Oct: Sue Wadwoth</u>, Harbour Tce, re operations. Supervisor phoned her immediately, whining of crane was identified as the problem. Bruce reported three neighbours had identified the hydraulics of cranes as the main noise issue.</p> <p><u>24 Sept: Sue Thomas</u> heard a loud noise she thought was an explosion, which shook her house. Digby said that strong winds had caused the collapse of a four high double stack of containers. It was the first blast of winds that then blew all night. Thomas did not realise Sue intended the call to be logged as a complaint.</p>	<p>Thomas to offer to add Tony Vining to the list of people to be called when MWS is to be used at night.</p> <p>Sue is to try to talk Roger Gibbons into taking a crane tour.</p>
4.	Stacked containers and high winds	<p>Digby outlined procedure: PNL staff stand down containers from stacks at the end of the day, or earlier if wind is forecast. In addition to the incident Sue reported there had been another occasion when staff missed a single stack near the coastal berth that fell in an unforecast blow.</p> <p>He explained that there is a degree of wind strength where operations are stopped. Eg. That morning the port was closed by high winds, in the past the operational area has been evacuated. Decision is made on judgement of the supervisor, rather than council regulation.</p>	

		Sue noted she had to have extra engineering on her house because it is in high wind zone – she sees this as a double standard. Digby said it had been a year since containers had fallen, in the big storm of July 08. It is not a common occurrence, and is costly for port.	
5.	Container crane controls	One of the cranes will have its computerised control system replaced in a couple of weeks. This will mean the new spreader's capability to be lowered more slowly can be used. Making the change on the other crane is several months away.	
6.	Update on noise variation and mediation.	Matt reported there had been no date set for Environment Court hearing. PNL is working on the complex issues in the management plan. When noise monitor is going there will be meaningful data. Discussion over Lmax reading when monitor had been at residents' homes.	
7.	Update on Stage 1, 2 & 3 properties.	Information tabled. Stage 1: Queens Road properties acoustic work is being done or planned. Stage 2: One third of properties have requested follow up, and will be contacted prior to Christmas. Progress on a Mt Pleasant Ave property, 50% paid by PNL, acoustic certificate to follow. Stage 3: two additional owners have asked for assistance – homes just inside eligible area. Process is now clearer, especially regarding the partial treatments. Sue noted hard times have affected ability for people to pay for upgrades. Bob said difficulty could arise with Stage 3 where there is discretion over port contribution. Matt said PNL is required only to provide technical advice – ie an acoustic report. Poynters Cres property has asked for assistance with ventilation, quote to be sought. Bob suggested at a future meeting that some general criteria be set. Sue suggested it would helpful to have some rough guides on costs of hush glass etc. Bruce felt in Stage 3 ventilation would be the main mitigation measure.	Future meeting to set criteria for PNL proportion of payment for mitigation work on Stage 3 properties.
8.	Noise monitoring	The monitor will be put on the cement silo, as it is the easiest place for data capture via existing cable.	
9.	NCC acoustic register.	This cropped up at a meeting in March this year. Council advises it had been shelved but recently reactivated. NCC has assembled a list of suppliers that is available to the public.	
10.	AOB	Bruce asked about Liebherr crane noise insulation around the hydraulics, he had seen online reference to sound deadening equipment for Liebherrs. Albert noted the references to cost of noise compliance at the stakeholders' briefing and in subsequent media coverage. He said it was an operating cost rather than a loss, and should be seen as an investment in the port being able to operate 24/7. Matt explained that future liability for mitigation had to go through the books this year, which inflated the figure.	
		Meeting closed: 7.30pm. Next meeting: end of Jan or early Feb.	