Awatarariki Fanhead, Matata
D.G. Baker Submission Refinement

I have grave concerns for the current process of what's being suggested.
Why?

- Current governance is so complex it's becoming self fulfilling and serving its own end in rule perfection.
- The process, law, research, proposal, public appeasement by process itself is again self fulfilling in not allowing for recognition of broader history and reflective wisdom.
- There is a huge economic driven dominance to statute and society needs often called global perspective (insurance companies, national economy) over riding commensense.
- Moral and ethical consistency in recent historical events is variable to non existent.
- Governance appears to do little to recognise and accept short coming of the past. The process is a ratchet method of correcting the existing rather than standing back and looking at the overall direction being taken.

Brief Preamble:

- I will not address specific rules and local or regional council edicts as I believe these are set with a bias to suit internal needs (intensity and complexity) for appeasement of central government edicts (to suit central beaurocratic immunity and perfection – 1 rule fits all).
- I am firmly of the belief that successful leadership needs a strong moral compass for the long term benefit of society, and not desires for personal or communal popularity.
- I'm in my 8th decade of life and not paid to, nor should be expected to spend a full time approach to this process, when in the terms of the process one is effectively combatting full time ball gazers.

My Perspective:

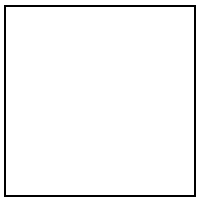
- The Matata 2005 event is no different to events recently and past in this and other parts of New Zealand. From my personal experience and limited by my memory events ranging from Tangoio Valley HB circa 1964 (Whakatane river similar time?), Bola 1993, Tolaga Bay 2018, Gisborne Floods ?, Wainui Te Whara pre 2005, Mangamati wash ? being excessive rain events with community devastation.
- These were nature's bombs. Add to these mankind's use of this land and natures resources and we will get disasters and personal loss.
- I don't believe local and national resources (tax payer money) should be used by a floored process to compensate unwilling citizens, happy with their situation, but are deserved of fair and reasonable protection by governing authority. c.f. Expense poured into WDC Wainui Te Whara; Edgecumbe township; and Reid Canal floodway locally.
- Aerial photos attached from Beacon records show:
    - Huge quantities of forestry slash (remember Tolaga Bay 2018, Bola storm Hawai beach associated with vast amounts of soil).
    - Matata straights little vegetation and soil on undeveloped natural scarp nearby.
    - Previous milled zone on the Matata watershed shown in aerial photos 1985 and 2002.

Remedy: Not Easy.

- But certainly don't penalise unwilling citizens.
- Provide an Engineered floodway past existing property. Don't write some condemning law or rule for future warning that remains a millstone for these unfortunate people. (Does that exist on properties adjoining the Wainui Te Whara ?)
- Nationally consider greater riparian protection (neared milled land) to waterways adjoining commercial or any forestry. There is a huge effort in the pastoral land industry to retire riparian land for water quality.
- Society has a greater priority for healthier community systems and in particular Matata. What expense was (wasted) used to recreate the lagoon that is now a problem with pollution (and from its associated works) yet nature since late 1800's has been obliterating the old river/harbour of the Rangataiki and Richmond (Matata township).

So I do appeal to you, those with delegated responsibility, to decide whether to convert the pressures of poor legal authority and, stand above self interest and accept the ethical and moral responsibility of leading society to a better and fairer future.

Thank you,



D. Glenn Baker

[Photos included in further submission]

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