

**ACTION MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL**  
**JANUARY 06, 2006**

**I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Mayor Lin called the meeting to order at 12:05pm. Present were Councilmembers Marlow, Cuthbertson, Bowman, and Heyenga. Staff present were Chief Thraikill and Noel Ponniah.

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA** - the agenda was not formally approved. Mayor Lin opened discussion on the agenda item as an "informal discussion of emergency procedures and damage from the recent storms.

**III. CONSENT AGENDA** - there were no Consent Agenda items.

**IV. AGENDA ITEM**

1. Discussion/Decision regarding Trinidad's emergency preparation systems.  
Chief Thraikill reviewed damage to City property caused by the recent storms:

**Harbor drain - blocked by rocks and debris**

Tom Odom suggested a structure be built to keep the storm drain open. Humboldt State University might help with the construction as they also have a drain blocked by the storms. Chief Thraikill said that state emergency money would probably only pay for cleaning away debris, not constructing improvements.

Bowman said that Public Works Director Ponniah will contact companies to get estimates for clearing the debris. Thraikill said that if the bid is under \$1000 the work should be done immediately. Lin said that the Harbor Commissioner (Bowman) should ok the work before it is started. Heyenga suggested coordinating with the Rancheria. Thraikill said he would contact Greg Nesty at the Trinidad Rancheria.

**Axel Lindgren Memorial Trail** - Loss of steps and serious erosion at bottom of trail; dangerously impassable. Thraikill described the damage to the steps and the loss of rocks and earth, creating a drop-off of about 15 feet. The City Attorney and Police Chief recommend closing the trail at the top and recommending secondary trails (Parker Creek, Groth Lane, and Old Wagon Road) to access Old Home (Indian) Beach. The closure would be stated as "temporary."

Marlow objected to the closure because we have potential liability on all trails and even a temporary closure might violate the Settlement Agreement. Heyenga said that the Council declared an emergency situation and the Chief and Attorney have identified a clear danger to public safety; the public should expect temporary inconveniences in such situations. Marlow said that City Staff should be able to identify hazards and block off the hazards, but no trail should be closed without a vote of the Council and a public hearing.

Marlow said he had a plan to reroute the trail and estimated the cost at \$30,000. Chief Thraikill estimated the total trail damage in the City to be around \$100,000, with an additional \$50,000 damage to other City facilities.

*Motion (Heyenga/Cuthbertson) to authorize temporary closure of the Axel Lindgren Memorial Trail at the top and posting the secondary trails of Parker Creek, Groth Lane, and Old Wagon Road as temporary alternative routes to Old Home Beach: **Passed.** Yes - Bowman, Cuthbertson, Heyenga. No- Marlow. Abstain - Lin.*

Chief Thraikill also recommended posting the secondary trails, warning users of debris at the bottom of the trail.

**Van Wycke Trail - erosion**

Thraikill estimates repairs at \$50,000. Marlow asked if the Council shouldn't also vote on the Van Wycke Trail. Cuthbertson noted that signs closing the trail had already been posted, but only at the actual slide and not at either end of the trail. Signs at Edwards and Galindo would notify walkers to use other routes than the trail before they started down the trail.

*Motion (Cuthbertson/Heyenga) to put "Temporarily Closed" signs at the top and bottom of the Van Wycke trail as well as at the damaged area. **Passed.** Yes - Cuthbertson, Heyenga, Lin, Bowman. No - 0. Abstain - Marlow.*

**Water plant - rented generator**

Thraikill said that the generator was ready to return to the rental company and the water plant was back on line. Cuthbertson asked if there were local generators available and Thraikill said yes.

**5. Other emergency-related items**

- A. Thrailkill explained how he is collecting daily updates of damage to public and private property. He also explained the Emergency Manual under which the City operates after a declared emergency.
- B. Heyenga asked about the rules for cutting down trees that are declared unsafe - are existing rules suspended by the emergency declaration? Thrailkill said he would look into this.
- C. Tom Odom asked about the road on Trinidad Head, especially the sandy bluff on the west side of the pier. Thrailkill said he had checked the road and it was ok.

**6. Future emergency procedures - general comments**

- A. Ponniah said our responses were not coordinated through a single individual and he was getting too many instructions from separate Councilmembers. Getting additional part-time help is also important if there is only one City employee available. Thrailkill said that when the Emergency Operations Center is opened, there must be one person in charge of assigning tasks.
- B. Cuthbertson said that an emergency Council meeting would have helped minimize confusion.
- C. Bowman stressed the need for phones that work when the power is out. Thrailkill noted that he used radios to communicate when the cell phones did not work.
- D. Heyenga noted that the Fire Station needs to be powered by the emergency generator so its radios and other communications equipment will work. Thrailkill said that the existing generator might not be large enough.
- E. Ponniah also suggested recruiting resident volunteers who could distribute flyers in their neighborhoods. It took seven hours to distribute flyers due to the lack of personnel. Volunteer workers could also be used if part-time workers can't come.
- F. Bowman stressed the importance of a generator at the water plant to keep the pump working.

**V. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR** - there were no items from the floor

**VI. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** - none

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Council, Mayor Lin adjourned the meeting at 1:42pm

Submitted by:

Approved by:

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**Dean Heyenga**  
Councilmember

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**Chi-Wei Lin**  
Mayor