

SUBJECT: Lower Motueka Rivercare Group Meeting held on 02 October 2012
Present:

Tasman District Council: Giles Griffith (Chairman), Philip Drummond, Councillor Trevor Norris, Eileen Wilkins, Barry Dowler, Jack Inglis.

Taylor's Contracting: Arnie Richards, Neil McKay, Neil Donaldson, Anna Jenkin.

MWH: Rick Lowe

Fish & Game: Rhys Barrier

Rivercare Group Members

Apologies: Tasman District Council – Lindsay McKenzie (CEO) for lateness.

DETAIL:

Item / Task	Action	By
1. Introduction Giles Griffith opened the meeting and introduced MWH Consultant and Taylor's the River Maintenance Contractor.		
2. Minutes of Last Meeting The minutes of the last meeting had been placed on the Tasman District Council's Rivers website.		
3. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting There were no matters raised from the previous minutes.		
4. Overall Objectives 2012 Giles Griffith outlined the agenda for the meeting which included the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gravel Management Working Group. • Update on 2012 objectives. • Council structure and rivers. • Future meeting format and timing. • Current Work Programme (AOMP) 2012/13. 		
5. Gravel Management Working Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillors have asked that community concerns about gravel management be dealt with. • Working group will assess where sensible gravel extraction / management is practical under the existing policy framework. • Working group will not change the existing policy framework – Part IV of the TRMP. • Council to review existing process with the view to implement changes by the end of 2012. • Ratepayers encouraged submitting input into review by the Council's Website, Community Board Meetings and by open workshop forums planned for the future. • Resource Consent required for gravel relocation work. 		

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<p>6. Update on years objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main flood damaged works repaired still some work to be carried out in Rameka Creek. • Further removal of crack willow from river systems on hold until policy reviewed. • Further flood damage has required having rock bank protection works undertaken as opposed to changing to soft re-vegetation options. • Aerial spraying consent for control of brush weeds currently being considered by council's consent department. • Currently little opportunity in working with DoC on river projects. 		
<p>7. General Comments from Presentation and Other Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AOMP programme on website showing timing of works to be undertaken for rivers fully maintained. • Tasman District Council want to move to soft river control options to include gravel relocating, vegetation plantings, gravel extraction. • AOMP Programme includes following work: chemical spraying, burning of previously removed crack willow heaps, laying of shrub willows, willow plantings, native plantings, stopbank mowing and rock protection works. • Maps of proposed works on website have key showing type of works to be undertaken. Work in Lower Motueka programmed for November / December 2012. • AOMP inspections for 2013/2014 programme due to commence. • Giles Griffith gave an overhead presentation on how to navigate around Tasman District Council's website and showed where other information could be found that maybe of interest such as rainfall and river levels. • Riparian Planting – Giles Griffith stated it was the Council's responsibility to manage land and do something with it and he wanted to put rough riverbed areas back in native plants. Stated that natives were not a replacement for crack willow. Still intend to plant shrub and tree willows. • Future Rivercare meeting planned for June / July and option to inspect site prior to work commencing. • One ratepayer asked what sprays are used in and around rivers. Giles Griffith confirmed that the spray chemicals within the river system were restricted to that on the resource consent and included Roundup, Grazon and Escort. All adjacent property owners or occupiers to spray zones are notified prior to commencing work. • One ratepayer asked whether crack willow is only managed in fully maintained areas. Giles Griffith confirmed that most of the crack willow control had not been in the fully maintained river areas but some control had been undertaken in River Z areas when funds were available. • Lindsay McKenzie the new Tasman District Council's CEO gave an overview of how the process for gravel extraction review was being progressed with the main points as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Presently work being carried out internally within Council. ○ Review of what gravel is available for extraction. ○ Environmental valves being considered. ○ Unlikely any change to Regional Plans through review. ○ Review current knowledge of gravel resources around district. ○ Seeking feedback from community through Council's website and Community Boards. ○ Consult with industry to seek views on extraction. • Motueka Gravel removal was specifically discussed, Philip Drummond said 		

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	<p>study over last 40 years had shown that bed of river had degraded 0.300 metre which happens to coincide with gravel extraction returns for the period. He considered that you could not draw a conclusion for all other river catchments based on this information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Inglis thought there was plenty of gravel downstream of the state highway bridge that could be extracted. • Philip Drummond stated that recent cross section information at the state highway bridge had shown that the waterway area had increased by 300m² since 1933 suggesting it had cut down. • A ratepayer confirmed that he believed the water level in the main channel had dropped at the bridge site. • Gravel extraction fee set at \$5.40 / m³ with some proportion going back to the crown. • One ratepayer was concerned at the extent of the gravel extraction sites in front of the stopbanks and that good quality gravel should be restricted to be used for sealing chip. 	
<i>Meeting concluded at 5:30 pm</i>		