

DATE Wednesday 15 July 2015

TIME: 2:00pm, Motueka Service Centre

SUBJECT: Lower Motueka Rivercare Meeting 2015

Present:

Tasman District Council: Giles Griffith, Rick Lowe, Cr Barry Dowler

Taylors Contracting: Arnie Richards

Fish and Game: Present

Ratepayers: 4

Item / Task

1. **Welcome:** Giles welcomed all attendees to the meeting

2. **Financials**

Giles advised that due to fine weather and no significant storm events, there is not much work going on in the rivers. He went on to say that usually the river work programme is highly reactive, but currently the rivers engineers are in an unusual position of having to find enough work to keep the contractor busy. As a result, the total spend for the last financial year was \$0.5 million less.

The rivers budgets were relatively unscathed following the signoff of the Long Term Plan; however there has been a significant cut of 30% to the River Z budget.

Classified rivers protection or emergency fund for X/Y areas was at \$800,000 as of end of May 2015, and this budget receives a \$100,000 top up per year until it reaches \$1 million. It is hoped that the Council will grant permission for some of the River X/Y rated budget to be transferred to River Z.

The total expenditure for the Lower Motueka area came to approximately \$302,000.

Activity Management Plan

The Activity Management Plan was recently reviewed as part of the Long Term Plan Process. The Activity Management Plan sets out the assets covered (in this case rivers), how they will be maintained, financial strategy and funding etc. Levels of Service (LOS) are a key part of the plan, of which there are five for rivers. These are;

- Maintain existing river control schemes to their original design capacity (Riwaka, Lower Motueka and Waimea),
- Safe, efficient, sustainable operation: measured by no consent breaches,
- Fly tipping – must respond to complaints within five days,
- River Z – must provide advice and financial assistance as per our policy, subject to budget availability,
- Organise and hold Rivercare Meetings on an annual basis.

Item / Task

New Approach to River Management

Giles explained that the Council is looking to maintain the rivers in a more holistic/multi-objective basis. This is to address issues covered by the Resource Management Act including water quality, habitat, bio-diversity, recreation and amenity.

The core focus will remain on work and expenditure relating to traditional soil conservation and river control work, protecting land from erosion and flooding, however when Council staff have more time and resources, other nice to have projects will be looked at. An example of this type of work is Riparian Planting, which has been a great success so far.

Giles added that the Council is seeking stakeholder input into what projects in what areas the community would like to see happen. It has been proposed as part of the Global Consent Application that the Rivers Engineers look into forming smaller working groups or committees to work more closely with other planned works in each catchment.

It is envisaged that there will be a survey or mail out carried out by the Council to gauge interest and special meetings to set it up as required.

Resource Consents

Giles advised that three consent applications were lodged last year including the Global Rivers Consent, Gravel Extraction and Spraying.

Global Rivers Consent

This has been publically notified and submitted on. Five submissions were received, some for and some against. The Council is currently awaiting confirmation on a hearing date.

Gravel Extraction

This consent is yet to be notified as it a controversial subject. More time is required for further analysis and as there has been a request for further information, Giles is unable to confirm the notification date for submissions at this time.

Spraying Consent

This was publically notified and has received 81 submissions, the majority of which are against mainly due to health concerns. The Council has engaged technical experts to help defend its case. The evidence for the hearing is nearly all prepared and it has been indicated that this hearing may take place in October 2015.

It was noted that an independent commissioner will make the decision on the consents, not the Council.

River Management Contract

Giles advised that this is the fifth and final year of the current rivers contract and at this stage the contract will only see minor changes and fine tuning. The Council will be retendering the River Maintenance Contract early next year.

Fairway Lines

The idea of Fairway Lines was discussed at the 2014 Rivercare meeting. Unfortunately, the Rivers Engineers have not managed to gain all of Council acceptance on the proposal. The Council's Environment and Planning Department along with Fish and Game have concerns about the environmental and habitat effects of narrowing and straightening the rivers. The River Engineers have agreed to organise a review to find a compromise. This will be completed by a geomorphologist (river behaviour specialist) and possibly an aquatic/habitat specialist.

Fly Tipping

This remains to be a major problem, particularly over the warmer months. The new signs have not had the desired effect at deterring the culprits. Camera surveillance will be setup at a hotspot close to Richmond this coming spring. This will be moved to other locations as time goes on.

Item / Task	
	<p>Giant Willow Aphid</p> <p>This is a natural predator of willows that has come from Europe which was discovered in spring 2013 and has quickly spread throughout most of both islands. Giles advised that people may notice sick looking willow trees this summer due to a combination of this new predator and drought conditions. The Willow and Poplar Trust is collecting information and has recently asked for funding from the Regional Authorities to tackle the issue.</p>
3.	<p>General</p> <p>3.1 Gravel Extraction</p> <p>There was a long discussion on gravel extraction, in particular concerns were raised about there being less and less areas from where gravel could be extracted from. It was suggested that gravel could be carted from other area, such as Greymouth. A question was raised as to whether any gravel was available in Riwaka. The answer was no.</p> <p>Council staff were asked if they supported land based gravel extraction. Staff responded in saying that they could not confirm their support for this but can confirm that they do not support this happening close to stopbanks as has been occurring.</p> <p>3.2 Extent of Lower Motueka Area</p> <p>It was noted that the upstream extent of the Lower Motueka area is 2 kilometres upstream of Peninsular Bridge. This area includes the Moutere, Lower Motueka, and Riwaka rivers; Brooklyn, Little Sydney and Atua streams and Hamilton and Scott's drains.</p> <p>It was further noted that as the Council maintains 285km of fully maintained rivers and it is not possible to get to the whole area quickly after any significant flood event. Attendees were encouraged to report any issues to Rivers Engineering Staff as soon as they arise.</p>
4.	<p>Conclusion</p> <p>Attendees were thanked for attending the meeting.</p>
Meeting concluded at 3:30pm	