

MINUTES

Title	Reservoir Creek: Enhancement of an Urban Taonga Public Forum
Date	11-3-08
Time	12:30 pm
Venue	Wangapeka Room Tasman District Council (TDC) 189 Queen Street Richmond

Present

Jeremy Butler Environmental Education Officer (TDC), Tom Kroos Project Coordinator (TDC), Melanie McColgan Waimaori Streamcare and Tiakina, Steve Richards (TDC), David Burt Keep Richmond Beautiful, David Stevenson Engineering (TDC), Chris Hemi Ngati Kuia, Trevor James (TDC), James Tomkinson (MWH), Helen Campbell Forest and Bird, Residents: Brenda Page, Doreen Lemon, Mark Nimo, Cheryl and Mike Carnahan and others.

Apologies

Ann Sheridan Tiakina, Caroline Shirtliffe Salisbury School, Calvin Tuck (NMIT), Martin Rutledge (DoC), Richard Kempthorn Mayor (TDC), Brad Myer (NFM), Shirley Marshall resident

1. Introduction

Tom Kroos welcomed those present and tendered a list of apologies.

2. Updates

Tom reported on two freshwater fish spotlight investigations. The first in late January was above the Reservoir with banded kokopu, longfin eels and koura being observed. The glow worms put on an amazing display. The second survey in February took place on the Clark property above Hill Street. Fish populations were the same as above the Reservoir but the 250mm kokopu captured was one of the largest specimens recorded in the Tasman District. Photos were circulated.

Tom passed around additional photographs of the fish pass repair work at the bottom of Templemore Pond. This work was such a success that a white-faced heron and black shag were observed feeding on top of the fish pass the following day. As of two days ago the Pond contains 1000's of adult inanga. While this work was not programmed it was necessary to correct the fish pass damage. The problem was identified by the Waimaori Streamcare monitoring students who reported that inanga were not observed in upstream reaches where they should have been present.

The NMIT DoC Rangers class is preparing to commence track construction above the Reservoir in April. A meeting is scheduled on Friday March 14th to work out some of the details.

3. Widening of Reservoir Creek

Tom then introduced James Tomkinson of MWH and David Stevenson an engineer with TDC. They were at the forum to speak to a major instream project on Reservoir Creek immediately below the Alexandra walkway. While this was not originally an identified deliverable for the SMF project it was nevertheless very important. The work on this reach of the creek had direct implications to the SMF outcomes immediately upstream.

A power point presentation was then provided. Reservoir Creek has to be widened to accommodate the 50 year flood return flow as the existing channel is too restrictive. There is also a need to address walkway and freshwater fish issues. All affected parties had been consulted.

The proposal involves widening, rock protection, instream fish habitat improvement, planting and walkway enhancement. Specialists have been consulted for the final proposal.

The project plans identify a straight channel line but TDC's engineering staff will be seeking a contractor who understands the environmental concepts and will include natural variation into the design so that lines are not straight. This reach of the creek will then function for both biodiversity and engineering values at the same time being aesthetically appealing.

There were numerous questions from the floor and all agreed the project was necessary and would address flooding, environmental, and aesthetics issues.

4. Reservoir

David next provided an update on the Reservoir project. In April the Reservoir will be lowered 2-3m over a 1 month period so that the dam face can be inspected and the outlet pipes located. From this assessment the long-term future of the Reservoir can then be decided.

Mel (Waimaori) and Chris (Ngati Kuia) brought up the topic of pollution below the dam face. Because TDC had developed a large track to the base of the Reservoir the landowners cattle now had unrestricted access to the Creek. The resulting pollution was so bad that both the school monitoring and Cultural Health Index site had to be changed.

After a long discussion it was agreed to ask TDC to approach the landowner and rectify the situation. TDC could provide fencing resources or divert water from the Reservoir to another area away from the creek to provide drinking water. "Take water to the stock rather than the other way around".

While it was recognised that the RMA does give power to protect water the landowner could also prevent the existing and generous public access to the Reservoir. KRB suggested that TDC purchase the property and involve the community groups to care for it.

5. 2008 Planting Plan

Steve Richards tabled his report *Re-vegetation Planting Plan 2008*. This year (May-June) the planting focus will be on the bottom end of zone 7 at Easby Park. Approximately 1000 plants will be employed along a 250m riparian strip on the true right bank of Reservoir Creek. This side is exposed to the sun. The plantings will be a long-term solution to the watercress infestation that the Waimaori Streamcare group is dealing with at present. The SMF project has contributed 600

plants to this effort and includes titoki, makomako (wineberry), kokuhu, coastal flax, kowhai and fivefinger.

Additional plants have been procured from KRB to fill in gaps from plantings last winter in zone 5 Welsh Place/Alexandra Walkway. Discussions are underway with TDC engineering department to utilise the true right of Reservoir Creek below Hill Street for taller plants that would provide shading. Taller plants will also be used this winter in zone 1 below Salisbury Road

Chris Hemi advised the hui that Nelson City Council have agreed to invest \$5,000.00 in planting out the Estuary below zone 1 this winter.

Following discussion it was agreed that Mel will liaise with Steve and Kathy Tohill (TDC) to ensure that the various school groups monitoring Reservoir Creek will have opportunity to be involved with the Arbour Day planting programme.

5. CHI

Chris Hemi reported that the summer CHI assessment took place on Monday 11 February. The Creek was in good shape given the low flow circumstances at the time with exception to the station below the Reservoir. To iwi the cattle damage and related discharges into a taonga (Reservoir Creek) was very offensive.

6. Waimaori Streamcare

Mel McColgan presented an overview of the Streamcare programme to members of the public. Currently there are a number of local schools involved with Reservoir Creek monitoring. They are; Henley Primary (3 classes), Salisbury school for girls and Waimea Intermediate. Garin College was also being contacted for assistance on the top station above the Reservoir. During the summer school holidays Mel worked with the ASB Aquatic Centre Holiday Programme coordinator to monitor some of the stations.

Mel also reiterated Chris Hemi's concerns about the poor water quality conditions of Reservoir Creek below the Reservoir and at present it was no longer suitable to take students to this location.

7. Forest Removal

Jeremy Butler attended the TDC Forest Enterprise Committee in January to present the results of Brad Myer's report and recommended a number of strategies to minimise effects on Reservoir Creek during and after the milling takes place. These include expressing the significance of the upper catchment of Reservoir Creek to the contractors, sediment control, and replanting and weed control and future management of the area.

8. Day Lighting Reservoir Creek

Estimates for the various options to route Reservoir Creek from Easby Park to Hill Street have been obtained from MWH. The existing pipes are now considered undersized and an upgrade is necessary. Two of the proposed routes involve open water channels that are better options for both engineering requirements and ecological values. The favoured option to open the channel

along Angelus Avenue is the most expensive. These results will be discussed with TDC and will involve private landowners.

Several of the forum's participants recorded that the use of the word "drain" for Reservoir Creek was considered offensive.

The meeting closed at 1430 hours.