

DATE Wednesday 23 July 2014

TIME: 2:00pm, Motueka Service Centre

SUBJECT: Lower Motueka Rivercare Meeting 2014

Present:

Tasman District Council: Giles Griffith, Rick Lowe, Cr Trevor Norriss, Cr Peter Canton, Cr Barry Dowler
Bettina Koessler

Taylors Contracting: Arnie Richards

Fish and Game: Present

Ratepayers: 8

Item / Task

1.	<p>Welcome: Giles welcomed all attendees to the meeting</p>
2.	<p>PowerPoint Presentation:</p> <p>New Approach</p> <p>Giles advised that Council is working toward a new approach to river management. The focus will shift from a reactive to a proactive approach, taking into consideration holistic and multi-objective considerations. There will be a greater reliance on landowners who live along riverbanks to get in contact with Council when they notice any issues with the River.</p> <p>Fairway Lines</p> <p>This is a new management tool which has been developed to guide what river works will be undertaken. So far it has only been drawn up for the Waimea, Upper Motueka and Motupiko Rivers. It is important to realise that it is only a guide for Council staff, and is not yet publically available.</p> <p>Stop banks</p> <p>Stopbanks are a key rivers asset. Council has recently produced a stopbank brochure which provides information on responsibilities and requirements of those living along a stopbank. A copy of the brochure is available on the Council website or at Council service centres throughout the district.</p> <p>Illegal Dumping</p> <p>Unfortunately this is a growing issue around the district. Council has organised signage and surveillance at key sites where dumping is occurring most often. Council is very reliant on members of the public reporting people if they witness illegal dumping taking place, but details such as the registration of the car, a good description of the person or photos are needed as evidence to be able to catch the offenders.</p>
3.	<p>General</p> <p>3.1 Debris Build-up on Motueka River</p> <p>A ratepayer noted that after the last big flood a large collection of logs and debris ended up on a gravel beach at the Motueka River at the end of Whakarewa Street. It would appear that this is causing flooding to Peach Island Road. Rick advised that the contractor has done some work here, which he thought we complete, however he will re-visit the site.</p> <p>It was further noted that old railway lines in the river are a serious hazard which causes a</p>

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	<p>great risk to the safety of river users. Council's contractor has removed some of these in the past, and will continue to re-visit the site to remove the remaining ones when they become exposed.</p> <p>There was a discussion on works carried out at Fay Bakers property which has now resulted in erosion downstream. Rick advised that this work was completed as Council is trying to control the flow of the river. Council is continually looking to use a managed approach to controlling the flow of the river.</p> <p>3.2 Capital Works</p> <p>A question was raised regarding capital works and what is planned for the Lower Motueka and Riwaka areas in the 2014/2015 year. Giles advised that Council's main focus will be on maintaining and improving stopbanks. There is also work around the Woodmans Corner and Whakarewa Streets to be looked at and completed.</p> <p>3.3 Nitrogen Levels</p> <p>A discussion took place around the presence of nitrogen levels in rivers. Giles advised that Council's Engineering Department is mainly concerned with things which can be controlled in rivers such as sediment. Council is responsible for maintaining water quality; however this is managed by Council's Environment and Planning Department.</p> <p>3.4 Fairway Lines</p> <p>It was questioned whether a blueprint of the Fairway lines was available to the public for comment. Giles advised that work on this is still being completed and so it is not currently publically available. It was emphasised that it was currently only being used as a guide for Council staff.</p> <p>3.5 Motueka Bridge</p> <p>A concern was raised regarding gravel build-up below the Motueka River Bridge and it was questioned whether Council has any gravel extraction planned for this area. Cr Norriss advised that this is an area maintained by NZTA and a site meeting is soon to be organised between NZTA and community members to discuss this area.</p> <p>3.6 Company Ditch – Moutere</p> <p>It was questioned whether there was a policy on the amount of money spent on beatification around rivers. Giles advised that around 10% of the rivers budget is used on native riparian planting, which is a small amount of the total budget and does not affect critical works. It was further noted that the Company Ditch needs to urgently have some work done in it as there are big problems with erosion in the area. Council Staff to investigate.</p> <p>3.7 Willows</p> <p>The topic of the removal of Willow trees from river beds was discussed. Rick confirmed that willows are no longer removed on a large scale basis, only where they are causing an issue in the river. It was suggested that problem trees be poisoned rather than taken out altogether so that a natural breakdown would occur that would have less of an impact on the river bank.</p> <p>3.8 Native Planting Sites</p> <p>A question was raised regarding the process of choosing planting sites of natives. Giles advised that sites are targeted for general public areas and that support from the adjacent landowner was a key requirement prior to the planting of natives taking place.</p>
4.	<p>Conclusion</p> <p>Cr Norriss thanked all attendees for attending the meeting and concluded by encouraging landowners to keep the communication lines open with Council, particularly in relation to the illegal dumping of rubbish.</p>
<p>Meeting concluded at 3:40pm</p>	