

MINUTES



DATE Monday 8 August 2016

TIME: 3.00pm Tapawera Community Hall

SUBJECT: Upper Motueka Rivercare Meeting 2016

Present

Tasman District Council: Giles Griffith, Rick Lowe

Fish and Game: One

Taylor's Contracting: Two

Ratepayers: Six

1. Welcome

Giles Griffith from the Tasman District Council opened the meeting and introduced the River Management Team.

2. Overview of River Activities

- At the start of the meeting an introduction was given to the council's produced documentary about the health of our rivers called "Our Waters in Common" which can be viewed by going to the Tasman District Council's website.
- A quiet start to the first 8 months of the year simple to previous 2 years.
- Work ramped up from last 4 months of financial year with large floods in Waimea Riwaka and Takaka Rivers as well as moderate flood in other catchments.
- New maintenance Contract has been awarded to Taylor's Contracting Company Ltd.
- Stopbanks mowed in areas of Riwaka, Lower Motueka and Waimea Rivers.
- Have refurbished bench marks in the Waimea River as well as crossing of riverbed and analysis of information.
- Other river surveys underway for Wai-iti and Riwaka Rivers.
- Continue to maintain tidal outlets and floodgates.
- Chemical spraying undertaken of river fairways for woody weed control both in Tasman and Golden Bay areas.
- Aerial resource consent obtained to spray river fairways except Takaka River.
- 15,000 Native plants planted in Waimea, Wai-iti, Moutere and Lower Motueka rivers.
- Old man's beard controlled in selective areas around native plantings.
- Aorere River has had several median – high flood events this year.
- High demand for River Z funding over last 4 months as a result of flood events.
- Work on obtaining Resource Consent has been on going with mediation under taken on 28 July 2016 with agreement reached with other parties avoiding having to go to the Environment Court.
- Hydraulic modelling is under action for the Waimea River as well as review of proposed fairway lines for the Upper Motueka River.
- A national review of flood protection and river control schemes is being undertaken under the guidance of the River Managers Group.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River balance sheet presently in strong position with no significant events over last 3 years • Encourage ratepayer to report to Tasman District Council of any damaged noticed river frontage
3.	<p>Rock Rip Rap</p> <p>There have been various articles regarding the use of rip rap in our rivers and the claimed decline in fish numbers due to the loss of habitat.</p> <p>As river managers we believe that the use of rip rap at the present level is not having any significant effect on fish numbers.</p> <p>There are significant other factors outside river management activities that that contribute to the decline in trout numbers such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Floods at the critical time when young fish have hatched. • Higher water temperatures due to variable weather and climate changes • Periodic sediment and nutrient inputs from upstream land use activities affecting sediment. <p>There have been studies done in the Hutt River which is heavy rip rap for flood protection which supports high numbers of trout.</p> <p>Council consider all options not just rip rap when managing erosion sites in our rivers and we will look at combining softer solutions into our river management processes in the future.</p>
4.	<p>Gravel Management</p> <p>Under the current resource consent that the river managers operate under they are only able to remove gravel for river management purposes where there is a benefit to the river system.</p> <p>With the current information held there is insufficient gravel available to supply the industry demands from our rivers.</p> <p>Council will continue to extract gravel from places where it can be proven there is benefit to river management.</p>
5.	<p>Giant Willow Aphid Update</p> <p>The willow aphid continues to proliferate in the Tasman District and was especially noticeable last summer.</p> <p>It affects willow health by restricting development by reducing sugar flow to the roots. It has also been found on apple trees.</p> <p>Council is contributing to research presently being undertaken with other River Managers throughout the country.</p>
6.	<p>General Discussion</p> <p>A ratepayers asked whether any other organisation that council have to consult with relation to river works have any financial input to river works. He also expressed concern at the recent reported damaged caused by river protection work in the video produced by the Freshwater Anglers Association.</p> <p>Council staff confirmed that generally other parties do not make any contribution to river protection works.</p>

	<p>Another ratepayer expressed concern at council's present consideration of allowing the Upper Motueka river to have a wider channel width. He believed council would be making a huge mistake in allowing this to happen.</p> <p>Another ratepayer enquired as why council does not extend the fully maintained area in the Sherry River.</p> <p>Council staff explained that this would need to go through a legal process and was unlikely to occur without a full rating review which it is not intending to do at this stage.</p> <p>River survey to be completed by next year's Rivercare Meeting.</p> <p>Ratepayers thanked council for it presentation.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Meeting concluded at 5.00pm</p>