

Meeting Records for 2019 Rivercare Meetings - August - Tasman District

Tapawera Meeting

Attended by Giles, Rick and Trevor from Tasman District Council, as well as Councillor Bryant, and a contractor representative.

Questions:

1. Is coastal erosion being taken into account when issuing gravel permits?
A: ICM (Integrated Catchment Management) is the only job where this has been studied but coastal erosion is definitely an issue and we are mindful of it.
2. Which willows do the aphids like?
A: They prefer crack willow, they don't seem to like the bitter willow.
3. Will the aphid kill the crack willow?
A: If the trees are old and tired, it will help their demise.
4. Do you think the amount of rock work being used in rivers and the amount of shade being cut down is contrary to what others are trying to achieve re the ecology of the river?
A: We do look to see if we can use the vegetation that's there. Then we look at the methodology. This year we are planting more willows than for many years previously. Rock protection helps to give the willows a stable place to grow and to become established.
5. Is there opportunity to take cuttings from river plantings?
A: The river is the main source of willows, rather than the nursery.
6. What can Council require of landowner? Can Council force landowners to plant?
A: Council are themselves planting. The river rate is collected so Council can do it rather than relying on landowners. Council can't require landowners to do this.

Dove Meeting

Attended by Giles, Councillor Olgivie and a contractor representative.

Suggestions were made as to places for gravel removal. These were below Thorn Road ford, under the bluffs as well as Cowins Bridge.

Lots of slash in the head of Sunday Creek, slash in vertical lines.

There were issues raised re flooding at the house at the confluence of Sunday Creek and the Dove River. [Our forestry compliance officer has since inspected the site and

said they are happy there is a low risk of slash moving downstream or more moving into the creek].

Question raised around the great expense required to provide traffic control and health and safety where the Thorn Road ford was cleared of gravel. Answer was yes it is not efficient but we have no choice but to require our contractor's to comply with the legislation.

Richmond Meeting

Attended by Rick, Giles and Trevor from TDC, representative from contractor and Fish and Game, Councillors Maling, Ogilvie and McNamara.

Questions:

1. Clover Road East, down from where the groynes were put in, is it possible to get gravel taken from there to alleviate the problem of the river eroding the land there?
A: Work has been identified as needing to be done there. Some re-shaping could be done there and protection work is being planned for that side.
2. Has there been progress made on the Global Consent (for gravel extraction)?
A: There is a meeting this week with the Consent Authority to seek a hearing date. Aiming to have consent granted this year or early next.
3. If the next survey is going to be 2021, will it be late 2021 before anymore allocation comes out of Waimea River?
A: Probably 2022, will depend on the monitoring results and if we get more floods.
4. Why was gravel brought down river to make the bund rather than gravel from upstream?
A: It had to be done quickly to prevent saltwater intrusion plus there were issues with access.
5. What progress is there with River Road where it was to be blocked off?
A: The digout of the ponds and the sale of gravel from the digout of the ponds will fund the design and construction of the extension of Challies Road. Hoping it will start this summer and then River Road will be gated off and Challies Road extension used instead.
6. Is anything to be done about the road from Appleby Playcentre down to the river?
A: Community Facilities are considering putting a path along the berm but at this stage there are no plans to do anything with this road.
7. What is the cost to Council of picking up abandoned and burnt out cars?
A: Fly-tipping region wide is approximately \$10,000 - \$20,000 per annum.
8. Have the numbers been done yet of the effect of the Waimea Dam on gravel?
A: Not yet.

Motueka Meeting

Attended by Rick and Giles from TDC, representatives from Fish and Game and contractor, Councillor Ogilvie.

Questions:

1. Properties below the Brooklyn Bridge are rated X and Y?
A: They are already rated for maintenance, above the bridge is rated River Z.
2. Are there any plans for work on the Lower Riuwaka? Keen to see some large boulders in there for fish habitat.
A: Not a lot of work required there at the moment other than willow work below the bridge. Said we would keep this in mind for when we have other rock work on that reach.
3. There has been work done on Pauley Creek but it flooded again with the rain on 23 July though not as badly. Is there any more work planned?
A: Don't know what more can be done. The bridge may be acting as a dam.
4. Scotts and Hamilton drain have been neglected for twenty years now. Culverts are also blocked.
A: We can clear it out and cart away the debris. The lower part of Hamilton drain has been cleared out down to the school gates and this seems to be working better. Swamp Road all the way down will be done.
5. Brooklyn Stream at Andersons Road Bridge, the river bed seems higher than adjacent land. Runs like an artificial channel. Brooklyn Stream has built up at least a metre.
A: Having to work in water is the problem. Can't extract gravel due to environmental concerns. During the last flood, debris blocked the bridge causing much of the flooding.
6. How much are you being hampered by environmental issues?
A: Council tries to manage erosion in the most efficient way. Erosion problem has to be fixed before trees can be planted. There are issues with access through private property, the number of hours allowed in the water etc. It has become more difficult to manage from a technical point of view.
7. Where does the money raised from gravel extraction go?
A: Part of the money goes to Environment and Planning Department and some comes to Engineering. All the funds go back into various aspects of rivers management.
Gravel removal is slowing down to prevent degradation of the rivers. Not much gravel has been taken from the Motueka River for years. It is being monitored.
8. Is Brooklyn Creek going to be excavated?
A: If we can get through compliance issues.

9. Who is causing the environmental issues hampering your ability to act? How do we get around them?

A: The conditions of our resource consent are hampering us. The Hearing Commission put these conditions in place. We can try for a variation to the existing consent.

10. Is there an opportunity to apply to work in water for Brooklyn Stream?

A: We can put it to Compliance and try to get agreement.

11. Is there an Iwi issue?

A: There could be issues, they may be issues that could be overcome.

12. Are there different rules round natural water ways versus modified water ways? Who diverted it originally?

A: Was diverted by the Catchment Board, and there were different rules back then as to what could be done.

13. What is the risk of salination with rising sea levels?

A: Joseph Thomas - Senior Resource Scientist would be the best person to answer that. Our limited understanding is that increased sea levels produce a mounding effect and actually increase river to aquifer recharge rates and groundwater levels.

14. What is the current water quality like in our streams?

A: Generally it is good to very good. It compares very well nationally.

Collingwood Meeting

Attended by Rick and Giles from Tasman District Council and contractor representatives

1. Is there still a demand for gravel?

A: Absolutely. Aggregate suppliers are seeking security of supply so in future there is likely to be more land based gravel sites. Sand is also in high demand.

2. If there was an increase in rates to help the river fund recover, would rates then decrease once there was adequate funds in the fund?

A: If the fund ever topped a couple of million dollars we could look at reducing the rate but this is unlikely to ever happen.

3. Is drone work used solely for river work? If you were flying a drone and saw (for instance) effluent non-compliance, would you pass that on?

A: There are rules that we follow. We need to get owner's permission if we are flying over their land. If behavior negative to the environment was seen as a consequence of drone flight, this would be passed on. Most flying is done over public land.

4. Are there any plans to fly the rivers once a year?

A: That is the aim. More than that if there are flood events. We would only fly fully rated areas of the river.

5. Are there any decommissioned landfills close to rivers?
A: There are approximately 30 throughout Tasman District. All have been identified and are being monitored. They have just finished rock capping Rototai.
6. There is a buildup of gravel here. Are there any options to take it out on a commercial scale?
A: 14,000m³ has been taken from Le Compts Beach but a survey is needed before okaying any more extraction.
7. Why is Council reluctant to allow gravel extraction?
A: We can only take gravel to river management reasons and aim to take no more than the natural supply rate. Visually it may look as though there is more gravel but that is not showing in the data we have.

Takaka Meeting

Attended by Rick and Giles from Tasman District Council and contractor representatives.

1. What willows are being used?
A: Matsudana willow variants.
2. The wasp that is going to be used to target the aphid, is it a wasp that stings?
A: No. It is a much smaller wasp that doesn't sting people.
3. What is the condition/state of the Takaka River?
A: All fully rated areas are in very good order.
4. What do we have to worry about then?
A: Having no flood reserve funding built up to repair damage after the next flood event.
5. During the Gita event, the Takaka township was advised to evacuate as it was thought that the stopbanks may fail. Is any of the river money going to repair stopbanks?
A: There are no Council owned stopbanks in Takaka. They are owned by the landowners of the land that they are on.
6. Would it be possible to do river surveys more regularly than 5 yearly?
A: It is possible. With so many rivers in the district, they are done on a rotational basis. With the new consent we have applied for, we are hoping for more flexibility in what can be done for river management purposes.
7. Why can't we fix the restrictions on what work can be done by you?
A: We have conditions in our consent that we have to abide by. We are also monitored by Compliance.
8. Can Council make recommendations to have amendments to the consent?
A: Yes we can. Although it took 3 years to get the consent granted with the conditions we have.

9. Who was the party protesting against the consent?
A: Fish and Game and other areas in Council were looking after their interests.
10. If we are going to have more heavy rain events as Council warns us, shouldn't we have the rivers more open to allow the water through?
A: There are things that can be done outside of the river to mitigate events. Once the water is in the river there's not a lot to do. We really are the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff.
11. Why are our gravel extraction fees higher than elsewhere in the country?
A: Because it is a highly valuable resource and there's not a lot of supply. Gravel fees aren't used to top up the coffers but are put back into monitoring and river management etc.