

DATE Thursday 31 July 2014

TIME: 2pm, TDC Council Chambers

SUBJECT: Waimea, Wairoa and Wai-iti Rivercare Meeting 2014

Present:

Tasman District Council: Giles Griffith, Rick Lowe, Cr Tim King, Cr Judene Edgar, Cr Stuart Bryant, Cr Brian Ensor, Bettina Koessler

Fish and Game: Present

Ratepayers: 9

Item / Task

1. **Welcome:** Cr King welcomed all attendees to the meeting

2. **Presentation:**

Giles introduced himself and Rick Lowe and provided the group with some information on their qualifications and background experience as Rivers Engineers.

This is a new meeting for this catchment, which has been organised to see whether there is enough interest in the catchment area to create a Rivercare group.

Giles gave a brief overview of what is covered by the Waimea catchment (background information), what is maintained by Council, stopbanks, native plantings, and floodgates.

New Approach

Giles advised that Council is working toward a new approach to river management. The focus will shift from reactive to a proactive, 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.

Fairway Lines

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. It involves drawing up an ideal location for the river channel with a two year design flow. This has been done on the Waimea and the Wairoa Rivers, and is still to be fully completed

The 'Fuzzy lines' show the extent of the lower flood plain terrace.

It was questioned whether the information was publically available. Giles answered in saying that as this is only a guide for Council staff, this is not currently publically available.

Stopbanks

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. Giles encouraged attendees to contact Council staff if they live on a stopbank to complete a site visit.

Item / Task**Illegal Dumping**

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.

It was noted that a member of the public was caught and fined last week after being reported by a member of the public which is a good outcome. A prime problem area is Lower Queen Street by the Appleby Bridge. It is hoped that the signs and surveillance will help to better control the issue.

Waimea, Wairoa and Wai-iti

Giles gave an overview of some general works which are proposed for the Waimea catchment including fencing improvements and weed control along stopbanks, vegetation buffers, riparian planting, maintenance of groundwater weirs and existing rock structures.

3.**General****3.1 Rivercare Meetings**

Cr King asked how the Rivercare meetings are organised, this being the first one for this catchment. Giles replied that the other meetings were run according to a terms of reference. Originally organised to discuss the AOMP but now there is more of a focus on providing general information and receiving feedback from ratepayers. It is envisaged that the meeting will be held once a year, but it is possible to increase the frequency, if required.

3.2 Resource Consents

A question was raised regarding the resource consent process. Giles advised that consent conditions will vary depending on the type of works being requested. Any member of public is able to apply for a consent however, Cr King suggested Council staff be contacted in the first instance in case work can be granted through the Rivers Global Consent, to make the process faster and easier.

3.3 Gravel Extraction

It was questioned when the gravel extraction review promised by the CEO a number of years ago would be undertaken. Rick responded in saying that this will be reviewed as part of the current overview of the Rivers Global Consent. It is hoped that the consent will be granted for the maximum term of 35 years. Rick added that Council will continue to operate under the current consent until the new one has been granted.

3.4 Wakefield Stopbank

It was suggested that the stopbank in Wakefield which is currently not maintained, be added to Council's maintenance programme. Giles advised that this would likely involve a lengthy process as it would result in a change of the rates classification for the area. This would require landowner agreement. Further information on the process is included in the appendices of the River Activity Management Plan, a copy of which is available on the Council website.

3.5 Pitfure Stream

A ratepayer noted that subdivision works are having a major effect on streams and in particular their capacity during floods. Cr King responded in saying that developers are required to take into account issues such as flooding as part of their consent conditions.

3.6 Future of Rivercare Group Meetings

There was a general indication from the group that a Rivercare group for the Waimea Catchment would be highly beneficial. Meeting attendees were given the opportunity to provide their contact details so that Council staff can contact them directly with information.

Item / Task	
4.	Conclusion Cr King thanked all present for attending the meeting.
Meeting concluded at 3:00pm	