

DATE Monday 21 July 2014

TIME: 7pm, Dovedale Hall

SUBJECT: Dovedale Rivercare Meeting 2014

Present:

Tasman District Council: Giles Griffith, Rick Lowe, Cr Trevor Norriss, Cr Brian Ensor, Bettina Koessler

Taylors Contracting: Arnie Richards

Fish and Game: Present

Ratepayers: 7

Item / Task

1. **Welcome:** Giles welcomed all attendees to the meeting
2. **Presentation:** Giles handed out a hard copy of a PowerPoint presentation which he has put together. The main points were the following:
 - New Approach**
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.
 - Fairway Lines**
This is a new management tool which has been developed to guide what river works will be undertaken. It involves drawing up an ideal location for the river channel with a two year design flow. 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.
 - Stop banks**
Although there are no stopbanks in the Dovedale area, they were covered as they 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.
 - 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.
 - Dove River**
A brief overview was given for the works completed and proposed for the Dove area in the coming months. These include flood event repairs, weed spraying, rock work and channel clearance and finally riparian planting.

Item / Task	
<p>3.</p>	<p>General:</p> <p>3.1 Native Plants:</p> <p>A ratepayer questioned how Council goes about the planting of Native plants i.e. how is spraying managed around native plants, who picks the location and whether landowners can plant natives of their own accord. They further noted that the concrete splash by Thorn Road has a lot of vegetation which is starting to encroach on it.</p> <p>Giles advised that there are about a half dozen planting sites along the Dove River. With regards to spraying, the contractor takes a very cautious approach when spraying. Systems are also improving with closer plant spacing, choosing the right sites and ensuring good maintenance.</p> <p>Giles advised that landowners are able to plant natives if they wish, however Council staff should be contacted and a site visit arranged prior to planting going ahead so that landowners are using the correct plant species and planting in the right location.</p> <p>Another ratepayer questioned whether Council is responsible for maintaining smaller streams which feed into the Dove River. Giles advised that this is not an area which is maintained by the rivers engineers or their contractors. It may be possible to do some work through to the River Z subsidy, however a better solution would be to contact Council's Environment and Planning Department who may have some funding assistance available.</p> <p>3.2 Gravel Management</p> <p>Rick Lowe advised that the Council is currently looking at setting up an internal Council committee to look into gravel management, however this has been delayed. It is possible to continue to operate under the current consent although it has expired. This consent allows for a total 4,000m³ of gravel to be taken off any one beach in a five year period.</p> <p>Council has brought an expert down from the North Island to look into gravel envelopes, as Council needs to ensure good reporting. A long term solution is still being sought.</p> <p>It was further noted that current volumes are not necessarily being taken/relocated from the rivers and there needs to be a cohesive approach to this to ensure a good balance between gravel relocation and extraction.</p> <p>3.3 Rivers Global Consent Renewal</p> <p>Giles advised that the consent is in its final stages and is close to being lodged. This will be a fully notified consent process. The timeframe which has been applied for is 35 years which is the maximum timeframe allowed under the current act.</p> <p>It was further noted that spraying and gravel extraction will come under a separate consent</p> <p>3.4 Contact with Council</p> <p>Discussion took place around the current way in which ratepayers contact Council with rivers enquires. The general consensus was that the current way in which things are done is working fine. The Rivercare meeting will continue to be held once a year and Ashley Peter, who is the key contact between Council and ratepayers, is happy for things to remain this way.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Conclusion</p> <p>In conclusion Giles thanked all who attended the meeting and encouraged a continuation of open communication between Council and landowners in the Dove River area.</p>
<p>Meeting concluded at 7:50pm</p>	