

MINUTES

Title	Reservoir Creek: Enhancement of an Urban Taonga Public Forum
Date	18-12- 2007
Time	12:30 pm
Venue	Heaphy Room Tasman District Council (TDC) 189 Queen Street Richmond

Present

Jeremy Butler Environmental Education Officer (TDC), Tom Kroos Project Coordinator (TDC), Melanie McColgan Waimaori Streamcare and Tiakina, Lucy Green (MfE), Steve Richards (TDC), David Burt Keep Richmond Beautiful, David Stevenson Engineering (TDC), Paul Daubney Waimea College, Beryl Wilkes (TDC), Chris Hemi Ngati Kuia, Brad Myer Te Ngahere Forest Management, Rudy Tetteroo (DOC), Trevor James (TDC), Residents: Steve Gray, Shirley Marshall, Malcolm Gilbert, Tom Nimo, Ross Higgins.

Apologies

Rob Smith (TDC), Ann Sheridan Tiakina, Caroline Shirtliffe Salisbury School, Roger Young Cawthron Institute, Calvin Tuck (NMIT), Martin Rutledge (DoC), Helen Campbell Forest and Bird, Richard Kempthorn Mayor (TDC), Murray Turner E4E Coordinator, Joan Inwood (resident),

1. Introduction

Tom Kroos welcomed those present. Following a round table of introductions Tom provided a list of apologies and overviewed Stage 3 of the Reservoir Creek Project. A project photo album and Salisbury School photo books were then circulated that illustrated the various activities on Reservoir Creek.

2. Stage 1

Tom reported on the interpretive sign panels with final copies of each displayed on the walls. A meeting with Drycrust is planned for January with the view to get the signs erected.

3. Stage 2

Tom provided a project update;

- The Te Ngahere report “*Forest Assessment Reservoir Creek Richmond*” was circulated. This report (featuring the value of native vegetation along the creek above the Reservoir) will be tabled at the TDC Enterprise Committee meeting on 30 January.
- The summer CHI will be conducted in January or early February. Project Partners were invited to participate.

- The Garin College Christian Service Day was held on 6 December. This involved watercress removal from the stream bed and rubbish collection from the Estuary to Hill Street. The watercress was used as mulch for new plantings above and upstream Templemore Bridge.
- An assessment of the proposed new track above the Reservoir determined that three low bridges were required and some boardwalks on the steeper slopes. Approximately \$4,000.00 is required for timber and hardware and this falls within budget.
- The SMF project will pursue the concept of a planting partnership with Henley Primary School and Waimea College. The planting programme will be for the Zone 5 Welsh Place area.
- Further discussions have been held with extending the walkway and day lighting Reservoir Creek from Easby Park to Hill Street. Some of the discussions are sensitive involving private landowners and can not be released for general public consumption at this time.

4. General Discussion

A) Zone 5 Issues

- There are safety issues with the thick mats of streambed watercress and weeds along the riparian edge and residents are concerned. There has been a shift recently with the focus on the stream health and keeping the water temperature cooler in the summer months but there is a need to compromise all community values. Ultimately there will be a change to native species but this could take up to 5-6 years. KRB and the schools will continue to plant this area. In the long-term the watercress is not desirable and where possible shade trees such as kowhai will be planted. The restoration planting plan should be up-graded and residents should have input. Dense vegetation cover is not recommended and access ways (creating windows) should be advocated. There is general support for medium level planting on the true right of the creek from Hill Street to Welsh Place but this needs to be discussed with TDC engineering and local residents.
- It would be advantageous for the local residents if there was a big story about Zone 5 and related issues in Newsline or another local newspaper.

B) Templemore Area

- There is a new approved subdivision on the true right of Reservoir Creek and a tributary. The plan shows a walkway extension but no bridge over the creek. KRB have volunteered to build this walkway bridge. The owner of Stillwater Gardens asked to be advised in advance of any watercress removal and was supportive of the concept.

C) Forestry Issues

- The report tabled by Te Ngahere is an assessment of the native vegetation values along Reservoir Creek above the Reservoir. It is not a management or planting plan. The report identifies the significance of this area in respect to the Tawa and this has relevance to the RMA when the pine forestry is removed. It was noted that both sediment control and access roads are issues for the protection of Reservoir Creek. Foresters are generally good at felling the trees. Ngati Kuia is interested in obtaining Heritage Tree status in the District Plan for the large totara and matai which are located near the pine milling area.

D) Easby Park Area

- Low stream flows are an issue in this area. Residents are concerned about changes in water flow following the removal of pine forest and the Reservoir. There is a general consensus that newly created wetlands would be beneficial both as a source of water re-charge and as a visual amenity similar to Isle Park or Wai-iti Domain. However this concept would require full public consultation especially with residents around the Easby Park area.
- Ngati Kuia would like to have another harakeke clean-up field day at Keith's Walkway on a Saturday in early February.

E) Engineering Issues

- Project partners and some residents are concerned about in-stream activities carried out by TDC Engineering that can be at odds with the aims and objectives of other TDC work such as riparian planting. There is confusion about who is doing the work (Sicon or MWH) for who in TDC and where and why this work is being carried out. Some progress has been made but Jeremy will have further discussions with engineering and advise at the next public forum.

F) Miscellaneous

- Mel reported the possible identification of a giant kokopu above the Reservoir and this needs to be investigated prior to the Enterprise meeting on the 30th. Tom will action this with assistance from Fish and Game New Zealand.
- At least two of the Waimaori Streamcare stations will need to be evaluated over the school holiday period. Mel and Tom to action.
- Paul would like to see his environmental design students from Waimea College involved with the project again during terms 2 and 3.
- Residents have requested further advice about the correct planting for the stream edge along their property boundaries in those areas where Esplanade Reserve has not been laid off. Steve Richards (TDC) to action.
- Mel has advocated for a riparian management plan that carries out the good work started after the SMF project comes to completion. This would involve Streamcare, iwi, KRB, and the 5 dedicated schools now working the creek.

The meeting closed at 1445 hours.