

MINUTES

Title Reservoir Creek: Enhancement of an Urban Taonga
Public Forum

Date 13-5-08

Time 12:30 pm

Venue Heaphy Room
Tasman District Council (TDC)
189 Queen Street Richmond

Present

Jeremy Butler former Environmental Education Officer (TDC), Tom Kroos Project Coordinator (TDC), Melanie McColgan Waimaori Streamcare and Tiakina, Steve Richards (TDC), David Burt Keep Richmond Beautiful, David Stephenson Engineering (TDC), James Tomkinson (MWH), Residents: Brenda Page, Doreen Lemon, Tom Nimo, Joan Inwood, Tim Raywood, JP McCartin and others.

Apologies

Ann Sheridan Tiakina, Caroline Shirliffe Salisbury School, Martin Rutledge (DoC), Richard Kempthorn Mayor (TDC), Helen Campbell Forest and Bird, Trevor James TDC , Rob Smith TDC, Shirley Marshall resident

1. Introduction

Tom Kroos welcomed those present and tendered a list of apologies.

2. 2008 Planting

Steve Richards updated the meeting on the Arbour Day planting schedule that includes 700 plants for Easby Park. There was concern expressed about on-going maintenance and weed control following planting. It was agreed that planting was occurring faster than proper consideration for long-term management of the sites.

In a case of point Tom Kroos described events at Welsh Place where a private contractor working on instructions from TDC engineering mowed through some of the plantings from Arbour Day 2007. Hopefully lessons have been learned from this episode. 300 additional plants have now been ordered to replace those that were lost. It was also recognised that the grass clippings should not be deposited in the creek.

In response to a question about planting larger trees Steve replied that both engineers and neighbours would need to approve. Tom added that engineering already favoured tree planting on the true left at the bottom of Alexandra Walkway.

3. Widening of Reservoir Creek

James Tomkinson reported that the original resource consent to widen the creek along Stillwater Gardens was modified with less emphasis on rock armouring. The channel is narrow with high

velocities and some rock will still be required. The channel will be left intact with large tree planting on the true left bank. The Resource Consent is in the draft stage and a call for tenders has been actioned. There will also be letter drops to neighbours. While engineers require an open channel every attempt has been made to provide for a public amenity and to minimise temperature impact. Prior to construction clean water will be diverted around the site after fish salvage operations. The final design will include small low flow meanders and four rock pools. The existing footpath will be realigned 30-40m.

In response to a question relating to increased flows after forest milling in the upper catchment James replied that hydrological considerations have been fully assessed.

James advised that they had started on a planting plan with species identified for each zone. Tom Nimo director of Stillwater Gardens advised that they had their own planting to do and would like to work together with the project.

4. Reservoir

David Stephenson reported that the Reservoir drawdown commenced five weeks ago but had filled-up following a large rainfall event. Most of the leakage has been identified near the top on the left hand side, not underneath the structure.

The drawdown take is near to the surface in an attempt to reduce sediment and to discharge clean water only. Drawdown is expected to take another month and in the short term the Reservoir will likely be managed at a level lower than full.

Long term the water level could be reduced 2m with a new spillway to maintain this level or the dam could be used as a flood storage facility.

Tom suggested that the Reservoir should be used as a flood storage facility throughout the milling contract period in the spring. A TDC meeting will take place soon to discuss this issue.

5. Milling

Tom reported that the creek has been running dirty for five weeks as a result of roading in the upper catchment. All stream monitoring with the schools had to be cancelled as a result of unsatisfactory water quality conditions. He asked if the milling contractors were in breach of their Resource Consent. Jeremy explained that milling under the TDC Plan was a permitted activity but there was a condition that relates to the amount of sediment that can be released into waterway. TDC compliance was investigating the issue.

One of the contributing factors is that the upper catchment is composed of Moutere gravels with a fine silty loam. When disturbed the fine particulate moves rapidly and is transported rather than settles. A large rainfall event when the roading was underway exacerbated the amount of runoff.

Tom was disappointed that the sediment release resulting in poor water quality occurred given that the TDC Enterprise Committee were advised in January as to the significance of the upper catchment and representatives of the milling contractor were present at that meeting.

These events generated a lot of comments from the public and project partners. The question was raised about the lack of any consultation with the public and how this can be achieved when the District Plan says the activity does not require resource consent. The area is very special and is

the backdrop for Richmond. This is why the land was purchased in the first place. There should be a long term plan for this area with public consultation.

A forester and member of the public stated that the access road should not have been located where it is. The logs should have been pulled up and out and transported by way of the Aniseed Valley. The milling contractor has misled TDC with a hasty poorly planned operation. This could have been avoided with public consultation.

The forum agreed that there should be no side casting of material and that the water table should run around the hill rather than into the creek. There also appears to be a case for TDC compliance action. Tom was asked to write to the TDC Enterprise Committee and identify the following points:

- PF Olsen has not been professional to date and the major milling has yet to commence.
- The Richmond Community want the milling to be done properly and PF Olsen should be held accountable.
- The area is a special location serving as the backdrop for Richmond.
- The riparian edge has been identified as significant and should be protected.
- TDC compliance staff should monitor the milling activities on-site.
- The community wants to have a say as to how this area will be managed in the long-term.

It was also suggested that the newspaper be contacted to alert the public.

6. Estuary

Steve and Tom reported that a meeting had been held on-site with Nelson City Council staff at the Reservoir Creek Estuary. NCC is keen to work with the Reservoir Creek project and have committed financial resources for immediate weed control and planting. They have also proposed a long-term action in working in with TDC to address ownership issues and development of the Coastal Walkway. Steve, Tom and Trevor James will meet next week to develop the planting/weed control further.

Mel asked if there was any opportunity to bring in community groups to assist with the planting and Steve stated there was.

7. Walkway above Reservoir

Tom reported that TDC Parks and Reserves have cancelled the NMIT DOC Rangers students track development that was to commence 12 May. The reasons given included;

- Issue around getting into the site with existing under foot conditions
- The amount of work, or lack of, to be carried out and the nature of such work
- The change in work, no building work such as bridges and platforms without resource consent or engineering specification
- Graveling work and distance to transfer such. TDC believe gravel within this walkway is a waste of funds.
- Issues relating to future maintenance of the walkway.

Following further discussion with Parks and Reserves they are still keen to see some track work develop. Both Tim and John offered their forestry and engineering backgrounds respectively to assist in getting the walkway development underway. An on-site inspection has been confirmed for Monday 19 May.

8. Keep Richmond Beautiful

David Burt advised that their community group carried out plantings below Hill Street and below the Aquatic Centre. This involved 8-10 people at each site and 625 plants. The next area to be planted is at Keith's Walkway.

KRB have concerns about the ground maintenance at planting sites and believe that the zone destroyed at Welsh Place would not have occurred had stones or bark been used around the plants.

KRB have offered to maintain the planting sites under the direction of Parks and Reserves.

9. Signage

Steve and Tom were able to confirm that the panels would be in place by the end of the week. All of the frames and posts had been put into the ground earlier in the day.

10. CHI

Tom reported that the autumn CHI was conducted on 22 April involving 5 iwi representatives and the educational director from the Brook Sanctuary. The final CHI will be held in June. Iwi were disappointed that TDC engineers have not prevented cattle access to their monitoring site below the Reservoir despite assurances that they would correct the problem (see minutes 11 March 2008).

11. Harakeke Day

Chris Hemi and iwi from Ngati Kuia put on a Harakeke clean-up day at Easby Park. Mel attended with the stream monitoring equipment but sadly public turnout was not good. It was agreed that the next Harakeke Day would be at Templemore Pond with a mailbox drop to local neighbours and the nursing home at Stillwater gardens.

12. Richmond East Green Link

Tom told the forum that TDC was still interested in a green link development from Easby Park to Hill Street following Angelus Avenue. A meeting will be held later in the month to consider the merits of both a walkway and day lighting a reach of Reservoir Creek that is at present underground in pipes. This will require the support of neighbours many of whom have already expressed an interest.

13. Waimaori Streamcare

Mel McColgan reported that the creek has been too discoloured to conduct any Streamcare monitoring sessions in the past 6 weeks. A new station above Hill Street was monitored on 8 April.

14. Jeremy Butler

Jeremy advised the forum that he has taken another position with TDC. Tom thanked Jeremy for his hard work and support.

The meeting closed at 1445 hours.