

MINUTES

Title	Reservoir Creek: Enhancement of an Urban Taonga Public Forum
Date	11 September 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), Trevor James Resource Scientist (TDC), Beryl Wilkes Parks and Reserves Manager (TDC), Rob Smith Environmental Information Manager (TDC), Melanie McColgan Waimaori Streamcare and Tiakina, Ray Henman Keep Richmond Beautiful, Brenda Paige Resident.

Apologies

Ann Sheridan Tiakina, Chris Hemi Ngati Kuia, Caroline Shirtliffe Salisbury School, Paul Daubney Waimea College, Martin Rutledge DoC, Roger Young Cawthron Institute, Steve Richards TDC, David Bert Keep Richmond Beautiful, Alan Hart Resident, Doreen Lemon Resident, Mrs Ellis Resident.

1. Introduction

Tom Kroos welcomed those present. Following a round table of introductions Tom provided a list of apologies. Jeremy Butler introduced himself as Council's Environmental Officer replacing Claire Webster and was excited about the opportunity to work with the community and Reservoir Creek.

2. Stage 1

Tom reported on unfinished business from the first year of Reservoir Creek restoration project. The sign panels for two sites at the ASB Aquatic Centre and Templemore Drive have been completed and Easby Park was in the final stages. It was recently understood that sign placement requires Resource Consent because of their large size and Jeremy has started this process. Beryl pointed out that the first sign should be identified as "Richmond Pool Site" as the name ASB Aquatic Centre was available on contract for a limited amount of time. Jeremy will take this up with Dry Crust.

The final report and future report draft has now been made available to all TDC staff involved in the project and it is hoped that there will only be some minor revisions made.

3. Stage 2

Tom reported that the final contract has now been signed and work on stage 2 will target Reservoir Creek from Hill Street upstream to the source. However the Welsh Place monitoring site would still be used by Henley School and Waimaori Streamcare and as a CHI station. This is one area where baseline information has been collected and provides a way to monitor changes made to the Creek above Hill Street. The new project can best be considered tasks:

a. walkways

A long-term goal for Reservoir Creek is the provision of a public walkway from the Waimea Estuary to the river source above Richmond. A walkway to link Hill Street to Easby Park was being considered and Jeremy pointed this area out on a map. The concept has additional merit as it may be possible to daylight Reservoir Creek and divert it out of stormwater pipes into an ephemeral tributary. This would involve discussion with private landowners and TDC especially engineering. Beryl then reported on another walkway concept to the east of the previous proposal that would also link to Easby Park/Dellside Reserve and discussions were currently underway with the landowner. The meeting agreed that both walkway concepts could dovetail together providing a walkway loop.

Another area for public access was an existing track on private land from Keiths Walkway to the Reservoir. Ray reported that the landowner was happy for pedestrian access and Keep Richmond Beautiful had erected styles and signage along this walkway. Tom questioned if a long-term agreement should be formalised for public access. A number of options were discussed.

The final walkway link to the source of Reservoir Creek is largely unformed and has been maintained by Alan Hart who has removed a considerable amount of noxious weeds in addition to track marking and upkeep. Tom advised that the NMIT Rangers course instructor was keen to have his students work on this section of walkway in April-May 2008. The starting point was to have TDC Parks and Reserves staff together with Alan and NMIT representatives discuss this in further detail on site. Tom will liaise with these parties and arrange the inspection.

b. forest milling

The pine forest surrounding the Reservoir Creek catchment is scheduled for milling in 2008. One of the stage 2 objectives is to protect the native riparian edge along Reservoir Creek. Beryl reported that resource consent was underway for this activity and road lining work is envisaged for January-February 2008. Trevor suggested that a fish survey may be required to determine fish passage requirements where the road would cross Reservoir Creek. Actual milling could commence in October 2008 and continue for 5-6 months.

c. Reservoir

TDC engineering will be decommissioning the existing Reservoir. Jeremy Butler reported that this decision is based on two reports that say the dam is not safe. From 1890 four layers have been added to the dam wall and some of the construction material was not compacted. There are now major leaks occurring. The Reservoir could be lowered 2-3 meters or taken out all together. Tom reported the concern expressed to him by three local residents in the past 24 hours that the Reservoir was a very important Richmond landmark and they felt that a consultation process with TDC and the community was necessary. Some project partners also agreed that there were both biodiversity and amenity values that should be considered and all avenues to satisfy both

engineering and community requirements should be investigated. There was also some initial consideration for wetland retention areas below the Reservoir but it now appears this is not feasible on the Hislop property. Tom and Trevor suggested that Easby Park could be a suitable location for wetland retention areas. Beryl noted that local residents would need to be consulted about this. Also there was no room at the existing playground area to construct wetlands or daylight the creek. Jeremy said that further discussions with engineering and consents were necessary and he would report back to the next public forum.

4. Waimaori Streamcare

Mel reported that four monitoring sites had been identified and field work had already started on two sites (Easby Park and Welsh Place). Three schools have confirmed participation that includes Henley Primary, Salisbury School and Waimea Intermediate. One more school or group is required for the site above the Reservoir.

5. CHI

Four sites have been identified and the spring assessment will be in October or November.

6. General Business

The following issues were raised and discussed:

- Willow tree and regrowth in Reservoir Creek at the swimming pool site, TDC to investigate further removal during summer low flow.
- Iwi would like to see a more culturally sensitive way to manage weeds and grass rather than the use of spraying chemicals close to the creek. Tom suggested that schools in their respective adopt a reach areas may wish to take some responsibility for weed control. Beryl identified the need to spray where native carex was to be planted.
- Tree planting. While shade value can be provided many residents do not want their views taken away. There are opportunities for strategic plantings of trees.
- Watercress management. These plants can be beneficial or an aquatic nuisance. Long-term plantings and shade is the best treatment but in the short term plants will need to be thinned.
- Temperature monitoring and the possibility of creating 3 stations at Welsh Place with the 3 separate classes.
- Trevor suggested the use of the stream code of conduct that was in use in some of the Nelson City Council streams.
- Rocks on the bed of the creek at the Salisbury road underpass.

The meeting closed at 1420 hours.