

**15. WATERWAYS AND WETLANDS – NATURAL ASSET MANAGEMENT  
STRATEGY – BOARD SEMINAR – REPORT OF 15 JULY 1999**

RR 10380

<b>Officer responsible</b> Community Advocate	<b>Author</b> Peter Dow
Corporate Plan Output: Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board Vol 1, 3.1 text 7	

The purpose of this report is to set out the matters raised at the Board Seminar conducted on 15 July for further action and/or decision making.

The meeting report **follows**.

**Report of a Board Seminar held on Thursday 15 July 1999  
at 4.00 pm in the Board Room, Fendalton Service Centre**

**PRESENT:** Keith Nuttall (Chairman), Sally Buck, Val Carter,  
Pat Harrow, Barbara Stewart, Mike Wall

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Diana Bradley, Yiyi Ku and Ron Wright.

**2. WATERWAYS AND WETLANDS – NATURAL ASSET MANAGEMENT  
STRATEGY**

The purpose of this Board seminar was to enable officers from the Water Services Unit to brief members on an alternative values based approach to the management of the natural component of Christchurch's land drainage system. In its conceptual form the strategy provided for the sustainable management of waterways and wetlands by a planned investment in protection, restoration and maintenance over a 40 year period.

Work was now underway to progress the strategy to the stage where specific projects were being identified for inclusion in the Council's 10 year capital expenditure programme. To achieve this Christchurch had been divided into 14 project areas defined by topography, nature of the system and land use.

At this stage of the strategy development, Community Boards were being invited to provide feedback on the project area plans for their areas as a prelude to the presentation of the completed strategy to the Parks and Recreation Committee in September.

The project area relevant to Fendalton/Waimairi was the Avon tributaries above Mona Vale and the headwaters of Dudley Creek beyond Greers Road.

Arising from the officers' presentation, the following issues were raised as being worthy of feedback from the Board.

- Spring numbers – are they decreasing? Short term results though taken from measuring flows at Mona Vale did not appear to show any losses in water volume.
- The Christchurch City Council needs to continue to work closely with the Canterbury Regional Council to ensure that the work required to be done was undertaken.
- Key stakeholders – ongoing consultation and liaison was crucial.
- Consultation to date on water enhancement initiatives needed to be improved as the end results so far had not been good.
- Plantings (including a mixture of indigenous and exotics) needed to be decided in full and open consultation with the people in the areas affected.
- The areas along the Avon River (eg Park Terrace) where the willows had been removed were a visual eye-sore and needed enhancement in relation to replacement plantings of appropriate scale and character.
- There were seven (not six) values determined by the Council – the seventh being safety, and also clean water should be added as an eighth value.
- There needed to be ownership of projects, (eg by schools in order to lessen vandalism). Should this become the norm?
- Use of fencing as a technique leading to more visibility and hence more safety.
- 40 year timeframe – maybe it needs to be longer given other budget priorities.
- Does this initiative have funding priority compared with say heritage buildings?
- Waterway environments within subdivision scenarios need further consideration, ie in dealing with developers what are the contribution possibilities?
- Duck over-population and resulting pollution problems. Designing habitat to discourage an increase in Mallard duck numbers was important. Can the City's waterway environs support the reported large increases in wildlife numbers?
- Christchurch could become the nursery for other areas with lower wildlife numbers.
- Education for access to wildlife in private property areas.

The following matters were highlighted as being of priority to the Board:

- The prioritising of projects should be based on public areas that were visible, accessible and utilised.
- Consultation must to be inclusive and cater for all sectors of the community.
- Plant choice must be provided.
- There needed to be a balance between private and public areas as budget provision allowed.
- Keep children in mind eg Erica Park.
- The proposed 40 plus year programme was a good concept.
- The loss of the urban forest needed to be countered through the provision of the planting of substantial numbers of trees in public areas of appropriate height and scale utilising also non-local indigenous species.
- Floodplain management needed to be integrated as part of this strategy development ie it should not be in conflict with it.
- The draft strategy should be viewed by Boards before public consultation occurs.

Officers and other support people were thanked for their attendance and contributions to the seminar.

The seminar concluded at 5.40 pm.

- Recommendations:**
1. That the report be received.
  2. That the issues and priorities identified be submitted as the Board's response to the strategy.

**Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the foregoing recommendations be adopted.