

CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL

NOTES OF A SEMINAR OF THE COUNCIL

Held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices
on Tuesday 12 June 2007 at 1.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Bob Shearing (Chair),
Councillors Sally Buck, Helen Broughton,
Graham Condon, Barry Corbett (from 1.45 pm),
Carole Evans, Bob Parker (from 1.50 pm), Sue Wells, and
Norm Withers.

IN ATTENDANCE: Community Board members: Dr Neville Bennett,
Glenda Burt, and Don Rowlands
Council Officers: Rachel Barker, Paul Dickson,
Graham Harrington, Richard Holland, Terry Howes,
Shelley McMurtrie, Steve McNeill, and Jenny Ridgen.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received and accepted by
Councillors David Cox, Anna Crighton, Pat Harrow, and
Gail Sheriff.

An apology for lateness was received and accepted from
Councillor Barry Corbett.

1. SURFACE WATER

(I) INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTCHURCH'S SURFACE WATER ISSUES

Richard Holland and Paul Dickson spoke to a power point presentation (Copy on file – No. 1).

Questions raised during the presentation included:

- How useful is this information if not monitored during storm/flood and summer/winter conditions?
- Automatic monitoring system: how soon can budget provision be made and for how much to provide the council with a “state of the art” monitoring system?
- ECan monitor as well – is this not their job? Doubling up? Why are both councils undertaking monitoring?

ACTION

II) CREAS (CHRISTCHURCH RIVER ENVIRONMENT ASSESSMENT SYSTEM)

Rachel Barker and Shelley McMurtrie spoke to a power point presentation. (The summary commences on Page 10 of the hard copy No 1. on file).

- What contributes to the level of silt on stream beds?
- Haytons Drain and Milns Drain – why such low ratings? What is the difference between semi- and urban ratings and relationships?
- Travis Wetland – has the water flow from the expressway into the Avon River been quality monitored?
- Is runoff quality from industrial and urban developments being monitored?
- Monitoring of stormwater and provision of detention basins – is this a council responsibility, or that of the developer?
- Kapatone and silt build up – has this been surveyed and information collected? Has the council made budget provision for work in this area?
- Why focus on the Styx River upper reaches only?
- Where have all the trout gone?
- Why is the best score for Christchurch rivers only “fair”?
- Timeframes –after 12 years of observing some of the streams appear to be getting worse.
- Styx Reserve? Where does it all sit – when are we going to start making a difference?

(III) ROADS AND BERMS

A power point presentation from Steve McNeill covered the environmental legacy of coal tar road surfaces in Christchurch on road side soils and stream sediments. Hard copy on file No. 2.

Cr Parker retired from the seminar at 2.40 pm.

- What is the effect from the current materials used on the quality of run-off, and is this monitored?
- How many kilometres of grass shoulders remain in Christchurch?
- Is there a programme in place to get rid of the grass verges?
- Look at what the council can do on older roads for environmental reasons – increase road sweeping as a short term measure? What benefits – staff to provide information.
- Effect of run off from car washing on streets into storm water drains raised.
- At what PAH levels do health issues start to arise? What happens to springtails at 45 ppm? Leachate in Christchurch context – does this stuff leach? Proposal to accelerate the council’s road programme was raised i.e cited Grange St with grass berms and run-off draining into the river, which is not currently “on the radar” for replacement. Are there other things which could be done on the berm to “soak the stuff up”?
- Trade-off between progressing this work and silt traps? Request for staff to report with options on these environmental issues.

ACTION

Terry

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<p>(IV) WATER QUALITY STATUS</p> <p>Due to time constraints this topic was deferred until a future seminar.</p>	Richard Holland
<p>(V) THE DISAPPEARING AVON</p> <p>Graham Harrington spoke to a power point presentation. (Hard copy on file - No 3.) This was followed by a video compiled by Richard English which made the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Avon river is sourced from the Waimakariri emerging as springs at headwaters of the Avon.• 85% base flow of Avon river comes from aquifers: also source of Christchurch drinking water.• 2005-06 the headwaters of Avon River dried up. Had been preceded by gradual decline by 50% over previous 15 years.• Some artificial sources, e.g. from building sites or swimming pool heating systems described.• Urbanisation in vicinity of Avon springs not the cause of problems being experienced.• Graph described Groundwater Abstractions, (Industry, Public and Irrigation) and frame graph “Private Irrigation”.• Rapid increase in abstraction rates main cause of Avon problems. Could disappear within 40-50 yrs from the Central Business District. <p>Proposed way forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moratorium on further abstractions, and introduce a charging regime for water use.• Modify RMA to: account for cumulative effects, precautionary approach, and use less adversarial systems.• The CCC needs to work in conjunction with ECan to restrict obstructions to overall benefit to the wider community.• CCC should be “guardian of the river”. <p>Subsequent questions and comments from elected members included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• North Sydney pioneering work in conservation cited – minimum flows required to sustain ecosystem. Australian legislation much stricter. Is NZ far behind with advocating for changes in legislation? Extraction regulations – learn from Australian experience and source data?• Seek central government assistance to bring in urgent restrictions – rather than rely on the RMA. ECan has tried and failed – has been challenged in courts. If situation as dire as claimed need to lobby central government for urgent controls.• Is there a CCC hydrologist employed to evaluate the material contained in the video? Or a hydro-geologist? If not, should there be?• Request to place the water recharge model before the council in relation to the water levels in the Avon and Heathcote rivers.	

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(VI) CONSERVATION COVENANTS	
Due to time constraints, this topic was deferred until a future seminar.	Eric Banks
(VII) CONCLUSION	
Due to time constraints, this topic was deferred until a future seminar.	Richard Holland
OUTCOME:	
The information was received. Council officers were asked to take into account the matters raised during the seminar and provide the additional information as sought by elected members.	Richard Holland and t
The seminar concluded at 3.40 pm.	