

Minutes of Meeting

Final

Secretary email:
aldshanks@gmail.com

**Meola Stream Community Liaison
Group**

Date of Meeting: 27 March 2019

Meeting Number 10

Attendees:

Name

Affiliation/Interest

Alistair Shanks	Facilitator/Secretary
Brent Evans	Watercare
Alice Hausia	Watercare
Nick Vigar	Healthy Waters
Chris Severne	Bluegreens
Sean Kisby	Mt Albert Residents Association
Hayley Dauben	Auckland Council - Parks
Elizabeth Walker	STEPS
Sel Arbuckle	STEPS
Pat Prescott	STEPS
Neil Bryne	STEPS
Graeme Easte	Albert Eden Local Board
Shannon Hunter	Plant and Food
Rudi Gabor	Hobanz

Apologies:

Bernice Chiam	Watercare
Stephen Grace	Watercare
Peter Brice	MAGS
Gillian Dance	STEPS
Andrew MacKintosh	STEPS
Margi Watson	Albert Eden Local Board
Wendy John	Friends of Oakley Creek

Venue: Garlic Room, Mt Albert YMCA

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
1.	Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 November 2018	
	These were approved as correct subject to removal of Wendy John as being at the meeting. This was moved by Liz Walker and seconded by Chris Severne	
2.	Action Items from the Minutes	
	From Meeting Number 4 Retention of top soil - this is to be left as an ongoing item.	
	From Meeting Number 5: - Mana whenua consultation - this is ongoing through the Kaitiaki Forum and personal contact by Watercare.	

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
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- Kura Kaupapa are being engaged with and planting and other matters have been discussed with them. The action can be closed off under the assumption that Kura Kaupapa will continue to be included in ongoing consultation by Watercare.

From Meeting 8

- Control room on an elevated site at the RC Treeway. This is ongoing.

From Meeting 9

- Roy Clements Treeway Management Plan. This can be closed off as the comments were received and the plan submitted to Council. Comments from Council have been responded to and the plan resubmitted for Council approval by 31 Dec 2018, the due date. The final plan is to be sent out with the minutes.

Other plans have yet to be prepared and brought to the group for their comment. These will include Open Space and Reinstatement Plans.

- Lyon Ave Structure. This is the same item as from Meeting 8 which is ongoing so this item can be deleted as it is covered under the Meeting 8 item.

3. **Watercare Update**

Project Update

It was reported that the Watercare has appointed a contractor, Ghella Abergeldie joint venture. The joint venture brings together years of international tunnelling and construction experience.

Two flyers were tabled, one on the Central Interceptor and the other Tapped In, a Watercare quarterly newsletter, dated Autumn 2019.

The Central Interceptor will provide opportunities for other wastewater project works to happen. The Western Isthmus water quality improvement programme will help reduce stormwater flows into the sewers and among a range of initiatives involves some sewer separation works.

A presentation was given on the Central Interceptor by Brent Evans. This showed a plan of where the Central Interceptor is to go. An extra two kilometers of tunnel extension is planned from Western Springs to Grey Lynn. The consenting process for this tunnel is underway.

Jacobs Consultants are engaged to assist Watercare and the contractor with technical design for the Central Interceptor. Beca will be involved in providing the project stakeholder liaison services for the contractor.

NO.**ITEM****ACTION**

Construction is to begin later this year. Work will start at the Mangere end within the WWTP site. The pump station and shaft for the tunnel boring machine are to be built there. Another shaft for tunnelling will be built at Mays Road. The boring machine will start in late 2020 at Mangere. Completion is expected in 2025.

The pump station at Mangere will control storage in the tunnel and the flows into the treatment plant. It is considered that along with the Western Isthmus programme an 80% reduction in overflow volumes will be achieved. Other works will direct overflows into the tunnel. The Grey Lynn tunnel will divert flows from the Orakei Main sewer which should help free up more capacity for growth in the city. Some of the flows from the North West will also be diverted to the Rosedale WWTP via the northern interceptor which is currently being constructed.

The treatment plants remove metals, oils and grease which become part of the solids treatment process. The by-products of the solids treatment are biogas, and biosolids which make good slow release fertiliser. The biogas is used for energy at Mangere and Rosedale.

The spoil extracted at Mangere is to be used for the operation and rehabilitation on Puketutu Island. This will replace the need for imported fill that is currently being taken to Puketutu Island.

Watercare is aiming to be sustainable with the Central Interceptor project. This includes:

- reducing the energy used in construction
- reducing the carbon content of the materials used
- reducing the amount of materials required
- measuring the sustainability using the Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia (ISCA) rating tool.

Watercare is aiming to be a good neighbour for the construction works and is committed to:

- taking information to the community
- attending local community events
- working with interested parties in the community
- providing regular community newsletters. This will be received by signing up online.
- working together with local communities to plant trees, control pests and improve habitats. This will include fencing and riparian planting.

It was noted that the tributary in MAGs is not in good condition. Some of it is piped. Peter Brice has been working with other schools as well on environmental initiatives. The school runs a rural experience centre and provides good opportunities for environmental education.

NO.**ITEM****ACTION**

A short video on the Central Interceptor was played. The link to this is to be added to the minutes. It is www.centralinterceptor.co.nz

The contractor is to be invited to the next meeting.

The group showed an interest in wider stream improvement initiatives. It was thought that the eel grass grows in Meola Stream because of the high nitrogen loads from the combined sewer overflows.

The group were reminded that the Central Interceptor will help but not solve Auckland's overflow problems. Sewer separation, smoke testing for cross connections and broken pipes, infiltration and inflow reduction, and education on what to put down the sewers is also required. Everyone needs to help, as over half of the sewer network is privately owned.

4. Update by Healthy Waters

Nick Vigar from Healthy Waters was welcomed to the group. Nick is responsible for the Healthy Waters work programme related to the Central Interceptor and the Western Isthmus programme.

The Central Interceptor is the enabling work for much of the Western Isthmus programme. It is planned in a ten year period to reduce the 100 overflows to 10 overflows and the frequency of overflows to just six times per year. Reduction to six overflows per year will result in significant improvement in water quality compared to the current situation.

Works will involve separation and upsizing of pipes going to the Central Interceptor. Anin Nama from Watercare and Nick from Healthy Waters are working together on this project. A Western Isthmus CLG has also been organised which includes the St Marys Bay people. There is currently debate over whether the St Marys Bay tunnel is required.

In the Waterview catchment there is to be full sewer separation. In the Herne Bay/St Marys Bay catchment there are 13,550 properties with combined sewers. The plan is to separate 1800 of them, about 15% of the total. This will be taking the "low hanging fruit" at a cost of about \$50k per property. Areas further from the coast will need extra infrastructure which will raise the cost. As Housing NZ developments are constructed, this creates an opportunity to separate at these locations.

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
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The effects of flooding on tree planting and tree planting on flooding was discussed.

5. STEPS Update

STEPS provided an update – see Appendix. A summary follows:

1) Community engagement about the development of the integrated plan for restoration of Meola Creek / Motions Creek was discussed with Healthy Waters and AELB in August 2017. The community are still waiting for engagement on this plan.

2) Roy Clements Treeway Enhancement Plan. It was hoped that the final plan would be tabled at the meeting. It is to be sent out with the minutes.

Work indicated in this plan is to commence in July 2019.

3) There is concern over the visual appearance of the proposed control room structure at Lyon Avenue in the Roy Clements Treeway. It was considered that the community expectations have not been worked through and that they were not being listened to. A response is sought.

4) Monthly Working Bees and STEPS Plantings 2019. These have been ongoing.

5) Meola Creek flows. Concern was expressed over the effects of reduced flows in the creek after the Central Interceptor is constructed. STEPS would like to see a project to focus on the stream as such, and not it just being considered as a receiving environment. STEPS are ready to meet with people on site for further discussion.

Discussion:

It was thought that there needs to be a programme of actions and monitoring that can be developed and fed back into the various management plans. The challenge is to improve urban streams towards the quality of natural streams. To do this everyone must work together.

6. Other Matters

Norgrove Area

Neil Bryne, a new STEPS member, explained how he grew up close to this area and has always valued it as a natural area. Neil understands Watercare plans a building structure (a control room) in this area, and questioned why it was necessary. He considered it would be an eyesore.

It was noted that the issue of control room location at Norgrove is exactly the same issue as that raised for Roy Clements Treeway. It was also noted that these placements were not part of the 2012 CI

NO.**ITEM****ACTION**

resource consent process. Engineering tolerances had not been presented and were requested.

There was opinion expressed that its location was preempting the Open Space and Restoration Plan that has yet to be prepared.

The locations of the structures have been through the resource consent and landowner approval process and their detailed appearance is to be considered further by Auckland Council Arts and Culture as part of the Auckland Council Regional Public Arts Programme. This process also involves consultation. Artwork on the buildings may be considered appropriate by the Council landowners but it is acknowledged that the outcome may not be liked by local residents.

Above ground structures are needed for maintenance, operation and for health and safety reasons.

Engineering personnel from Watercare are to be invited to the next meeting to discuss the rationale for this structure and its location and to discuss if other options are available such as relocation or appropriate mitigation measures.

Chamberlain Park

Graeme Easte gave an update on the park. At the last board meeting the park decided to withdraw the current resource consent application and reapply with a more comprehensive consent application to include work that will be done by Healthy Waters in Meola Creek. It will take six months to get the plan updated and the plan will be approved next year. Construction is anticipated in 2020-2021.

The golf course will be reduced from 18 to 9 holes and the excess land restored to parkland. The question is what kind of ecological improvement should be undertaken. The Chamberlain Park site was 33 hectares in total. It is proposed to repurpose 3.9 hectares west of the creek, leaving 9 holes for the golf course. The area then will be 60% golf, 40% public park.

Discussion:

STEPS was weeding the rock forest fringe by Meola Creek in Chamberlain Park. AELB halted community weeding activity during the court case, and has not rescinded their request. This delay is holding up creek and rock forest restoration in the area.

How the Chamberlain Park changes could affect the Watercare programme needs to be considered. Brent is to liaise with Kris Bird

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
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at Council who is the Project Manager for these plans.

7. Next Meeting

This will be held at 6pm on Wednesday 12 June 2019.

Link to Meola Stream CLG Minutes and Agenda

https://www.watercare.co.nz/about-watercare/Projects%20around%20Auckland/Central_Interceptor/Pages/Central-Interceptor.aspx

APPENDIX:

STEPS UPDATE – MEOLA FORUM 27 March 2019

1. Te Tātua-a-Riukiuta Aquifer and the Waititiko - Waiateao Creeks Management Plan:

In August 2017 STEPS presented a concept to Albert Eden LB, Waitemata LB and Puketepapa LB for an integrated plan for restoration of Meola Creek / Motions Creek including Chamberlain Park and all the Central Interceptor sites. Healthy Waters is co-ordinating progression of this. We were pleased all three local boards funded it after Long Term Plan Consultation. We understand all 3 boards met and decided to monitor water in the aquifer. We were also informed that all opportunities were what Healthy Waters term “Lower Meola” but nothing has been produced to date. It also appears the community will not be consulted or engaged. We await progress from Healthy Waters. No change since Q4 2018. We await progress and advice from Healthy Waters.

2. Central Interceptor and Meola

- “Roy Clements Treeway Enhancement Plan”

STEPS carried out three walks of restored areas, and through the riparian rock forest with five Watercare people. We received the draft plan on 26 November and will provide comments. We look forward to the plan’s approval this year by AELB and Auckland Council. We met with Watercare and Kura Kaupapa o nga Maungarongo in December. We await Watercare’s tabling of the plan of work to be carried out from Jan 2019 onwards.

- Lyon Avenue CI Design

*STEPS’ understanding and expectations were not met when we discovered very late that this is the only CI site which is **not** underground. Instead will be 2-3 meters high where it bulges 7 m across the Roy Clements Treeway, breaking the continuity of the forest remnant. In addition an unexpected control room has been placed on top abutting and further shading the treeway. STEPS has spoken with Morningstar Apartments and has written to Watercare to request that it be moved back a few meters so it is not visible from nor shading the RC Treeway. Sketches of the design in 2013 and 2018 show the differences.*

No change since Q4 2018. We await confirmation of changes from Watercare as requested.



Lyon Avenue 2018 Plan showing 3 m high wall plus 2-3 m high control room to north.

Lyon Avenue 2013 plan – shows Central Interceptor entirely underground.



3. Monthly Working Bees and STEPS Plantings 2019:

We have held volunteer weeding days at Roy Clements Treeway and at Kanuka Ave Pt Chev (access behind MOTAT). Healthy Waters has promised professional contractors to remove noxious weeds. We are awaiting advice of next steps from Healthy Waters.

Planting will start in May 2019 for Roy Clements Treeway with Albert Eden Local Board and Parks Department. Thanks to volunteers, AELB, Healthy Waters and AC Parks.

4. Meola Creek flows

Meola Creek flows are low, especially in summer. We would like to discuss the flow regime in more detail with Watercare and Healthy Waters, as we are concerned that if all flood waters are removed into the interceptor then the creek flows may be lower and there will be no cleaning and flushing to maintain the health of the creek. We request advice on monitoring and modelling the creek to ensure the Central Interceptor enhances Waititiko Meola Creek. This work needs to be focused on the creek rather than viewing it as simply a “receiving environment” for stormwater.

Elizabeth Walker

Chair

St Lukes Environmental Protection Society Inc.

Website: www.meolacreek.org.nz

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/STEPSNZ/>

Action List

Meeting Number	Action	Responsibility	Response	Status
4	Retention of top soil especially at Lyon Ave	Watercare	Request included in contract documentation.	Monitor final contract
5.	Mana whenua consultation timing, process to be reconsidered.	Watercare	Liaison with the Kaitiaki Forum	Ongoing
8	Elevated site at Roy Clements Treeway – community request to move control room back to avoid further shading and building visibility from Treeway. Request emailed to Watercare on 19 June 2018	Watercare	Community requests Watercare to consider issues formally and respond	Ongoing
10	Consideration of control room location at Norgrove CI site		Watercare to report at next meeting	