Notes to accompany:

Seaton Valley Stream Ecological Rehabilitation Opportunities

Trevor James, Team Leader – TDC Catchment Enhancement, 11 August, 2022

Slide 1 notes

Trevor spent quite a while discussing TDCs other restoration projects in conjunction with Iwi and other groups eg Borck Creek and Berkett Creek, Motupipi.
More information can be found in this 2021 workshop recording:
Ecological Rehabilitation Workshop/enhancing-life-in-our-waterways
Trevor also spent time on the types of birds this wetland would attract, but stated that this would depend on the repopulation of the stream by fish.
He also stressed that if we wanted to attract birds then the wetlands needed to be people free – no board walks. Also the subdivision needs to be cat free.
Minimum size of wetlands needs to be 6ha to maintain a nesting pair of Bittern.
Herons fly about 50km so there needs to be a network of wetland "islands" so birds can fly from one to the other.

Page 2:

Trevor stressed the need to get on board with potential development early.
We should not put all our eggs into one basket. Negotiation with developer should be an option.
Point out to the developer that the wetlands will be a positive for the development of the subdivision and it should be promoted as an ecosystem bringing biodiversity back to the region.

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Important to look up legislation and policy so we can be familiar with it and can be on top of blocking measures. Important documents: Tasman Resource Management Plan, Tasman Environment Plan, Land Development Manual, Good Practice Guide to River Works
Need to be actively involved with Mana Whenua. Bruno suggests making contact with Naomi Aporo
We need to set up a concept plan (in conjunction with Iwi).

Page 4

95% of wetland loss in Moutere and 98% loss in Motueka region (incl Mapua). Once the loss is above 80% it becomes critical.

Page 5

The redder the colour of the streams, the poorer the quality. Mayflies (top corner) indicate the health of the stream.

Page 6

MCI indicates stream health. It is good quality above the Senior farm and poor quality at and below the farm. Note how the stream has been straightened in the photo. Streams need bends and shallow areas for effective fish breeding and protection during flood events.

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All the fish in the photos have been seen in the stream upstream of the farm. Giant kokopu are however no longer there.

Page 9

The very steep banks of the Seaton valley stream below Stafford drive is not conducive to fish spawning.

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A model of how the wetlands could look.

Page 12

Nitella is an important grass for fish breeding and birds. Farmers don't seem to like it and get rid of it. Patches found along the bank of Seaton Valley stream below the school.

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This is a project undertaken by TDC on private property and is a good model for Seaton Velley Stream. Unfortunately the video didn't play.