

St Lukes Environmental Protection Society

Incorporated (STEPS)

DRAFT 16 December 2008

PROJECTS TO CLEAN MEOLA CREEK

GOAL STATE:

Meola Creek headwaters contain clean water

- its associated springs and aquifers are also clean
- aquifer is recharged and creek has a consistently higher average flow throughout the year
- creek does not have frequent wet and dry weather peak flows due to channeled runoff/ sewer outfalls

Local community gains more value from natural environment

Wildlife returns/ increases

BACKGROUND

Motion passed by Auckland City Development Committee 8 May 2008 (see Appendix A)

PROJECTS REQUIRED

PRIORITY	PROJECT	TYPE #	TERM
1	P1. ACC to put in place: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a plan, - effective co-ordination of Meola headwater projects and - communication between the many government agencies and community groups involved. 	P	Immediate
1	P2. Improve planning controls – ie in the ACC District Plan explicitly protect Meola creek, Owairaka Mt Albert, other major Auckland isthmus creeks, underlying aquifers, volcanic cones and Meola reef – which form Auckland city’s natural heritage. This affects ARC, DOC, ACC and probably other government bodies. Encourage restoration and rehabilitation so that they will remain part of Auckland City’s natural heritage for future generations	P	Medium
1	P3. Sewer separation in Meola catchment.	C	Medium
1	P4. Daylight (reinstate) the creek above (south of) Mt Albert Grammar School (MAGS) – to link the creek in Kerr Taylor Reserve with its headwaters at DSIR. This will create a bird corridor from Owairaka-Mt Albert, through DSIR, Fergusson Reserve and Roy Clements	C	Immediate

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	treeway on MAGS land.		
1	<p>P5. Implement the ACC's ICS Study recommendations from the Meola Integrated Catchment Management Project Phase 2 report- Remedial Options (Sinclair Knight Merz 2002) pp39-42. Communicate progress to date; fund remaining projects; initiate, monitor projects and communicate progress.</p> <p>Initiatives include:</p> <p>P6. undertaking actions to reduce flooding in the wider Meola Catchment and to replenish and recharge the underlying aquifer</p> <p>P7. undertaking monitoring and measuring of creek flows, sewer systems, groundwater and water quality in this catchment, and publish results regularly</p> <p>P8. forming a land care group including STEPS, residents, schools and other stakeholders; this would also involve linking up with groups and stakeholders further down the creek.</p> <p>P9. taking measures to restore the natural flows of the creek including in sections with a low water table or which are armoured, construct artificial weirs to retain flowing water and remove armouring</p> <p>P10. Planting the many bare sections of the creek, starting with the 79% of the creek which is bounded by reserves and working downwards from the much degraded upper catchment.</p> <p>(See full recommendations in copy of attached Report Appendix B)</p>	P C P P C P	Immediate
1	P11. Designate a route for a mountain to sea walkway – along Meola Creek from Owairaka Mt Albert to Meola Reef.	P	Medium
1*	P12. Upgrade the Watercare services interceptor, increase Metrowater sewer capacity, and stop using the creek as an overflow for sewage and street runoff	C	Medium
2	P13. Work with STEPS on a concept plan/ planting plan for the Kerr Taylor Reserve.	P	Immediate
1	P14. City Planning to score Meola Creek/ aquifer/		Immediate

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	Owairaka (“creeks, springs and cones”) and give heritage protection in District Plan		
1	P15. Financial support for STEPS replanting wetland in MAGS grounds – possibly via SLIPS project (in conjunction with ARC EIF)	C	Immediate
1	P16. Investigate and clean up contaminated site in Roy Clements treeway	C	Immediate

#Type C: Capital Works; P Planning and Policy

* Support Watercare to get these projects underway – eg resource consents

CATCHMENT MEASUREMENTS (to be reviewed)

1	W1. Establish an end to end Management Plan for Meola Creek (from source to Meola Reef)		
2	W2. Baseline the impact of existing and future developments on the creek, to see if intended and required controls are implemented and function as planned eg St Lukes Garden Apartments, Wagener Place, Emerald Heights. (This could involve systematic measures of flow volumes and water quality)		Medium
2	W3. Trace, document and rank the impacts of all the informal pipes which flow into the Meola Creek; initial phase between Alberton Ave and Hort Research.		Medium
2	W4. Institute quarterly measurements of water quality in 2 or 3 sites between the Haverstock Rd sewer outfall, and Alberton Ave. Measure copper, zinc and e-coli. (STEPS could arrange taking samples; funding would be needed to analyse samples and communicate results).		Immediate
2	W5. Identify any water which is formally or informally removed from the aquifer underlying the Meola catchment, and evaluate future impacts.		Immediate

POSSIBLE FUTURE PROJECTS

Work with MAGS to improve drainage around the school farm.

INVOLVEMENT OF STEPS AND COMMUNITY

Planting and weeding days

Take water samples.

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Publish progress on web site

PROGRESS TO DATE:

June 2007 – Metrowater planting north of bridge linking MAGS and Kerr Taylor Reserve

May 2008 – Metrowater commission Te Ngahere revegetation plan for Roy Clements Treeway on MAGS land

May 2008 City Development Committee commits to improve Meola Creek

June 2008 – Hort Research plant wetland at the headwaters of the Meola Creek (at “DSIR”, Mt Albert Rd)

August 2008 – Metrowater boardwalk and planting on MAGS land to south west of St Lukes Garden Apartments

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APPENDIX A – POLICY CONTEXT

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
CITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

HELD ON THURSDAY, 8 MAY 2008

The Chairman put the substantive motion:

- A. That the council and Metrowater continue their initiatives to minimise the contribution of stormwater to sewer overflows and undertake local improvements in the vicinity of the overflows to minimise their impacts. As part of this, a prioritised draft programme of works including SKM 2002 Meola ICS Phase 2 report recommendations be developed and consulted upon, accounting for the following imperatives:**
- **That effective on going monitoring in Meola catchment occur**
 - **That work on this draft be reported to the November meeting of the City Development Committee.**
 - **The development of reserves takes into account the flooding and the overflows**
 - **The level of maintenance of the reserve and the watercourse**
 - **The health and safety of the community is protected as far as possible**
 - **The effects of any further development are understood and taken into account**
 - **There is effective communication between the various agencies and between those agencies and the community including St Lukes Environmental Protection Society (STEPS).**
- B. That the council continue to work closely with Watercare to ensure the necessary trunk sewer interceptor works are carried out at the earliest opportunity, and encourage Watercare to implement local improvements in the interim.**
- C. As part of the current District Plan review process, the City Planning group of Auckland City Council give due attention to the issues raised in the report of the Consultant and the Manager Environmental and Utility Management entitled Meola Sewer Overflows dated 29 April 2008.**
- D. That the council continue to work closely with Metrowater to ensure that sewer separation is progressed in the Meola catchment with a report back in the next 12 months.**

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- E. That officers report to the July meeting of the City Development Committee on the implications of Watercare's recently released 3 Waters Strategy and opportunities to involve the public in this process.**
- F. That this report be referred to the Manager City Environments for his information.**
- G. That the Manager Environmental and Utility Management report to the July City Development Committee meeting on the process Council uses in the management of the stream, particular after storm events.**

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APPENDIX B



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Meola Integrated Catchment Management Project Phase 2 report- Remedial Options
(Sinclair Knight Merz 2002) pp39-42.

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