

PEEL-HARVEY CATCHMENT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2006

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council held at the Peel Waterways Centre, Mandurah on Thursday 19th of October commencing at 9.00am.

Attendance

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Present: | Jan Star | Chairman |
| | Andy Gulliver | |
| | Peter Hick | |
| | Bob Pond | |
| | Don Glenister | |
| | Ian Wight-Pickin | |
| | Denyse Needham | |
| | Colleen Yates | |
| | Maxine Whitely | |
| | Murray Love | |
| | Shane Kelliher | |
| | Damien Postma | Executive Officer |
| In Attendance: | Kim Wilson | |
| | Alex Hams | |
| | Darralyn Ebsary | |
| | Carol Bryant | |
| | Kristy Gregory | |
| | Glen Blyveld | |
| | John Eyres | |

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed Cr Denyse Needham, Mr Don Glenister, and Mr Ian Wight-Pickin as new members of the PHCC attending their first meeting. Apologies were received from Marilyn Gray, Neil Guise, Garry Heady and Tony Hiscock.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

On the motion of Peter Hick / Andy Gulliver, the minutes of the 2005 Annual General Meeting held on the 11th of August 2005 having been distributed were taken as read and confirmed.

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that it had again been a very eventful year.

The organisation had had a major change of staff with Damien Postma replacing Ian-Wight-Pickin, who retired as Executive Officer. Damien was not fully replaced as NRM Manager but Kim Wilson was partly filling this gap. Other changes were also underway as funding changes occurred with the advent of the South West Regional Investment Plan 2006/08. The organisation had welcomed Carol Bryant into the region from Tasmania, as Manager of the SJ Landcare Centre. Boddington had also become a main focus in the inland area but an increase in staff to assist Darralyn Ebsary was still required.

The CCI project had (just) produced a draft Water Quality Improvement Plan, in addition to the outcomes from the other projects, after almost three years. The PHCC's role in coordinating the CCI has been indirectly acknowledged by including the NRM group in the subsequent Coastal Catchment Initiative in Geographe catchment.

The PHCC had been involved in negotiations regarding a governance model which the government saw as necessary to implement the WQIP. The proposed governance model largely about bringing all aspects and agencies involved in NRM together at a senior enough level and importantly incorporating land-use planning into and the production of a Catchment Plan.

Drainage had at long last got attention from government with the formation of the Dept of Water. The PHCC drainage work had contributed to the DoW initiative and Jesse Steele's literature review and Andrew Del Marco's Drainage Management paper had been completed to draft form. The PHCC has lobbied extensively on this issue and it was not unreasonable to suspect had had a little influence; as a dysfunctional area of government it obviously had to be addressed.

Ramsar planning had continued and Ramsar signage, banners, and brochures had been seen for the first time in the Peel region as a result of this project. At least one of the PHCC submissions re the EPBC Act on the need for the consequences of development to be assessed was successful. In all, the significance of the Peel-Yalgorup system was already being acknowledged to a greater extent and the work had only just started.

Involvement in the issue of sustainability in the Peel region had continued with Peel 2020, the Main Roads Sustainability Alliance and the beginnings of the PHCC Biosphere nomination. The predominance of 'environment' in the values of the community produced by Peel 2020 was heartening.

Local governments had shown more interest in our activities with deputations given to the Peel Zone on Climate Change and to the City of Mandurah Council on our projects. The involvement of Local government in NRM and its regional delivery was being seriously explored by WALGA and the NRM Office, especially looking to post 2008 arrangements. While the Commonwealth had committed to the continuance of the Regional Delivery Model the State Government's position was

still unclear. Treasury had expressed scepticism as to outcomes for WA's investment so there was a need to engage state politicians and the public to inform them of the achievements of the regional delivery system. Communication was noted as needing a stronger to focus in 2006/07.

Mining seemed to be everywhere in the Peel-Harvey and along with the Land Development industry they had been and would continue to be significant modifiers of our environment. The PHCC was engaging more with the latter while are somewhat overwhelmed by the former at this point.

Climate Change had come into prominence in the media and Peter Hick's continued work had been valuable. Early in the year Andy Gulliver was involved in winning Environment Awards, as was Garry Heady and Bob Goodale at Naragebup. In the week prior Harvey Water won the overall award for Excellence at the WA Water Awards.

The Waterways Centre had been a great boon enabling a rewarding, close relationship with WRC, DoE, DoW and/or DEC people. The addition of a Greening Australia position (Thelma Crooks) for their River Recovery Program had added even more strength to the Centre. It was a good initiative of State Government and we were sad to see its progenitor, Judy Edwards, resign as Minister.

Our Annual Forum was very successfully built around 'partnerships' with good displays and presentations. It was believed that groups such as the Peel Preservation Group had become more comfortable with the PHCC – and were to be congratulated on their initiatives including the launch of the Lake McLarty booklet and the inspirational lecture by Steve Hopper on biodiversity conservation.

Finally as SWCC was maturing, the PHCC was developing a close relationship with the SWCC Office and had been treated with greater respect if not full understanding. The SW Regional Investment Plan 2006/08 had been Australia's largest NHT-NAP Investment Plan; over \$40m for 2 years and while the process had been complicated it had been managed very professionally. There had been reviews and audits of both SWCC and its sub-regions and while there are useful suggestions for improvement both SWCC and PHCC have acquitted themselves well.

With the help of the Peel-Harvey Landcare centres, local governments, agency and other partners and the PHCC staff, the PHCC had managed current projects ably and was looking forward to undertaking even more during the life of the next Investment Plan. The Chairman thanked and congratulated all involved – officers, partners, and Council members and was looking forward to another exciting and productive year.

The Chairman's report was accepted on the motion of Andy Gulliver / Bob Pond.

4. Presentation of Financial Statements

The audited annual financial statements of the PHCC were presented to the Council as prepared by the Auditor, AMD Chartered Accountants.

It was noted that the audit had uncovered no irregularities in the accounts and had given the PHCC a “clean bill of health”. Some recommendations had been made by the auditor including changing the PHCC accounting system from a “cash” to an “accrual” accounting system and these matters would be considered by the Finance and Audit Committee in due course.

On the motion of Bob Pond / Colleen Yates the Financial Statements for the 2005/06 financial year were accepted.

5. Election of Office Bearers

The Chairman vacated the Chair and the Executive Officer called for nominations for the position of Chairman. Jan Star was nominated as Chairman on the motion of Maxine Whitely / Murray Love and was elected unopposed.

Andy Gulliver was nominated for the position of Deputy Chairman on the motion of Ian Wight-Pickin / Maxine Whitely and was elected unopposed.

Marilyn Gray was nominated for the position of Treasurer on the motion of Bob Pond / Ian Wight-Pickin and was elected unopposed.

Ian Wight-Pickin nominated for the position of Secretary and on the motion of Bob Pond / Jan Star was elected unopposed

Jan Star resumed the Chair

6. Election of Executive Committee Members

The proposed membership of the Executive Committee, Finance and Audit Committee and Communications Committee was discussed. On the motion of Ian Wight-Pickin / Colleen Yates it was resolved that:

- The Executive Committee shall consist of the Office Bearers of the PHCC (being the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Treasure, and Secretary) and one additional member of the full Council and that this committee shall be chaired by the PHCC Chairman,
- The Audit and Finance Committee shall consist of the Deputy Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and one additional member of the full council of the PHCC and that this committee shall be chaired by the PHCC Treasurer.

Dr Peter Hick was nominated, as the additional member of the full Council to reside on both the Executive and Audit and Finance Committees on the motion of Colleen Yates / Don Glenister and was elected unopposed.

As a result, the Executive Committee of the PHCC for the following year would consist of Ms Jan Star (Chair), Andy Gulliver, Marilyn Gray, Ian-Wight-Pickin and Peter Hick and the Audit and Finance Committee would consist of Marilyn Gray (Chair), Andy Gulliver, Ian-Wight-Pickin and Peter Hick.

Mr Andy Gulliver (Chair) , Bob Pond, Carol Bryant and Don Glenister were nominated to form a Communications Committee, and on the motion of Colleen Yates / Peter Hick it was so resolved.

It was noted that nominations for membership of Project Steering Committees would be called for out of session and these nominations would be considered by the Executive Committee with recommendations made at future meeting of the PHCC.

7. Appointment of an Auditor

On the motion of Bob Pond /Maxine Whitely it was resolved to reappoint AMD Chartered Accountants as auditor for the 2006/07 financial year.

8. Review of Agency Members

After significant discussion regarding the Western Australian Government Agency representatives required on the board on the PHCC it was resolved on the motion of Ian Wight-Pickin / Andy Gulliver that the agencies be represented as follows:

- Department of Environment and Conservation: Mr Murray Love,
- Department of Water: Mr Bob Pond,
- Department of Agriculture and Food: Mr Neil Guise, and
- Peel Development Commission: Ms Colleen Yates.

And that in the absence of a nominated representative from the Department of Planning and Infrastructure, that Mr Sean Collingwood should be invited to attend meetings with agenda items relevant to that department.

9. Close

The Chairman closed the business of the Annual General Meeting at 9.45am.

10. Next Annual General Meeting

The next Annual General meeting of the PHCC would be held in accordance with clause 12.1 of the Constitution.

Chairman

Date