

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council held in the Peel Waterways Centre in Mandurah on Thursday 11 August 2005 commencing at 9.00am

Present: Jan Star Chairman  
Julie Baker  
Andy Gulliver  
Peter Hick  
Klaus Hirschberg  
Brian Joynes  
Shane Kelliher  
Miles Mulray  
Bob Pond  
Maxine Whitely  
Colleen Yates  
Ian Wight-Pickin Executive Officer

In Attendance: Kristy Gregory  
Damien Postma  
Kim Wilson

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**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chairman welcomed Julie Baker to her first meeting representing Stephen Lee. Apologies were received from Morris Bessant, Marilyn Gray, Neil Guise, Garry Heady, Tony Hiscock, Stephen Lee and Murray Love.

**2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

On the motion of Gulliver/Pond, the minutes of the previous annual meeting held on 12 August 2004 having been distributed were taken as read and confirmed.

**3. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman said that it had been an extremely busy and productive year. The PHCC had lost Christine Steer but gained Colleen Yates as the Peel Development Commission representative, and in August had co-opted Dr Peter Hick as a member. The SWCC NRM Strategy had been finished and accepted by the State and Australian Governments. The Peel-Harvey NRM Plan had been presented to the community. Everyone had worked hard on the SW Investment Plan and that had been accepted and launched, releasing over \$15M into the SW NRM Region.

A regional community capacity building project had meant funding for the NRM officers in the existing landcare centres and a new one for the coastal area with part funding from the City of Mandurah. The PHCC, its partners and the landcare centres had a number of projects to deliver, including a long awaited Ramsar Management Plan; continued rivercare and water campaign work; work on drainage, various training projects (biodiversity, small landholders, and river restoration); biodiversity linkages on the Swan Coastal Plain and in the Dryandra woodlands. There were a couple of 'land' projects led by the Blackwood Basin

Group that included the inland Peel-Harvey area. Goegrup and Black Lakes had an aboriginal project led by the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council which was a welcome first. Several agency led projects covered all or part of the SW – including best management practices for diaries and other industries, and a WALGA biodiversity project with local governments. Other large projects funded outside of the Regional Funding umbrella would impact on the Peel-Harvey, notably a Forest Products Commission farm forestry project and the trial operation of the integrated wood processing plant that provides a market for oil mallees. The State Government had also allocated significant funds to the eastern estuary study and river foreshore work.

The increased project work had meant a re-allocation of existing staff and a new NRM position for the PHCC filled by Damien Postma.

The new Waterways Centre was a very timely provision of a home for the PHCC and heralded a new stage in the PHCC's development. It would also be the location for the Algal Bloom (or Nutrient Reduction) Strategy on which consultation had started.

The Coastal Catchments Initiative (CCI) in WA State has focussed on the Peel-Harvey coastal plain and a draft of the CCI Water Quality Improvement Plan was expected to be released for public comment in January 2006. The range of CCI are starting to produce results, and some of those challenge the existing EPA approach – certainly urban development was now seen as a significant contributor to nutrient pollution rather than as a 'beneficial use'. The CCI had also seen a re-invigoration of State Government involvement in the Peel-Harvey and would probably have big ramifications for land-use planning. The PHCC was involved as a partner in the CCI through an MoU with the EPA. The annual community forum at Pinjarra in April helped acquaint the community with the CCI multi-project initiative. The Forum had a good attendance and was also the venue for the launch of the Peel-Harvey NRM Plan.

An MoU between the SWCC and the Swan NRM Region had been signed to deal with the three northern local governments. The main implication of the MoU was that any new projects should be decided by a joint working group.

The PHCC had been involved in the Peel 2020 regional sustainability process and the development of a Peel Waterways Institute concept, both led by the Peel Development Commission but with the PHCC as a lead group and a funds' applicant. The PHCC had also been included as a stakeholder in the alliance approach to the new Perth Bunbury Highway project that included the Peel Deviation.

A Strategic Planning exercise undertaken by the PHCC was nearing completion, and a submission was being prepared to the review of regional delivery that was to be led by Stuart Hicks.

The Commonwealth EPBC Act had been invoked for two proposals in the Peel-Harvey (Olympia Mining and Peel Deviation) and submissions had been made to the EPA based on the Ramsar listing of the Peel-Yalgorup wetlands. Those were new influences to use for protection of the environment and would probably become more important.

The emerging problems of acid sulphate soils and the related intractable drainage issue would present major challenges to land-use planning and environmental legislation.

The chairman closed her report by thanking everyone for their effort during the year and noted that the PHCC had reason to be well pleased with its performance. The Chairman's report was accepted on the motion of Hirschberg/Hick.

**4. Presentation of Financial Statements**

It was that auditing of the financial statements could not be completed in time for the annual meeting. On the motion of Pond/Joynes it was resolved to defer consideration of the financial statements until the next ordinary meeting after completion of the auditing of the books but that the Executive Officer also investigate the provisions of the legislation with respect to timing of the annual meeting and the presentation of audited financial statements.

**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 by Hirschberg/Whitely and was elected unopposed.

The Executive Officer advised that Morris Bessant was not able to fulfil the role of Deputy Chairman for the coming year and nomination for the called for the position. Andy Gulliver was nominated by Whitely/Hick and was elected unopposed.

Marilyn Gray was nominated for the position of Secretary/Treasurer on the motion of Gulliver/Hick and was elected unopposed.

Jan Star resumed the Chair

**6. Appointment of an Auditor**

On the motion of Pond/Hirschberg it was resolved to appoint Ian D Pedlar CPA Pty Ltd as auditor for the 2005/06 financial year but that the Executive Officer enquire if payment of a non-discounted auditor's fee would secure earlier completion of the audit.

**7. Review of Agency Members**

There was discussion about the need to engage the Department for Planning and Infrastructure in the NRM process. It was agreed that the Chairman would discuss the matter with the Chairman of the WA Planning Commission as a forthcoming meeting. The representation needed to be broader than from the Peel Regional office of DPI because of the northern part of the catchment being within the Perth Metropolitan Region Scheme area.

In the meantime the existing agency membership was confirmed on the motion of Pond/Hick.

**8. Close**

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

**9. Next Annual Meeting**

In accordance with clause 12.1 of the Constitution, the next annual meeting was due to be held in August 2006.

Chairman .....

Date .....