

PEEL-HARVEY CATCHMENT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2009

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council held at the Marine Operations Centre, 107 Breakwater Parade, Mandurah on Thursday 15th October 2009 at 9.00 am.

Attendance

Present: Jan Star AM Chairman
Don Glenister
Marilyn Gray
Garry Heady
Peter Hick
Cr Denyse Needham
Shonagh Bradstock
Neil Guise
Evan Burt
Leon Brouwer
Murray Love
Amanda Willmott

In Attendance: Marie Short
Jane Townsend
Geoff Ahearn
Kim Byrnes
Liz Bonner
Nadia Keipert
Rob Summers
Naomi O'Hara
John Psczola
Sue Cicolari Minute-taker

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Cr Dennis Veitch, Tony Hiscock, Andy Gulliver, Bob Pond, Maxine Whitely, Damien Postma, Kim Wilson, Andrew Del Marco, Ruth Clark, Shirley Joiner, Peter Wilmot, Peter Rogers, Maree Ellis, Evan Brown, Nicole Mathews, Dick Rule, Thelma Crook, Melanie Bradley, Kristy Gregory, Francis Smit

The Chairman welcomed all present including Evan Burt the new representative from the Peel Development Commission and Liz Bonner the new Ramsar Initiative Coordinator.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

On the motion of Peter Hick / Don Glenister, the minutes of the 2008 Annual General Meeting held on 16th October 2008 having been distributed were taken as read and confirmed.

3. Chairman's Report 2008-2009

The Chairman tabled the following report:

It has not been the best of years – globally, regionally or sub-regionally. We have a change of government at both State and Federal level that has combined to have a severe impact on NRM delivery and the PHCC in particular.

The replacement of Natural Heritage Trust and National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality by Caring for our Country has lessened the role of the Regional Strategies and the Regional Delivery Model (RDM). In SWCC most of the projects were delivered at the sub-regional level where there was community engagement and local knowledge. Caring for Country is delivered via Business Plans which gives national priorities for investment. These may vary from year to year. Most of the funds are competitive with a smaller amount going to Regions for targets in the Business Plan, ie Regions become delivery agents with no commitment to the RDM. The Landcare movement has been largely abandoned, as has Bushcare.

Consequently SWCC has had its funding reduced to \$5.2m pa (less than a third of previous years) but the Commonwealth have also insisted that all contracts are with SWCC which means, in effect, that it cannot be used to fund sub-regional groups administration. This has led, in June this year, to Damien Postma being seconded to SWCC as Acting General Manager to rework their original proposal (and then implement it) following Damien Hills departure. Kim Wilson has moved into an Acting Executive Officer Role for which we have obtained funding until December from the PDC. In August we will lose our accommodation when DoW close the Peel Waterways Centre on their move to the new Marine Operations Centre.

The new State Government are also changing their involvement in NRM and while there are continuing funds in this year's budget there is nothing as yet in the out years. We have taken the opportunity to press the case for becoming an independent region (which would have cushioned us against the repercussions of the Federal changes).

All this has clearly pointed to the need to further develop our strategic planning to be ready to make the most of any emerging order following this chaos. The Minister has held an NRM Review and the Government Response to this, *inter alia*, does flag a role for delivery through the "appropriate level", that there should be funded a community engagement project and that there be an

investigation the most appropriate boundaries and number of Regional NRM Groups.

On the bright side we have successfully delivered some outstanding projects which are now drawing to a close. The pinnacle of the Rivercare project was the collaborative work on Gordon McLarty's place, the Ramsar project has produced a draft Management Plan and a magnificent 'Birds of the Peel-Yalgorup' DVD, and received continuing funding through CfoC. The Water Campaign has further embedded NRM into our local government's operations. We have the superb demonstration site of the Alcoa Pinjarra Wetland Restoration project, again a very collaborative project in the Water Quality Recovery Project. Dryandra is still ongoing and is achieving lots of on-ground work. The Murdoch study on ecosystem model/decision support tool, while still in its infancy seems to be growing in its aspirations and our new project is the Climate Change Adaptation project with our local governments. The Rivercare work and the Water Campaign both made it into the finals of the United Nations Association Environment Day Awards in Melbourne. Collaboration and partnerships figured highly in all projects with DoW, DEC, PDC, local governments, Greening WA, Leschenault Catchment Council (LCC), SWCC, Murdoch University/WAMSI, and Bilya being the main ones.

The Coastal Catchments Initiative, which we ended up steering, produced its Water Quality Improvement Plan through the EPA after a long gestation. Given partial carriage of it by some de facto process we have used it as the basis for a large CfoC competitive bid in collaboration with others. Unfortunately after it was submitted and with all the turmoil in SWCC the Commonwealth people have said no sub-regions will be funded. It would have helped if we had known that before all the hard work in its development and the trust in us shown by our partners. The implementation of the WQIP, apart from the Fertiliser Action Plan being handled by DEC, does meet Commonwealth targets so will continue to form the basis for funding submissions.

A successful WSUD Drive Tour was launched, with accompanying brochure, again a collaborative project, this time with developers and LCC. It fits very well with the Healthy Waterways initiative of government. We have the Drainage Reform Plan which was used by the DoW in their drainage plans. It will form the basis for further identification of sites for drain modification work. Between the Eastern Estuary Study (DoW), a landscape scale project with Greening WA in the eastern estuary under discussion, the attention DPI are starting to give the palus plain, the problem of drainage and wetland ecosystems is definitely now on the agenda.

Peel 2020 has had a difficult time but has managed to produce its Communications Strategy, and we did receive some funding through the Peel Community Foundation thanks to Pete and Andy's work. We welcome Kim Byrnes onto our team and thank the PDC for hosting the position. I also thank all our partners for their collaboration and support. Included in this are the Landcare Centres who have had to adjust to virtually no ongoing support from the Region. I would like to thank all Council members for their help and in particular the Executive team. Jesse who has left and Alex, who is leaving us, for their terrific project work and the latter's support to Damien, Amanda for her sterling work in putting our Ramsar wetland on the map; they have all been

magnificent and deserve full acknowledgement and thanks. Kim has put everything into those CfoC grant applications on top of her management responsibilities, has also helped Damien a lot and now steps into the breach and gives up her plans for long service leave which she fully deserves– our heartfelt thanks. Finally we are indebted to Damien for the effort and skill he has given us, and just when he thought he couldn't give any more SWCC are going to stretch him further.
Thank you all.

The Chairman's report was accepted on the motion of Don Glenister / Leon Brouwer.

4. Presentation of Financial Statements (Audit statement deferred as not yet available from AMD)

The Treasurer presented the financial statements as at June 2009 and Activity Statement representing the PHCC Financial Statement for 2008/09. It was explained that the 2008/09 was still being undertaken by AMD and the results of this audit would be presented to members as soon as completed. On the motion of Peter Hick / Neil Guise the 2008/09 Financial Statements were accepted.

The Treasurer noted the work put in by Karen Henderson and Kim Wilson to tidy up the Council's books in line with what was required by the Auditor and suggested a letter be written in appreciation of their outstanding efforts. Agreed.

5. Membership

5.1 Acknowledgement of Members whose terms of service were concluding:
The Chairman noted the terms of Marilyn Gray, Andy Gulliver, and herself were expiring as well as the Local Government representative currently Cr Dennis Veitch. There was also one vacancy. The Chairman thanked these members for their commitment over their past terms.

5.2 The Chairman vacated the Chair at 9.30 am, at which time Leon Brouwer took the Chair

5.3 Ratification and appointment of new Community Members (four vacancies) took place:

Peter Hick advised that a selection panel had been formed to select four community members and the following people had been successful: Jan Star, Andy Gulliver, Marilyn Gray and Shonagh Bradstock. Letters of appointment have been sent out.

On the motion of Don Glenister / Peter Hick the appointment of community members being Jan Star, Andy Gulliver, Marilyn Gray and Shonagh Bradstock was ratified. Shonagh Bradstock was then officially welcomed.

The meeting noted the Local Government representative appointment will be considered at the November meeting.

6. Election of Office Bearers

Leon Brouwer called for nominations for the position of Chairman. Jan Star was nominated as Chairman on the motion of Peter Hick / Denyse Needham and was elected unopposed. Jan Star accepted the position as Chairman of the PHCC.

Peter Hick was nominated for the position of Deputy Chairman on the motion of Marilyn Gray / Don Glenister and was elected unopposed.

Andy Gulliver was nominated for the position of Secretary and on the motion of Peter Hick / Don Glenister and was elected unopposed. Andy, in anticipation of being nominated for a position but knowing he would be absent, had discussed with the Executive Officer his willingness to accept a position although only if no other member had expressed any interest. These matters were noted by members and Andy Gulliver was elected as Secretary.

Marilyn Gray was nominated for the position of Treasurer on the motion of Jan Star / Don Glenister and was elected unopposed. Marilyn accepted the position of Treasurer.

Jan Star resumed the Chair at 9.40 am and thanked Leon Brouwer and the members for their support.

7. Election of Executive Committee Members

The proposed membership of the Executive Committee, and Finance and Audit Committee was discussed. The current convention is:

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

The Chairman called for nominations for PHCC board members to the Executive Committee: Leon Brouwer was nominated on the motion of Neil Guise / Don Glenister and accepted the position on the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee of the PHCC for the following year would consist of Jan Star (Chair), Peter Hick, Marilyn Gray, Andy Gulliver and Leon Brouwer.

8. Election of Audit and Finance Committee Members

Nominations were called for PHCC board members to the Finance and Audit Committee in addition to the Treasurer (Marilyn Gray) and the Secretary (Andy Gulliver). Bob Pond was nominated on the motion of Marilyn Gray / Peter Hick.

9. Nomination of Project Steering Committee Members

Representation by members on the project steering committees was discussed, and updated register of appointments to project steering committees would be distributed. On the motion of Don Glenister / Marilyn Gray the members of the project steering committees as discussed be endorsed.

10. Appointment of an Auditor

The Treasurer recommended the board endorse the continuation of AMD as the Auditor for PHCC project audits for the current active projects (for the sake of continuity) and for the PHCC organizational audit.

On the motion of Neil Guise / Denyse Needham it was resolved to reappoint AMD Chartered Accountants as auditor for the 2009/10 financial year for all current project audits and for the PHCC organisational audit.

11. Review of Agency Members

The meeting noted the appointment of the following Western Australian Government agency members:

- Department of Environment and Conservation: Mr Murray Love;
- Department of Water: Mr Leon Brouwer;
- Waterways Health Program: Mr Bob Pond;
- Department of Agriculture and Food: Mr Neil Guise;
- Peel Development Commission: Mr Evan Burt; and
- Department for Planning and Infrastructure: Mr Melanie Bradley

The Executive Officer to write and formally invite Melanie Bradley to represent the DPI.

12. Close

The Chairman closed the business of the Annual General Meeting at 10.03am.

13. Next Annual General Meeting

The next Annual General meeting of the PHCC would be held in accordance with clause 12.1 of the Constitution, unless otherwise advise to be held on Thursday the 21st October 2010 at 9.00 am.

Chairman

Date