

Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

MINUTES OF MEETING



Held on Thursday 15 August 2013, commencing at 9.00am
at the Marine Operations Centre, 107 Breakwater Parade, Mandurah Marina

The Chairman opened the meeting at 9.10am.

1. Attendance

Present:

Jan Star AM	Chairman
Andy Gulliver	Deputy Chairman
Dr Peter Hick	Secretary
Bob Pond	Executive Committee [DoW]
Don Glenister	Member
Shane Kelliher	Member
Denyse Needham	Member [from 11.00am]
Cr Richard Smith	Member – Local Government [9.15am to 10.30am]
Cr Dennis Veitch	Member – Local Government
Steve Appleyard	DER
Cale Loxton	Dept of Planning Peel [until 12.07pm]
Craig Olejnik	DPaW
Rob Summers	DAFWA

In Attendance:

Kim Wilson	Program Manager
Thelma Crook	Project Officer [from 9.25am]
Karen Henderson	Finance Manager
Paddy Strano	PHCC - Stormwater Strategy Officer
Patricia Sutton	PHCC – Minute Taker [until 1.25pm]

Guests:

Prof Richard Bush	Southern Cross University [until 11.00am]
Prof Pierre Horwitz,	Honours and Postgraduate (Research) Coordinator School of Natural Sciences, ECU [from 9.25am]

Apologies:

Marilyn Gray	Treasurer
Jim McNamara	Member
Nuray Veryeri	Member
Maxine Whitely	Member
Dave Arkwright	Peel Development Commission
Leon Brouwer	DoW
Scott Haine	Dept of Planning Peel
Jane O'Malley	Executive Officer
Colleen Archibald	NRM Support Officer
Jane Townsend	Rivercare Officer (HRRT)
Kristy Gregory	Landcare SJ
Mark Langdon	Manager, Environmental Services, City of Mandurah
Francis Smit	Landcare SJ

Absent:

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest.

3. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 25 June 2013

3.1 Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 25 June 2013.

Moved: Peter Hick Seconded: Don Glenister

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2013 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

4. Business arising from previous Minutes

Summary of actions from previous meetings:

No.	Details	Resp.	Complete
1.	Chairman's Report [Item 7, 16 August 2012]. There was a need to focus on successes, such as frogs returning to Lake Mealup. Progress towards getting a link of frog sounds onto website. Jane has found software and will continue to explore (18/10/12).	Jane O'Malley	In progress
2.	Chair's Report [Item 7, 20 September 2012] Oil Mallee. Maxine to forward information on Oil Mallee initiative to Jan for distribution. Further liaison required with SWCC about future of oil mallees already planted and their role in the CFI. Maxine to follow up. 18 April 2013 - There is a role for DAFWA but their funding has been cut.	Maxine Whitely	
3.	Agency and Officer Reports [Item 11.3, 20 December 2012]. DEC to provide presentation in 2013 on results of fauna surveys, showing species such as Honey Possums. [18 April 2013] DEC to provide presentation at the meeting scheduled for Thursday 20 June. [24 June 2013] Presentation to be pencilled in for meeting of 15 August; rescheduled to Oct meeting.	Craig Olejnik	Pending
4.	Periodicals [Item 6.3 referring to item 3.9] Jane to look at submitting nominations in relevant categories of the 2013 Banksia Awards (closing 26 July).	Jane O'Malley	Complete

Summary of actions from meeting of 20 June 2013 - There were no actions arising from this meeting.

4.1 No action arising from the Minutes.

5. Treasurer's Report

5.1 July 2013 Financials

Karen Henderson presented the following financial report on behalf of Treasurer Marilyn Gray who was an apology.

1. The Finance and Audit Committee met on Friday 5 July, 2013. Bank reconciliation reports for all Bank Accounts up to 30 June 2013 were endorsed and then signed off by the Treasurer.
2. The Westpac Term Deposit was rolled over for a further six months and is due to mature in October. We have achieved \$15,400 in interest during the past financial year, and will look at re-investing on maturity.
3. Draft Budget for F13-14. NB. Jan Star requested that the Draft Budget be presented to the Exec Team prior to presentation to Meeting.
4. During the past two months we have closed off three Projects:
 - a. FNSII - Filtering the Nutrient Storm Phase 2.
 - b. OC12-00462 - Lake Clifton Recovery Project.
 - c. HRRT Upper and Lower Harvey River Project.
 - d. We were also able to secure funding from SWCC for the Local Government Stormwater Strategy and Hotham Williams NRMO Support Projects at the end of June.

These Projects, plus the PDC FNSIII Business Case, have all been prepared for acquittal. The CST2.PL.01 SWCC Peel Lakes Project is still with the auditor.

5. The Corporate Cheque Account was closed in July and we now manage our operating transactions through one cheque account and manage the Corporate and Project online funds accordingly at the end of each month.
6. The F12-13 saw the PHCC equity grow \$215,000, however of this, there is \$18,000 of committed Project expenses from closing projects included in this total. This equity will help offset the five month gap we have in securing new project funding and any shortfall we have with the Office fit-out/landscaping.
7. Harvey River Land Conservation District Committee (LCDC) is winding up have formally determined that their assets be transferred to Harvey River Restoration Trust Inc. PHCC will become custodian of this asset and manage the funds on behalf of, and in accordance with, the HRRT Inc. Community Panel.
8. City of Mandurah commenced PHCCs payroll on July 1st and the transition from SoSJ has run smoothly. We acknowledge and appreciate the extra workload undertaken by the HR Team to setup our Payroll and to meet reporting requirements.
9. F13-14 Budget - Shows a shortfall of \$150,000 in revenue and our equity will be used if no further funding is secured. The running costs of the Office is still unknown, with telephone/electricity and IT being a grey area at the moment. The F&A Committee will revisit this area in November when they are next due to meet.

Moved: Bob Pond Seconded: Andy Gulliver

That the July 2013 Financial reports be ratified.

CARRIED

5.2 2013/2014 Budget to be endorsed

The Chairman said the budget would be considered by the Executive Committee prior to adoption.

6. Correspondence

The Correspondence List for June 2013 – August 2013 was circulated.

6.1 Items for Comment - Correspondence In

Late Items:

- Letter from Minister for Local Government in response to Jan Star's letter (Item 2.8 Correspondence Out)
- WA Sustainable Agriculture Forum
- SWCC thank you for Christine Comer's work at Lake Clifton.

[Item 10 followed Item 6.1 - at 9.30am]

6.2 Items for Comment – Correspondence Out

Nil

6.3 Periodicals

Nil.

Moved: Shane Kelliher Seconded: Richard Smith

That Correspondence In and Correspondence Out be accepted.

CARRIED

7. Chairman's Report (this item followed Item 12.1)

Jan Star presented her report:

On the election commitment there is not much progress; the PDC have gone on their own direction which is delaying things; in the State Budget the money committed for science has been given to the new DPaW for the P-H estuary; but the support for an independent region is hopeful. We meet Minister Baston on 5 September to discuss this further. He has already agreed to support the Federal Liberals' commitment to make the Peel-Harvey the 54th NRM Region if it does not cost the State. The Shadow Minister, Greg Hunt announced this in early July in Mandurah along with launching his "Green Army" policy here. Greg spoke of our "earned independence". We have met with Gary Gray

to try to ensure the Federal Government's support. SWCC are being very helpful and Jane is working on some requirements while on holiday! There are lots of consequential meetings so that it does happen and so that we are prepared. Included in this will be some changes to our structure.

The Strategic Assessment continues to ripple through the system. Dept of Water have briefed us on their responses to the MNES study being done, among other things they are raising the question of drainage using our review of the WQIP. DoW is keen to work closely with us. The WAPC is looking to urban consolidation as a serious alternative to sprawl, partly because of traffic congestion. Lack of fill is serious issue south of Perth to the point where development north of Perth is seen as preferable. Mosquitos are a serious constraint around Mandurah. Thelma and I talked to a SERCUL person working on using wetland ecosystem as a feasible alternative to spraying with promising results. We need to know the area sprayed and with what and the relevance of it being a Ramsar wetland.

One issue to raise with our guest speaker today is the use of 'fogging' chemicals on Ramsar wetlands.

The PRLF is finishing off the Regional Strategic Priorities list which includes four of ours with a view to a lobbying trip to Canberra. They are also looking at Planning issues and Tourism signage. With the announcement of a creation of a new local government of SJ and Armadale they are preparing a case for keeping the Peel intact.

Finally Murdoch University are seeking partners in an ARC Linkage submission to develop a "Coupled estuary-response model" with UWA and as many partners as possible. We can probably contribute in kind, if not in cash. It will be aimed at developing a predictive model for land-use changes which seems worthy of support. They have also just launched their Aspirations and Pathways for University project which is aimed at high schools (brochure tabled). A reminder: there is a presentation on the Strategic Assessment of Directions 31 and Beyond, on which I have been reporting. It is on Friday 30th at the Tuckey Room and you have to rsvp to the Conservation Council website www.ccwa.org.au.

Moved: Andy Gulliver Seconded: Rob Summers

That the Chairman's Report be accepted.

CARRIED

The meeting broke for lunch at 12.20pm

The meeting resumed at 1.00pm

8. Executive Officer's Report (Kim Wilson, Program Manager)

Kim Wilson (noted Kim is not formally the Acting Executive Officer) reported on the following:

- Building: we're slowly dealing with the little issues that arise with being the happy tenants of our new Office; first electricity bill has arrived.
- Landscaping: Jane endeavoured to have as much of the landscaping finished as possible before going on leave (12 July). Thank you to C-Wise for assisting with mulch and compost for the gardens/grounds and providing additional loads at short notice. Darryl Spargo's FLEEC students from Pinjarra SHS spent the morning of 31st July with us planting seedlings, trees, doing the 'finer' spreading mulch and various other tasks.
- New IT system: again we are slowly getting our heads around the system and service provided by Royal IT
- Security: Kim & Pat have had a training session and procedures sorted.
- Juan's final day with PHCC and that of the FNS II project, was 31 July.

- The Lake Clifton Recovery Project concluded 30 June; Christine's last day being 11 July; Christine will return from 9 August, one day per week, working with Thelma, as the Ramsar 482 Community Engagement Officer.
- New signage for Thrombolite interpretive centre is displayed on the wall for attendees to view.
- Organisational audit will be progressed once all the project audits are completed. These include Peel Ramsar Lakes, FNS II, Lake Clifton Recovery Project, Blackberry (progress audit) plus three smaller projects.

Moved: Bob Pond Seconded: Andy Gulliver

That the Program Manager's Report be accepted.

CARRIED

9. Monthly Meeting Inventory

Members noted the monthly meeting inventory for June 2013 – August 2013.

No questions.

[Item 12 followed Item 9, at 1.15pm]

10. Guest Speaker – Prof Richard Bush, MBOs in the Peel-Harvey Estuary - ARC Linkage Project

[This item followed Item 6.1 at 9.30am]

Copy of Richard Bush's presentation attached to these minutes.

- *What about the silt? Sources – contemporary vs legacy. Sedimentation patterns. Rates of siltation. Geochemical alteration. Links with eutrophication and MBO.*
- *Catchment – estuary links? How to manage an 'internal flywheel' driving linked-accelerated S-C-P-N-Fe cycling.*
- *Dredge spoil. Can we stop the MBO? What can be done with spoil? Can dredge sediments be disposed of safely? Can MBO and sulfide dredge material be removed and treated?*
- *Sediment accumulation. There is very clear evidence that this is a man-made effect.*
- *The Point Grey channel would have huge implications.*

[Cr Richard Smith left the meeting during this presentation.]

The meeting broke for morning tea at 10.35am

The meeting resumed at 11.00am

11. Guest Speaker – Prof Pierre Horwitz Presentation: “*Some Ramsar, local, national and international perspectives of the Peel Yalgorup System (PYS)*” Pierre Horwitz, School of Natural Science, Edith Cowan University and Scientific & Technical Review Panel, Ramsar Convention

Prof Horwitz’s presentation included in minutes.

Questions:

Pierre undertook to get some information to Jan Star regarding Ramsar guidance on fogging.

Lake Preston urban development – what sort of changes would occur?

Pierre – it requires the proponents of the development to ensure that their actions are not going to have an impact under the EPBC Act. What can we do locally, regionally and globally outside that sphere of influence to influence them the way we want? Globally, Ramsar can provide guidance, but its hands are tied in a decision. Pressure has to come locally or regionally.

[Concluded at 12.05pm]

12. Agency and Officer Reports

12.1 Cale Loxton – Department of Planning (Peel)

- Update on Nambeelup. To be presented to WAPC later this year.
- Keralup – no further work has been done – ie no documents have been lodged.
- In terms of any re-zonings, the advice is to wait for the Strategic Assessment to progress further.

12.2 Rob Summers – DAFWA (followed Item 9 at 1.15pm)

- DAFWA soil sampling as part of the whole farm nutrient mapping program continued into April this year to finish work including the GeoCatch partnership sites.
- A further round of soil sampling as part of the whole and expression of interest are being sought including the Peel-Harvey. EOI and the eligibility criteria can be made through contact with Heidi Blackburn 9733 7713.
- DAFWA, through David Weaver, has been in consultation with DoW, through Kath Lynch, to coordinate a CFoC application.
- Two property planning workshops were held as a partnership with PHCC and DAFWA.
- An Innovation Grant application has been applied for, to improve and expand on fertiliser decision technology for mobile devices.
- Rob Summers attended a Community Based Social Marketing course about fostering sustainable behaviour held by Doug McKenzie-Mohr and recommend it to people wondering why they are not seeing change in their target community.
- The Sustainable Agricultural Forum is being held on 6 September.

12.3 Craig Olejnik – DPaW

- He is now with the newly named, Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) and as a department there is not much change for his role in the Swan Coastal re-distribution. The industry regulations have all gone to the new Department of Environment Regulation (DER). Functionally, it is only a name change for them.
- DPaW are undertaking a biodiversity audit. Going through an extensive process on biodiversity at a regional level and looking at all values.
- Planting season has just completed with 50-60,000 plants in the district.
- Water is being diverted into Lake Mealup again. The stop boards have been taken out and all is flowing as it should be. Without diversion there was one metre of water in the Lake. As soon as it reaches inlet height they will stop diverting water. Don't want melaleucas wet for too long. Sampling has shown that all in the Lake is good.
- Signage is being finalised to coincide with Martin's Campsite reopening at YNP.
- Doing prep works for spring and flora and fauna surveys.
- PHCC acquittal of grants 2 yr funding. Also going through that process (weed mgt etc). Started talks with SWCC - indicated going to be around \$100,000/yr for Ramsar and \$50,000 for biodiversity from SWCC's new Regional allocation 2013/14 to 2016/17. Discussions around Lake Preston area for Ramsar and various clay pans.
- In response to question: Healthy parks: Healthy People: low cost camping, resources going into parks management. Counters are in place at key recreation sites to count car numbers. YNP visitation numbers available; much harder for less defined sites

12.4 Bob Pond – DoW

- Materials have been prepared for FNS audit & with the auditors
- FNSII project report received from PHCC
- DoW budget is about the same as last year
- Raised whether a DER person needs to be part of PHCC; discussion determined perhaps best to wait until 1/1/2014 when new agency addressing regulation and water is in place

12.5 Thelma Crook, Ramsar 482 Coordinator

- Hotham Williams progressing steadily towards an NRM grant in for building the process; met with SWCC re alliances to their investment dollars for the next four years – if we receive funding.
- The first Ramsar 482 seminar was last night with Pierre Horwitz discussing, "Ramsar: local, national and international perspectives". Pierre's knowledgeable and informed presentation was very well received by over 30 people who attended.
- Kids-teaching-kids with City of Mandurah is on at the end of the month. Next year the City is hosting the International Conference; Ramsar is the theme being promoted for next year.

12.6 Paddy Strano LGSS Officer

- LSS workshop help; good turn out and participation
- SoM stormwater monitoring – drains not flowing!; assisting their assets manager to see how the system works and there are mutual benefits
- Bob Pond and Paddy made presentation at the UWA workshop coordinated by the City for Carolyn Oldam’s students.
- Paddy participated in a webinar; process may be useful in delivering his project.

12.7 Jan Star (additional information)

- An Honours study is undertaking a citizen science project to produce an “App” where you can log reportings of iconic estuary species such as dolphins – auto-logging of sites
- Green Army sites – preliminary sites identified by Thelma
- Don Randall’s election flyer states support for Peel-Harvey becoming an NRM region in their own right
- Andy will attend Monday’s media photo with Don Randall re Green Army, in Pinjarra.

13. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PHCC is scheduled to be held at on Thursday 17 October 2013 preceded by the AGM at 9.00am, at the **Marine Operations Centre**.

The meeting closed at 2.00pm

Chairman

Date

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3.	<p>Agency and Officer Reports [Item 11.3, 20 December 2012]. DEC to provide presentation in 2013 on results of fauna surveys, showing species such as Honey Possums. [18 April 2013] DEC to provide presentation at the meeting scheduled for Thursday 20 June. [24 June 2013] Presentation to be pencilled in for meeting of 15 August. To be presented at 15 October 2013 meeting</p>	Craig Olejnik	Pending