

# Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

## MINUTES OF MEETING



Held on Thursday 17 October 2013, commencing at 9.55am  
at the Marine Operations Centre, 107 Breakwater Parade, Mandurah Marina

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The Chairman opened the meeting at 9.55am

### 1. Attendance

<u>Present:</u>	Jan Star AM Marilyn Gray Andy Gulliver Dr Peter Hick Bob Pond Don Glenister Shane Kelliher Cr Dennis Veitch Maxine Whitely Dave Arkwright Scott Haine Rob Summers	Chairman Treasurer [from 12.30pm] Deputy Chairman Secretary Executive Committee [DoW] Member Member Member – Local Government [until 1.00pm] Member PDC Department of Planning (Peel) DAFWA
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<u>In Attendance:</u>	Jane O'Malley Kim Wilson Thelma Crook Paddy Strano Patricia Sutton Francis Smit Patrick Ruettjes	Executive Officer Program Manager Project Officer PHCC - Stormwater Strategy Officer PHCC – Minute Taker Landcare SJ Inc Shire of Murray
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<u>Guests:</u>	Nil
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<u>Apologies:</u>	Denyse Needham Cr Richard Smith Nuray Veryeri Craig Olejnik	Member Member – Local Government Member DPaW
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<u>Absent:</u>	
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## 2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest.

## 3. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 15 August 2013

3.1 Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 15 August 2013.

It was noted that the Department of Planning Representative was Cale **Luxton** not Loxtton.

*Moved: Cr Dennis Veitch*

*Seconded: Don Glenister*

*That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 August 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.	<b>Chairman's Report [Item 7, 16 August 2012].</b> 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.	<b>Chair's Report [Item 7, 20 September 2012] Oil Mallee.</b> 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.	<b>Agency and Officer Reports [Item 11.3, 20 December 2012].</b> 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	Craig Olejnik	Pending

4.1 It was suggested that all outstanding Actions be deleted, but that Item 3 still be pursued.

4.2 Richard Bush final report had not yet been received.

**ACTION: Write to Richard Bush thanking him for his presentation at the last meeting and ask if there were any interim results.**

4.3 Jan - Arc Linkage submission. Couldn't get enough cash contributions. Will put in the next round.

## 5. Treasurer's Report

### 5.1 September 2013 Financials

Jane O'Malley presented the following report in the Treasurer's absence:

#### ***October 2013 Financial Report***

*Initial funding for the 3 new projects [Rivers 2 Ramsar; Mayfields Healthy Waterways and HRRT Strategic Weed Control] and the progress payments for HRRT Blackberry and Lotterywest 482 Ramsar have been received in the last two months.*

*The CfoC Lake Clifton Recovery unspent funds (\$89,000) have been retained with the condition that they be acquitted within a certain timeframe.*

*Outgoings have been minimal and we are waiting on our first invoice from City of Mandurah for our Q1 payroll expense.*

*It has been a busy time finalising the projects closed at 30th June, preparation of the Organisation Financials for audit and preparing budgets, creating worksheets to streamline the process of tracking incoming and outgoing transactions for the new projects.*

*The Q1 CoM support to PHCC operating of \$50,000 has been invoiced and payment should be received very soon.*

*As at 30th September, based on accrual accounting, the Organisation has used \$28912.79 of its existing equity this financial year with the overall equity being \$552,780.36.*

*Moved: Andy Gulliver    Seconded: Don Glenister*

***That the principal and interest of the current Westpac term deposit be rolled over for a further term to generate maximum interest benefit.***

***CARRIED***

*Moved: Bob Pond      Seconded: Don Glenister*

***That the September 2013 Financial reports be ratified.***

***CARRIED***

## 6. Correspondence

### 6.1 Correspondence List for August 2013 – October 2013

**ACTION:      Jane to add the 'Toxic Mess' newspaper article to the letter to Richard Bush.**

All media items, including radio and television interviews should be recorded in the Correspondence List.

**ACTION:      Media section be added to the Correspondence List for future meetings.**

Jane advised that all comment to the media should go through the Chairman.

**ACTION: Jane to check the Organisation Policy in relation to media comment, to determine that it is clear and relevant and send to all members.**

*Moved: Rob Summers Seconded: Andy Gulliver*

***That Correspondence In and Correspondence Out be accepted.***

**CARRIED**

## **7. Chairman's Report**

Jan Star presented her report:

*“Soon after the last meeting we had a flurry of attention when a media release on the qualitative modelling done by Sarah Metcalf (Murdoch) was picked up by the West Australian. When approached for comment we were able to put them onto Richard Bush who had that day presented his findings on MBOs to us. The Peel-Harvey made the front page of Saturday's edition with “Toxic Mess” headline. There was immediate follow up by one Minister through his DG but probably the main impact was to increase the awareness among those involved in the Strategic Assessment process.*

*Again the Strategic Assessment of Directions31 has dominated activity with numerous meetings with DGs of Water and Regional Development and other officers. Andrew del Marco has been assisting in Jane's absence and the Executive Committee has been kept informed. There were two consultation sessions held in Mandurah, one by DPC for local governments and agencies, the other by PHCC (and WWF) for the general public. Both had the same presentations but there was some difference in issues raised and they were both helpful to DPC. Currently DoW is working on a suite of actions which would address the needs of the Commonwealth and State with respect to protection of Ramsar values, TECs and threatened fauna (primarily Carnaby's). We have been able to have input into this.*

*Becoming closely related to this is the work on Leadership and Coordination that has arisen from Kim Hames' election commitment. It is seen as a necessary precursor to implementing the necessary actions to satisfy the Strategic Assessment demands.*

*The Peel Region Leaders Forum met recently. They are still pursuing the Managed Aquifer Recharge; with the RDA they are planning a Canberra delegation next year; and also submitted a submission on the Local Government amalgamations. The last was similar to ours in stressing that SJ was an integral part of the Peel and seeking a postponement of any decision on SJ until the Peel as a whole is considered.*

*With the help of the RDA I attended the Biodivercities Conference in Joondalup. Basically it was around the role of vegetation in urban areas and the ICLEI program promoting action. Presentations are available on the Joondalup website – excellent international speakers but the highlight for me was the talk on blue carbon. This was about the ability of marine based systems, namely samphire flats, mangroves and seagrasses, to sequester carbon at a much greater quantum than terrestrial systems.*

*We did meet with Minister Baston (Agriculture) who had no problem with our gaining regional status, and who favoured local governments as delivery agents. In a meeting with Minister Jacobs (Environment) recently he also stressed the need to work closely with our local members.*

*Finally congratulations to Landcare SJ for being a finalist, and I believe runner-up, in the Banksia awards in the “Land and Biodiversity” section. Francis is going to tell us today about the project they submitted. The winner of their category was Gondwana Link project run by Keith Brady who has a long history with the Peel and us. Another finalist was the North Dandalup Primary School who were also runners up to the Kings Park Nature Playground in the “Education” category. We must congratulate them too.”*

*Moved: Rob Summers      Seconded: Dave Arkwright*

***That the Chairman’s Report be accepted.***

**CARRIED**

***The meeting broke for morning tea at 10.33am and resumed at 11.00am***

## **8. Executive Officer’s Report**

The Executive Officer returned to work on 15<sup>th</sup> November after 13 weeks of extended leave.

- Jane thanked Jan, the Executive, staff and Andrew DelMarco, for their assistance in keeping things rolling while she was on extended leave, noting that no-one was officially acting in the position in her absence.
- A draft budget for funding for the PHCC from 2014 to 2018 was prepared and submitted to the Commonwealth Minister for Environment Greg Hunt, following the Coalition winning the election. This was provided in the format required, under Sustainable Environment and Sustainable Agriculture streams, according to guidelines from the previous government. This included Administration and Meri of no more than 10%. Jane will continue to work with the Ministers office and the Department to progress the commitment to establishing the PHCC as an independent region, with sufficient funds.
- The opening of the office is coming up on Friday 29 November and it is to be combined with the End of Year celebration. Invitations will be posted next week and Jane urged all members to attend to help celebrate the opening of the office and another successful year.
- Jane acknowledged the successful Biodiversity Fund application and thanked staff, particularly Thelma Crook who was the main author for that application.

*Moved: Bob Pond      Seconded: Maxine Whitely*

***That the Executive Officer’s Report be accepted.***

**CARRIED**

## **9. Monthly Meeting Inventory**

Members noted the Monthly Meeting Inventory for August 2013 – October 2013.

## **10. Guest Speaker – Francis Smit, Landcare SJ : Cockatubes**

Francis Smit provided a presentation on the Cockatubes project undertaken by Landcare SJ whose aims are to:

- Reverse land degradation
- Promote best land management practices
- Improve water quality in river systems drains and wetlands
- Conserve and restore habitat for native flora and fauna.

The habits and characteristics of Cockatoos are:

- Long lived
- Approximately 60 cm high
- Species vary in markings and beak shape
- Highly mobile, moving sequentially through landscape
- Breed at 4 years, two eggs (Carnaby's)
- Every two years (Red tails)
- Pair for life
- High fidelity to nesting hollows.

The decline of the species is due to:

- Loss of breeding habitat
  - Reduction in stag trees
  - Competition for natural hollows (birds and bees)
  - Logging
  - Forest age and condition
  - Urban sprawl
  - Loss of foraging habitat
  - Climate change
  - Illegal trade
  - Road kill, drowning and entrapment
  - Predation
  - Orchardist rage

Cockatubes are manufactured from 290–400mm recycled ID Poly Tube 800–1000mm long.

Tree selection and installation:

- Access with cherry picker essential
- Marri, Jarrah, Tuart & Wandoo
- Open canopy
- North east aspect
- Above eight metres – average 12 metres
- Fixed at four points with coach bolts
- Mulch and sacrificial posts.

Monitoring:

- Dawn and dusk
  - best times to observe activity of parents around nestboxes
- Check sacrificial posts
  - evidence of chewing/activity in nest
- Give the tree a tap
  - check if anyone comes to check what all the racket is

- Keep a record
  - date, time, location, observation
- Feedback to Landcare SJ

#### Where to Next?

- Direct marketing
- North, south and east - installations
- Increased monitoring and reporting
- Network with other groups in and outside WA
- Increased foraging habitat planted
- Improved environmental legislation
- Coordination of efforts to continue.

## 11. Agency and Officer Reports

### 11.1 Rob Summers – DAFWA

- Whole farm nutrient mapping

The whole farm nutrient mapping project has commenced for 2013/14. There have been 100 farms chosen for testing and most of the properties have been mapped. Sampling is planned to commence in mid November and will continue over summer until March 2014. Another year of monitoring is planned to end in early 2015.

A soil testing contractor will accompany the DAFWA staff for initial training and will be sampling some of the properties. The project is encouraging the development of the capacity of private industry to undertake the role in future.

- Swan River Trust soil amendment

The demonstration of soil amendments and their monitoring is continuing at Ellen Brook. The final draft of the results for the first year will be complete in a week. Sampling of water and plant matter has finished for 2013 and the plant growth response has been measured.

A 50 ha trial in Ellen Brook has commenced on a growers property using the Lime Amended Bioclay from WaterCorp (LaBC) and the project has been extended to include a number of demonstration strips on at least 10 more properties in the Ellen Brook catchment.

### 11.2 Dave Arkwright – Peel Development Commission

- A lot of work in the Palusplain area. The potential for agricultural precincts in the Peel region to attract more intensive food production – controlled.
- Some older agriculture systems may be overtaken by new systems and technologies.
- Have to get a lot more efficient in trading with overseas partners.
- Meeting with Department of Agriculture tomorrow to be taken to Cabinet. Also working with Department of Planning on the future of the Palusplain may benefit from a different approach to management, rather than the current Town Planning Scheme hope for innovation to protect those areas from urban development and economic enterprise. In the process of doing that trying to get the value of ecosystem services in the Peel.

- Showed the ecosystem of the Peel are valued at approximately at \$9bill/annum. It is extremely significant.
- The Department of Planning Peel are very proactive in this area at present.

11.3 Scott Haine – Department of Planning Peel

- Not too much to report on major amendments to the Peel Region Scheme. Waiting on environmental assessment to be completed.
- One amendment approved was North Dandalup townsite expansion. Transferred from rural to urban. Can provide more information if needed.
- Still aim to put report to community of Nambeelup Structure Plan later this year.

11.4 Bob Pond – Department of Water

- The Department will not be joining DERR and is to remain Department of Water.
- The White Paper is most involved with DoW Water plan and allocation. The statutory allocation plans will have clear limits. At the moment, because it's not statutory, limits can be exceeded.
- It will become a usage entitlement, not a right.
- Strategic Assessment – cross agency work has been done by Adrian.
- Internally, voluntary redundancies.
- Had a presentation – Royalties for Regions funding has been working on a new access method for water information. New system can go into GIS front end, user friendly, put your requests into a shopping basket, if not over 10mb of info, you immediately get a message, get a number for request and 80% of requests for information will be handled within 10-20mins. It will be publicly launched next year.

*The meeting broke for lunch at 12.30pm and resumed at 1.00pm*

**ACTION: Jane to acknowledge Keith Bradby, send congratulations to Gondwana, Landcare SJ and Norh Dandalup Primary School.**

11.5 Paddy Strano – Stormwater Strategy Officer

- Finalising, formatting and printing all reports
- Developing LGSS implementation timeframe, coupled with milestones
- Working on the City of Mandurah's Samuel Renfrey report
- Assist Farid with the City of Mandurah's Samuel Renfrey presentation to Parks and Engineering
- Preparing proposal for continuation of the Samuel Renfrey monitoring
- Undertake sampling run of the Shire of Murray stormwater drainage locations
- Recommend to PHCC comments on the Shire of Murray Biodiversity Strategy.

11.6 Kim Wilson – Program Manager

- Kim thanked staff and the Executive for their teamwork and extra efforts during Jane's absence.
- Thanks to everyone who worked on the Caring for Our Country applications (Jane O, Jane T, Juan, Bob Pond, Kim, Thelma, Paddy), unfortunately they were unsuccessful

with only \$36 million in total allocate Australia-wide; and the successful Biodiversity fund – Rivers 2 Ramsar- application (primarily Thelma)

- Rivers 2 Ramsar – focus now on developing the MERI Plan.
- Healthy Mayfield Waterways – Community Landcare Grant (\$49,000)
- HRRT – Weed Control – Community Environment Grant (\$50,000)
- Lake Clifton Recovery retained funds agreed activities for expenditure this year.
- Presentation : The “Creating Ash Beds” video was demonstrated – view at : [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFBeuzrojs0&feature=c4-overview&list=UUTFgDmpoxSTT\\_0LdbO8CP3g](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFBeuzrojs0&feature=c4-overview&list=UUTFgDmpoxSTT_0LdbO8CP3g)

#### 11.7 Other Business

Maxine Whitely:

- A Pingelly indigenous group has taken back the rock and is constructing a campsite in the area. The story of the Waugul’s egg has been put at the site and climbing on the rock is now prohibited.
- Maxine will report on the Oil Mallees at the next meeting.

Andy Gulliver:

- Peel Community Foundation – the WACF has gone into liquidation with a trust company now administering those funds. A resolution was to find a use for the funds, with an idea to fund two scholarships per year at Murdoch University, for environmental and social factors. Murdoch is wanting to become engaged with the Peel community.

#### 12. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the PHCC is scheduled to be held at on Thursday 19 December 2013 at the **Marine Operations Centre**.

*The meeting closed at 2.00pm*

Chairman .....

Date .....

**Summary of actions from meeting:**

No.	Details	Resp.	Complete
1.	<p><b>Business Arising from Minutes of Previous Meeting [Item 4.2, 17 Oct 2013]</b></p> <p>Write to Richard Bush thanking him for his presentation at the last meeting and ask if there were any interim results.</p> <p><b>Correspondence Listing [Item 6.1, 17 Oct 2013]</b></p> <p>Jane to add the ‘Toxic Mess’ newspaper article to the letter to Richard Bush.</p>	Jane O’Malley	
2.	<p><b>Correspondence Listing [Item 6.1, 17 Oct 2013]</b></p> <p>Media section to be added to the Correspondence Listing for future meetings.</p>	Admin Officer	
3.	<p><b>Correspondence Listing [Item 6.1, 17 Oct 2013]</b></p> <p>Jane to check the Organisation Policy in relation to media comment, to determine that it is clear and relevant, and to send to all members.</p>	Jane O’Malley	
4.	<p><b>Agency and Officer Reports [Item 11, 17 October 2013]</b></p> <p>Jane to acknowledge Keith Bradby, send congratulations to Gondwana, Landcare SJ and North Dandalup Primary School.</p>	Jane O’Malley	