

Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING



Held on Thursday 21 August 2014 at 9.00am
at the Marine Operations Centre, 107 Breakwater Parade, Mandurah Ocean Marina

The Chairman opened the meeting at 9.00am

1. Attendance

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---|
| <u>Present:</u> | Jan Star AM | Chairman |
| | Andy Gulliver | Deputy Chairman |
| | Marilyn Gray | Treasurer |
| | Bob Pond | Executive Committee [DoW] |
| | Don Glenister | Member |
| | Dr Peter Hick | Member [until 10.40am] |
| | Shane Kelliher | Member |
| | Cr Richard Smith | Member |
| | Maxine Whitely | Member |
| | Cr John Allert | Local Govt Member (Inland) |
| | Cr Caroline Knight | Local Govt Member (Coastal) |
| | Cr Keith Ellis | Proxy Local Govt Member (Coastal) |
| | Rob Summers | DAFWA |
| | Paul Tholen | DPaW |
| | Scott Haine | Department of Planning (Peel) – Observer |
| | | |
| <u>In Attendance:</u> | Jane O'Malley | Chief Executive Officer |
| | Kim Wilson | Program Manager |
| | Thelma Crook | Rivers 2 Ramsar Project Manager [from 9.45am] |
| | Paddy Strano | Stormwater Strategy Officer |
| | Patricia Sutton | Office Manager |
| | Farid Bagheri | Project Support Officer [from 10.05am] |
| | Jordon Garbellini | Project/Admin Support Officer [until 10.40am] |
| | Francis Smit | Landcare SJ |
| | | |
| <u>Guests:</u> | Prof Hans Lambers | UWA [from 9.35am until 10.40am] |
| | Andrew DelMarco | Ironbark Environmental [from 9.30am] |
| | | |
| <u>Apologies:</u> | Denyse Needham, OAM | Member |
| | Nuray Veryeri | Member |
| | Dave Arkwright | PDC |
| | Craig Olejnik | DPaW |
| | Kristy Gregory | Landcare SJ |

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest.

3. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 19 June 2014

3.1 Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 19 June 2014

Moved: Peter Hick Seconded: Don Glenister

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2014 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. | Item 7 [17 April 2014] Chairman's Report Cr Ellis to liaise with Jan to discuss proposed water flow modifications from the Wungong with an aim to stop the migration of feral pearl cyclids to the Peel rivers from the Wungong. <i>Cr Ellis & Jan Star are liaising and intend to meet on site. Fisheries to hold a meeting. Jan to report.</i> <i>Site visit not yet held.</i> | Cr Ellis / Jan Star | |
| 2. | Item 7 [19 June 2014] Chairman's Report Invite Joel Hall (DoW) to present at a future meeting on his modelling work and the Upper Serpentine Water Management Plan. <i>Date to be determined.</i> | Patricia Sutton | |
| 3. | Item 9 [19 June 2014] Treasurer's Report Treasurer and Finance Manager to arrange rollover of funds currently held in Westpac Term Deposit 036134-231503 at the best quoted rate for a period of 4 - 6 months. <i>Funds rolled over on 27/6/14, to expire on 27/12/14 at a rate of 3.6%.</i> | Marilyn Gray & Karen Henderson | Complete |
| 4. | Item 13.3 [19 June 2014] Agency Reports (Rob Summers – DAFWA) Rob Summers to invite a DAFWA representative to address a future meeting in relation to biosecurity. <i>Date to be determined.</i> | Patricia Sutton to liaise with Rob Summers | |

Item 1 Jan reported that action is proceeding and she will follow up on a report from Cr Ellis that the drain is blocked.

Item 4 Rob Summers advised that Lindsay Strange could present at the next meeting.

5. Correspondence

5.1 Correspondence List for June – August 2014

Item 1.5 Jane brought attention to the Shire of Murray Corporate Business Plan, advising that it contains some very good environmental actions that demonstrate the shift in culture at the Shire of Murray. The Shire recently received a Milestone award at the WALGA convention for their Biodiversity Strategy.

ACTION: Send a letter of acknowledgement and congratulations to the Shire of Murray for their Corporate Business Plan and the biodiversity award received at the WALGA Convention.

Item 2.8 In response to a question from John Allert, Paddy Strano and Jan Star provided an explanation of the MUSIC stormwater management program.

Moved: Rob Summers Seconded: Shane Kelliher

That Correspondence In and Correspondence Out be accepted.

CARRIED

6. Monthly Meeting Inventory

Tabled.

7. Chairman's Report

Jan Star presented her report:

"We mentioned the market garden problem last meeting, and it seems that there has been a great deal of cooperation between agencies and local government (with Jane's help). The PLRF have contributed \$15,000 to work on a regulatory framework. I met with the PDC CEO and DoW DG to make sure we were all in agreement. Consequently I wrote to WAPC Chairman and EPA Chair; while Mellisa (PDC) was to further discuss soil amendments with her Alcoa contacts. At a follow-up discussion agriculture was again an issue but with respect to the Blueprint that PDC are engulfed in – Mellisa was particularly looking for feedback on the Agrifood part. I gather it is to be finalised this month.

Agriculture came up also at the NRM Regional Chairs group. RDA SW are involved in an Agriculture Strategy for the SW and Perth RDA are also working on peri-urban agriculture. This will give us food for thought on our input to the PDC Blueprint. Please discuss with Jane if interested.

Another interesting development on the national scene is the formation of a Landcare group in WA. We have the option of joining it so I would like your comment.

You will notice a meeting with Don Randall, seeking his assistance with a few matters: funding and boundaries particularly. The meeting with Ray Tame was a follow-up to the LGAB advice on local government reform, and we particularly wanted him to be aware of SAPPF developments. I also met with the Greens leader with SJ community leader on the Biorganics case – agreed that an independent inquiry into industrial waste may be a useful way to go.

Chris Tallentire and David Templeman met with many community representatives to discuss their proposed P-H Trust Bill soon to be presented in Parliament. It has a good intent and some good features. It also gives PHCC a prominent place in its delivery but it still leaves such a body open to ministerial influence as we have seen with the Swan River Trust. If you didn't hear, the Auditor – General has raised issues re the state of the Swan in a report this week. He particularly criticised the lack of an overall strategy – when the Minister has sat on the SRT River Protection Strategy for three years much to the frustration of the SRT.

[Andrew DelMarco arrived at 9.30am]

Martin Ralph came and introduced himself – as Simon Taylor’s offsider and he later sat in on a meeting Simon arranged with The Nature Conservancy who have an estuaries program they are starting to roll out in Australia. Seemed to be a fishing expedition.

PHEMC, at their last meeting, agreed to further refine and consider five drainage projects that PHCC and DoW had developed. Water Corp are now involved. Most of this was based on our SIPs and also on the work DoW are doing with CSIRO. There is a DER paper out for comment on by-products which seems to be the proposed framework for soil amendments. There is no legislation involved, more just about policy and guidance statements. Andrew has prepared our response which we will discuss.

[Hans Lambers arrived at 9.35am]

With the PLRF the signage/branding project continues and there is an ongoing audit of regional capacity for events. PDC reported on the progress with Nambellup. The NRM RLG has been involved in giving comment on a future Landcare program currently under consideration. Branding for them is also an issue.

There were two disappointing decisions from the Commonwealth. One was the approval for Point Grey – albeit with some pretty onerous conditions. The other was not to call in the Whitby urban development plan in Mundijong, despite the consultant’s report stating that there were cockatoo foraging trees among the many very large jarrah and marris. There is a significant Bush Forever site with sun moths and other declared species which will be reserved but the rest of the development has nearly a thousand trees, most of which will go, and there are none of similar size that I know of on the SCP. Probably relevant to this, there has been a State Offsets paper released for comment.

Finally congratulations to Jane and her team – we are now an NRM Region!”

Members discussed joining the proposed WA Landcare group and they agreed there was merit in being involved. Landcare in Hotham-Williams is a high priority, with Mel Durack currently employed for one day per week in that area.

Moved: Bob Pond Seconded: Marilyn Gray

That the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council applies to become a member of the State Landcare group.

CARRIED

ACTION: Jan Star to follow up Chris Malley on the matter of reporting annually on licensed premises.

Moved: John Allert Seconded: Andy Gulliver

That the Chairman’s Report be accepted.

CARRIED

Jan welcomed Hans Lambers to the meeting.

[Item 10 on the agenda followed this item]

8. Chief Executive Officer's Report *[this item followed Item 10 on the agenda]*

The Chief Executive Officer presented her report:

8.1 NRM Strategy

Jane advised that she would be presenting the Strategy Prioritisation Process to the working group on Monday 25 August. The consultation phase for *Bjnjareb Boodja Landscapes 2025* will commence on 15 September for a period of six weeks. There will be an interactive survey online, as well as a map where sites can be electronically identified.

8.2 Strategic Directions 2014-24

Jane reported that she and Bob Pond had reviewed comments made at the last meeting and taken into consideration the governance audit results. The Strategic Directions 2014-24, Draft NRM Strategy (for consultation) and the Annual Report would be posted on 13 September. She called for comments from members on the document which was tabled and she sought endorsement of the Strategic Directions 2014-24 document.

Members advised that they had managed access of the documents via the website.

Andy acknowledged, on behalf of the board, the input into the Strategy and Strategic Directions 2014-24 in such a short period of time.

Moved: Maxine Whitely Secoded: Don Glenister

That Strategic Directions 2014-24 be endorsed as presented.

CARRIED

[John Allert left the room at 10.12am]

8.3 DER: Draft Guidance Statement - Regulating the use of waste-derived materials (tabled)

Andrew DelMarco provided an overview of the draft guidance statement, explaining that it is a very brief document with a minimalist approach. It is a step in the right direction and DER should be encouraged to make bigger steps, including:

- WDM should be considered as 'products' in their own right and issued with a use permit;
- The need for a clear list of objectives to guide the development of Material Guidelines;
- How environmental and human health protection will be demonstrated by applicants;
- Material guidelines should be for specific materials (not categories of materials);
- The regulation framework should provide a one-stop-shop approval for products; and
- Should be driven and prioritised not only by the diversion of materials from landfill.

A copy of our submission will be provided to the SOG PHEMC group for their consideration in respect to how it will assist towards protection of water quality objectives of the SAPPR process. The PHCC have offered to participate in workshops to inform the development of the guidelines.

[John Allert returned at 10.25am]

Moved: Don Glenister Secoded: Bob Pond

That the "Draft Guidance Statement – Regulating the use of waste-derived materials" to the Department of Environmental Regulation, be referred to the Executive for endorsement.

CARRIED

8.4 Other matters

Jane reported that PHCC is now a region, with the first contract from the Australian Government which will take us through to December, being received yesterday. A second contract (funding being transferred from SWCC) is also due, which will provide funding for more on-ground projects to December. There is a lot to achieve to meet the new outcomes.

Andy and Bob joined Jane in a community information session regarding the new National Landcare program. Following that meeting, they met with Sarah Meredith (Advisory to Minister Hunt) and Sarah Gowland to discuss the progress of the NRM Strategy and funding for the PHCC. We only have assurance from the Australian Government that there will be funding for this financial year. To meet outcomes as a region, funding is required to June 2018.

The Senior Scientist position has been advertised, with applications closing today (21 August 2014). The recruitment agency will present the three top applicants to the panel and interviews are scheduled for 2 September. The contract will initially be for one year, with a three year extension. Bob asked if the panel would only consider the final three candidates or would they be able to view all applications. He would be happy to take the top three recommendations, but would be interested to see the others. Jane confirmed that only the top three candidates would be presented, but that could be reviewed if required.

Jane advised that there were currently two volunteers with good skills working at PHCC.

Jane introduced Jordon Garbellini, who was in attendance. Jane advised that Jordon had been contracted to assist with admin and projects for two days per week until December. (The contract has since been increased to three days per week until December.)

Moved: Bob Pond Seconded: Marilyn Gray

That the Chief Executive Officer's Report be accepted.

CARRIED

The meeting broke for morning tea at 10.40am

The meeting resumed at 11.10am

9. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented her report:

9.1 Project Funding

- FNSII Filtering the Nutrient Storm Phase II audit has been completed and financial statement sent to Department of Water.
- HRRT Blackberry audit has been completed and financial statement and request to retain funds to 31 December has been sent to the Australian Government.
- SWCC Lake Clifton Ramsar Restoration financial statement has been submitted for audit and is due to be completed by 31 August 2014.
- Rivers 2 Ramsar annual financial statement has been submitted for audit and is due to be completed by 1 September 2014.

9.2 Term Deposit

Westpac Term Deposit – Principal and interest was renewed on 27 June. \$419,503.70 for 6 months at rate of 3.6%. Maturity date 27 December 2014.

9.3 Financial Position as at 15 August 2014

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Corporate Online Saver Account | \$263,067.88 |
| Project Online Saver Account | \$826,097.81 |
| Cheque Account | \$ 34,345.35 |
| Term Deposit | \$409,503.70 |

The report for 30 June is not complete and is pending on any changes, if required, due to Project audits being conducted. Unspent Project funds at 30 June, 2014 have been rolled over to the new financial year and budget updated.

9.4 Commercial Cards

Pat Sutton, Thelma Crook and Jo Garvey have been issued with Corporate Credit Cards. Increase in card limit to \$10,000 has been submitted to ANZ, however, at this stage it remains at \$5,000.

9.5 Petty Cash

A Petty Cash float of \$200 has been endorsed by the Finance and Audit Committee to accommodate small cash purchases made by staff. This will be managed by Pat Sutton.

9.6 PHCC Audit for Financial Year 2013/14

The Organisation audit, along with the Foundational funding (State and Federal), will be conducted on-site at PHCC on September 24, 2014. Audited financial reports are thus anticipated to be available for the October AGM.

Moved: John Allert Seconded: Caroline Knight

That the July 2014 Financial reports be ratified.

CARRIED

10. Guest Speakers – Winthrop Professor Hans Lambers (UWA School of Plant Biology) : Plant life on the sand plains in Southwest Australia, a global biodiversity hotspot [This item followed Item 7 – Chairman’s Report, commencing at 9.45am]

Winthrop Professor Lambers’ presentation is available on the Members’ area of the PHCC website.

- Soils in S.W. Australia are the most phosphorus-impoverished in the world and plant species richness is amongst the highest in the world
- Plant species diversity increases with decreasing soil fertility

Threats to S.W. Australia's biodiversity:

- Increased soil phosphorus levels:
 - o Run-off from urban settlements, Spread from agricultural land., Dust from roads, Increased fire frequency, Fire retardants, Spraying from phosphite
- *Phytophthora cinnamomi*

Conclusions:

- As long as we have no alternative for phosphite to combat *Phytophthora* we must use it with the greatest possible care
- We must also continue our research on how phosphite actually works to immunise plants
- Based on our understanding how phosphite works, we should test harmless alternative chemicals
- We need new tools for Fighting Dieback!
- If we continue business as usual, we will lose Proteaceae species due to phosphate fertilisation.

Concluding remarks:

- P-efficient native plants are common in severely P-impooverished landscapes
- Many species are highly P-sensitive
- Managing P inputs is vital to conserve P impooverished biodiversity hotspots
- Conservation strategies are not universal, but must be matched with local conditions.

Prof Lambers' book can be purchased at the PHCC office or ordered online at www.uwap.uwa.edu.au/collections/hans-lambers

[Item 8 Chief Executive Officer's Report followed this Item]

11. Officer Presentations / Reports

11.1 Farid Bagheri – presentation

Farid presented the results of monitoring Samuel Renfrey Reserve pond and discussed the effectiveness of the aeration system and beneficial bacteria to maintain good water quality. He found that the system appears to be working but further monitoring is necessary.

The client, City of Mandurah, is satisfied with the PHCC's completion of the project and have requested a quote for further monitoring.

This was a Fee for Service project for the City. A quote to continue monitoring has been submitted.

11.2 Paddy Strano – update

Paddy discussed the Local Government Stormwater Strategy (LGSS) project and the progress made in the last two years. In that time Paddy has completed a gap analysis for the four councils: Serpentine Jarrahdale, Murray, Waroona, and Harvey, followed by two local government stormwater strategies to address these gaps.

Paddy is now developing a regional local government stormwater strategy, initially dealing with just the current four councils, and organising the *Borrowing the Water* workshop, to be held next week.

At this event council staff from the four councils will listen to speakers and then discuss actions to progress the regional LGSS within their respective councils.

Andy said he admired the vision and persistence required for a strategic effort over a long period of time.

[Both the above presentations are available on the Members page of the PHCC website.]

12. Agency Reports

12.1 Scott Haine – Dept of Planning (Peel)

Nothing to report at this meeting.

12.2 Bob Pond – DoW

Bob reported on the following:

- The Department is once again looking at its role in estuary waterway management and water quality. It is aware of the need to keep its skill set.
- Actions on new jetties since changes in policy are affecting the Murray River.

12.3 Rob Summers – DAFWA

Rob reported on the following:

- Soil sampling in Coolup to assess the impact of different sampling techniques and equipment on sampling results.
- Plant tissue sampling to assess the impact of different soil amendments on plant growth and plant tissue analysis in Ellen Brook Trials.
- Supplied Western Australian Marine Science Institute an assessment of research priorities and research gaps from a DAFWA perspective.
- Replied to the request for input into the DER Waste to Product legislation.
- Finalising a report on evaluating options for improving efficiency of P use in grazing and crop industries and also a report on soil ameliorants for limiting nutrient leakage.
- Currently arranging to bring the Fertcare Auditor Ken Peverill to WA to discuss the auditing process and to meet with those interested with the Fertcare process and procedures.

12.4 Paul Tholen – DPaW

Paul updated members on the following:

- Weed management at: Roman Road, Pinjarra, Mooyootj, Carrabungup and Bandicoot Brook Nature Reserves. Some woody weeds plus awarding contracts for woody weeds, grasses, Watsonia, Bridal creeper and Sparaxis. These are joint projects with SWCC, the PHCC, the Murray Districts Aboriginal Association (MDAA) and Greening Australia.
- Rehabilitation of riparian vegetation along the Serpentine River at Lowlands and within the Clay based wetland in the Mooyootj Nature Reserves. These projects fall under Rivers to Ramsar funding provided by the PHCC and SWCC.
- Fencing projects at Itty Bitty, Serpentine River and Nine-Mile Nature Reserves.

- Dieback project started at Cardup involving planning for fencing and brush down stations. A joint project with the Dieback Working Group (DWG).
- Biosecurity project involving the removal of Cotton bush at the Harvey River delta where it enters the Peel-Harvey Estuary in Kooljerranup Nature Reserve. A joint project with the Harvey River Restoration Group and the Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group.
- Fauna project 1: Placement of nesting boxes and motion sensor cameras at Lowlands, in Kooljerranup, Leda and Nine-Mile Nature Reserves to look at brush tail phascogale populations in the DPaW reserves on the Coastal Plain). This project is funded through the Jandakot offset.
- Fauna Project 2: Spotlighting at Martin's Tank – Yalgorup National Park – Sat 23 August. A community project to encourage campers to appreciate the diversity of nocturnal fauna in the parks. Fauna likely to be spotted include: Ring tail and brush tail possums, Quenda, bats, owls and frogs.
- Fauna project 3: Terrestrial fauna survey being planned for Austin Bay Nature Reserve – Due early November includes pitfall and Sheffield trapping for mammals and reptiles.

12.5 Francis Smit – Landcare SJ

Francis congratulated Jane and PHCC on achieving region status. A very important development for Landcare in the Catchment. He said that the past months had been exciting and productive for Landcare SJ and reported on the following:

- Planting season with community groups – four sites remaining. Highlights include:
 - An increase in number of volunteers
 - 100 people at National Tree Day (Serpentine River Celebration). Includes 30 new email contacts
 - SITA presentation of giant cheque and giant cake at planting with Serpentine Primary School
 - Ongoing project with North Dandalup Primary School – in its 8th year
 - 25 people at Gooralong Brook Jarrahdale planting including partners Jarrahdale Heritage Society and National Trust WA.
- Social Media:
 - Facebook and website www.landcaresj.com.au have been created. Please visit the page.
- Shire of SJ:
 - 2014 Free verge plant scheme completed and delivered
 - Negotiated an increase in funding from \$60,000 to \$100,000 for next financial year
 - Negotiated a MoU after long deliberations. Accepted by SJ LCDC and Landcare SJ Inc with only final signatures required.
- 2013/14 Financial year audit completed this week.
- Employment:
 - Part-time with environment and ecotourism qualifications – 2 days/week for a 12 month period
 - Regular volunteers work two mornings per week on admin, crowd funding, Paypal and donations
 - The website administrator is a volunteer.
- A Strategic Business Plan is being developed.
- Cockatube Project:
 - A presentation at Narrogin in partnership with SWCC and PHCC was highly successful. Outcomes include:
 - Interest shown by local landholders in cockatoo recovery and breeding sites
 - Information provided on previously monitored local breeding site (1970's)
 - Breeding site location determined and monitoring to commence
 - Slight change in design after some research by DPaW at a highly successful site which includes 50 nestboxes
 - Showcased on DER website for 12 months
 - Past financial year website sales.

- Rivers 2 Ramsar – receiving excellent support from Thelma and Jo to progress project.
- Landcare SJ prepared Submission to Senate enquiry on Landcare.
- Support and development for establishment of Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group. Using Landcare SJ Incorporation to establish. Currently \$68,000 committed by local governments plus SJ LCDC which will be matched by DAFWA. Letters sent to landholders of properties over 10ha in the SJ, Murray, Mandurah, Waroona and Harvey areas. There is a particular focus on cottonbush.
- Continuing community extension through SJ LCDC bi-monthly presentations. Dr Monica Gagliano, a post-doctoral fellow at UWA presented scientific research on consciousness and cognitive function of plants. This will be posted on the website.

13. Next Meeting

Cr Allert gave his apologies for the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 12.10pm. The next meeting is to be held on Thursday 16 October (includes AGM).

Chairman

Date

Summary of actions from previous meetings:

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|-----|--|--|----------|
| 1. | <p>Item 7 [17 April 2014] Chairman's Report Cr Ellis to liaise with Jan to discuss proposed water flow modifications from the Wungong with an aim to stop the migration of feral pearl cyclids to the Peel rivers from the Wungong. <i>Cr Ellis & Jan Star are liaising and intend to meet on site. Fisheries to hold a meeting. Jan to report.</i> <i>Site visit not yet held.</i> <i>21/8/14 - Jan reported that action is proceeding and she will follow up on a report from Cr Ellis that the drain is blocked.</i></p> | Cr Ellis / Jan Star | |
| 2. | <p>Item 7 [19 June 2014] Chairman's Report Invite Joel Hall (DoW) to present at a future meeting on his modelling work and the Upper Serpentine Water Management Plan. <i>Date to be determined.</i></p> | Patricia Sutton | |
| 4. | <p>Item 13.3 [19 June 2014] Agency Reports (Rob Summers – DAFWA) Rob Summers to invite a DAFWA representative to address a future meeting in relation to biosecurity. <i>Lindsay Strange to present at October 16 meeting.</i></p> | Patricia Sutton to liaise with Rob Summers | Complete |

Summary of actions from meeting of 21 August 2014:

| No. | Details | Resp. | Complete |
|-----|---|-----------------|----------|
| 1. | <p>Item 5.1 [21 August 2014] Correspondence (Item 1.5 Shire of Murray Corporate Business Plan) Send a letter of acknowledgement and congratulations to the Shire of Murray for their Corporate Business Plan and the biodiversity award received at the WALGA Convention.</p> | Patricia Sutton | |
| 2. | <p>Item 7 [21 August 2014] Chairman's Report Follow up Chris Malley on the matter of reporting annually on licensed premises.</p> | Jan Star | |