

Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING



Held on Thursday 18 December 2014 at 9.08am
at the Marine Operations Centre, 107 Breakwater Parade, Mandurah Ocean Marina

The Chairman opened the meeting at 9.08am

1. Attendance

<u>Present:</u>	Jan Star AM	Chairman
	Andy Gulliver	Deputy Chairman
	Marilyn Gray	Treasurer
	Bob Pond	Executive Committee [DoW]
	Dr Peter Hick	Member
	Maxine Whitely	Member [from 9.10am]
	Cr John Allert	Local Govt Member (Inland) [from 9.10am]
	Cr Caroline Knight	Local Govt Member (Coastal)
	Karl Brennan	DPaW
	Scott Haine	Department of Planning (Peel) – Observer
<u>In Attendance:</u>	Jane O'Malley	Chief Executive Officer
	Kim Wilson	Program Manager
	Ryan Hooper	Snr Scientist PHCC
	Thelma Crook	Rivers 2 Ramsar Project Manager PHCC
	Jo Garvey	Rivers 2 Ramsar Officer
	Colleen Archibald	NRM Support Officer
	Patricia Sutton	Office Manager PHCC
<u>Guests:</u>	Martin Ralph	Principal Policy Officer Cabinet and Policy Division, Economic and Deregulation, DPC [until 9.45am]
<u>Apologies:</u>	Paddi Creevey OAM	Secretary
	Darralyn Ebsary	Member
	Cr Keith Ellis	Proxy Local Govt Member (Coastal)
	Dave Arkwright	PDC
	Craig Olejnik	DPaW
	Rob Summers	DAFWA
<u>Absent:</u>		

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest.

[Maxine Whitely and Cr John Allert arrived at 9.10am]

Jan Star introduced Martin Ralph and advised that his presentation (Item 10 on the agenda) would be brought forward due to Martin having another commitment.

10. Guest Speaker : Martin Ralph, Principal Policy Officer Cabinet and Policy Division, Economic and Deregulation, Department of Premier and Cabinet *[This item was brought forward]*

Martin Ralph provided a brief update of the Strategic Assessment of the Perth and Peel Region (SAPPR) giving detail on the following points:

- The SAPPR Process - outlined
- Why the Peel Harvey?
- Key Players at the State level
- Key Focal Points:
 1. Additions to the Peel Yalgorup National Park
 2. Support for the use of soil products
 3. Mandatory soil testing for commercial agriculture properties > 40ha
 4. Implementation of drainage projects.
- Minor Victories
- What Next?

[9.45am Martin Ralph concluded his presentation]

3. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 16 October 2014

3.1 Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 16 October 2014.

Item 7 – para 5 (Chairman’s Report). The spelling of “Stevenson” was changed to “Stephenson”.

Moved: Bob Pond Seconded: Caroline Knight

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 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 [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	Pending

2.	Item 7 [21 August 2014] Chairman’s Report Follow up DER on the matter of reporting annually on licensed premises.	Jan Star	
3.	Item 4 [16 October 2014] Business Arising from Minutes Send letters of congratulations to: 1. The Shire of Murray for becoming a Waterwise Council. 2. The City of Mandurah for receiving the 2014 Biodiversity Milestone Award with an Action Plan, at the WALGA Convention.	Patricia Sutton	Complete

ACTION: Arrange a meeting with DER to discuss reporting annually on licensed premises.

5. Correspondence

5.1 Correspondence List for October 2014 – December 2014

Correspondence In: Item 1.8 (City of Kwinana, Proposed Local Structure Plan). Jane advised that she had investigated submitting comments on clearing applications and it was on the radar for next year. There wasn’t enough information from the City of Kwinana to make informed decisions and additional information was requested. This matter would be reviewed in the New Year.

Jan asked if the application was in TEC (Threatened Ecological Community) country.

ACTION:

1. **Jane to review the Application to Clear Native Vegetation procedure.**
2. **Karl Brennan said he was not familiar with the process of clearing applications in TEC country and he undertook to take the question back to Craig Olejnik.**

Moved: Marilyn Gray

Seconded: Maxine Whitely

That Correspondence In and Correspondence Out be accepted.

CARRIED

6. Monthly Meeting Inventory

Members were invited to raise questions later.

7. Chairman’s Report

Jan Star presented her report:

“A very varied fare this period: with inductions for our new members being pleasant occasions, meetings with Kim Hames to introduce Ryan (and clarify that his function was not to solve the mosquito issue) and Don Randall – where we were looking at help to solve the Canberra bureaucracy issue. Then there were start-up meetings for the Science program and for CEPA – “People and Wetlands” – both with an impressive list of participants and promising beginnings.

There were a couple of regular meetings – with the Peel Region Leaders Forum and with the NRM Chairs. Then there was the National Coast to Coast Conference, the launch of the RIB at a CEDA

function focussed on the Peel and an interesting initiative of Curtin University and Perth RDA on planning for peri-urban rural diversification.

At the Conference we gave a short presentation for the Nature Conservancy on the ‘Glad, bad and sad’ examples of estuary management which was actually a potted history of the PHCC with a focus on Ramsar. Interesting contact with Wentworth Group – foreshadowed latest paper “Blueprint for a Healthy Environment and a Productive Economy” (which I have circulated) and gave a forecast of more pain from the Feds.

Paddi Creevy, who has been appointed Chair of the RDA (congratulations) referred to the Wentworth Blueprint at the CEDA function on “the Peel” at which the Regional Investment Blueprint was launched. If these two could be aligned it would be a great step forward. Many interesting points came up during the day – Glen Kelly gave hints of future directions after Native Title settlement. Newmont are now on the Dow Jones Sustainability Index – and they have a good Nyungar employment project and a Water Charter acknowledging EWRs.

A few things are coming together in a collaboration between RDA Perth, Perth NRM and the International Institute for Food Security under the banner of Rural Diversification Planning. It incorporates multi-layered data storage, modelling, scenarios and a Decision Support System around land use and is seen as necessary big picture thinking for agri-business. Early days but worth our being involved I think.

The Evening with David Rennie was not only entertaining and educative but our team incorporated not only local poetesses but enough varied Nyungar cultural activities to give it a real feeling of their belonging and our relationship to that.

Have a good rest all – we have an exciting year ahead!”

Jane said she had met with Rebecca Lannin, from BHP, who is tasked to look at projects. It was a positive meeting, with BHP keen to partner PHCC in projects. Under our Strategic Directions, we talked about a new iconic project with industry. BHP are clear they want a measurable change and Jane was hoping to meet them again in January to discuss project ideas and an offer to do a program logic session with them.

John Allert asked if there had been any discussion with Andrew Taggart regarding Whitby Farm. Jan responded that she knows the property well and, locally, she keeps her ear to the ground. Ryan has been in discussion with Andrew as well.

Moved: John Allert

Seconded: Caroline Knight

That the Chairman’s Report be accepted.

CARRIED

8. Chief Executive Officer’s Report (Full report to be circulated separately)

8.1 Ratify NRM Strategy

Jane provided a presentation outlining the progress with the NRM Strategy.

[Ryan left the meeting at 10.30am]

Marilyn commented that it was very thorough.

There were a couple of activities, for example one about soils where we were a bit specific, which didn't allow us to do one of the things we know how to do, so may add a more general soil health one. A couple of others as well.

Jane called for another representative to be part of the Working Group. Mike Schultz said he would be happy to be involved.

[Ryan returned at 10.35am]

Moved: Marilyn Gray Seconded: John Allert

That the Working Group finalise the NRM Strategy.

CARRIED

The meeting broke for morning tea 11.00am and resumed at 11.15am

[Jane continued with her report]

9. Treasurer's Report

9.1 November 2014 Financial Report

The Treasurer, Marilyn Gray, presented her report:

Project Funding:

1. The Rivers 2 Ramsar project has received \$803,150. Stage Three of that project will be completed at 31 December and partners have been receiving payments upon issuing interim reports to PHCC.
2. We have received \$140,000 from SWCC for the first payment of "Establishing Peel-Harvey NRM Region - SWCC" and have the second invoice prepared for \$161,250.
3. We are waiting the second payment of \$50,000 for Project "Establishing Peel-Harvey NRM Region – Australian Government.
4. HRRTs Blackberry Project ends on 31 December 2014. Jane Townsend and Karen have been busy making sure that all expenditure is in prior to 31 December. Final reports and financial statements are due by 28 February, 2015.

PHCC Audit for Financial Year 2013/14:

The Organisation Audit for Year ending 30th June 2014 was carried out on November 4th and 5th onsite at our Mandurah Office. This process seemed to run very smoothly and questions could be answered by Karen and Jane immediately and any supporting documentation easily obtained. The follow up queries were very minimal.

The audit has now been completed and I am very pleased to report that there were no adjustments required to the financial statements that were presented at the October AGM Meeting. PHCCs equity at 30 June was \$712,864.99.

It was also noted in the Management Letter from AMD:

“Due to the high quality of the financial records and supporting reconciliations provided to us which correctly supported all year end balances, we are also pleased that there are no audit recommendations arising from our 30 June 2014 audit.”

I wish to formally acknowledge the work of our Finance Manager, Karen Henderson, and our CEO Jane O’Malley, in obtaining such an outstanding result from the auditors; and I therefore now present the Financial Statement for the year ended 30th June, 2014 for endorsement.

Term Deposit:

The Westpac Term Deposit is due for renewal on 27 December 2014. I will negotiate with the ANZ and others for best interest rates and will seek a recommendation from the Finance and Audit Committee once we receive the rates and term.

Financial Position as at 30th November, 2014:

ANZ Corporate Online Saver Account	\$265,166.30
Westpac Term Deposit	\$419,503.70
ANZ Project Online Saver Account	\$1,734,324.90
ANZ Project Cheque Account	\$37,572.81
ATO Holding Account	\$1,983.00
Petty Cash	\$178.75
ANZ Visa Card	(\$5,532.35)

Total Cash at Hand: \$2,453,197.11

PHCC Equity at 30 November is \$693,013.08

Moved: Caroline Knight Seconded: Peter Hick

- 1. That the work of Finance Manager, Karen Henderson and CEO, Jane O’Malley, in obtaining such an outstanding result from the auditors, be formally acknowledged.***
- 2. The Financial Statement for the Year ended 30 June be endorsed.***

CARRIED

Moved: Caroline Knight Seconded: John Allert

That the November 2014 Financial reports be ratified.

CARRIED

9.2 Ratify Finance and Audit Committee Members

This item to be deferred to a future meeting.

11. Officer Presentations / Reports

11.1 Ryan Hooper - Project Update

Jane said the willingness of people to spend time with Ryan is commendable and there had been great collaboration with stakeholders. Ryan responded that the groundwork was done by PHCC and there are so many relationships to build on.

11.2 Colleen Archibald – update on Mayfield Healthy Waterways

Colleen Archibald reported on the events for 2014 for the Mayfield Healthy Waterways Project

1. “Slowing the Flow Workshop”- Jenkins Wetland 8/4/2014
Speakers: Carlos Ocampo, Matt Giraudo, Mike Jenkins, Tom Long and Colleen Archibald.

24 attended

2. “Wildflower Walk” – Bandicoot Brook Reserves 25/9/2014
Botanist: Heather Adamson. More than 120 species identified.

14 Attended

3. “Water and Firewood Workshop” – Neil Kentish 04/12/2014
Speaker: Neil Kentish

17 attended

There is a further workshop planned for February 2015 “Identifying past, current and future links for the Mayfield catchment”.

11.3 Kim Wilson – Briefing on IUCN World Parks Congress “Parks, People, Planet : inspiring solutions”

Kim Wilson provided a presentation on the Ramsar Forum she attended in Sydney in November 2014. Kim reported on the following:

- Wise Use of Our Wetlands
- There is essentially zero public knowledge of the vital benefits that the ecosystem brings
- The situation is dire and is actually worsening (Wetlands Extent Index 1970 – 2008)
- Priority must be to reverse this trend
- Major drivers of wetland loss and degradation
- Overall aim for Strategic Plan

- The state of most Ramsar sites is unknown
- The state of Ramsar sites in Australia
- Ramsar sites with actual/possible changes in ecological character

Kim also reported on the “World Parks Congress Capacity Development Workshop” and Earth Engine Google, which clearly shows the Peel-Harvey estuary.

A copy of Kim’s presentation is attached to these minutes.

[Jane O’Malley left the meeting at 12.15]

12. Agency Reports

12.1 Karl Brennan - DPaW

Megan Rowland is working half time on Lowlands and she’s been involved in the forest and eco system management group to manage dieback on Lowlands. They are taking samples and interpreting dead grass trees and banksias. This gives information for dieback which moves at about one metre / year. There is potential to keep most of it intact for some time. Gravel brought in to resurface the road brought in dieback.

Some dead phascogales turned up from neighbouring properties at Yalgorup. They had been brought in by cats.

12.2 Bob Pond – DoW

The dredging licence with the City of Mandurah is coming to an end this week. It was extended for an extra week because there were some navigational issues at the channel. Dredging will recommence in April.

Maree DeLacy has stepped down as Director General of Department of Water for personal reasons. She has taken a leave of absence and is expected to return to the public service at a later date. Mike Rowe has been appointed the new Acting Director General. Mike comes to us from the Dept of Regional Development where he was closely involved with the Royalty for Regions Program. Mike has previously worked with the Dept of Water as a Water Planner (amongst other roles) earlier in his career so he is experienced and familiar with the DoW’s workings and issues.

The DoW has released a revised Peel Coastal groundwater allocation plan for public comment. Hard copies are available from the Department of Water, or on-line at www.water.wa.gov.au/Managing+water/Allocation+planning/Kwinana+Peel+Region/Peel+Coastal+groundwater/default.aspx#1

We have received approval for recruiting an additional casual part-time person to assist with the estuary water monitoring program, allowing us to increase our summer period monitoring from monthly to fortnightly. We welcome Fiona Morgan to our team.

Two new referrals have been received for new jetties in Murray River Zone B, in an area where there are currently no private jetties.

12.3 Scott Haine – Dept of Planning Peel (Observer)

An updated draft version of the Nambeelup Industrial Area District Structure Plan has been released for public comment. The submissions period closes on 16 January 2015.

13. Next Meeting

The meeting closed at 12.35pm

The next meeting is to be held on Thursday 19 February. This meeting will be a Strategic Planning meeting.

Chairman

Date

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2.	Item 7 [21 August 2014] Chairman's Report Follow up DER on the matter of reporting annually on licensed premises.	Jan Star	

Summary of actions from meeting of 18 December 2014:

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	2. Karl Brennan said he was not familiar with the process of clearing applications in TEC country and he undertook to take the question back to Craig Olejnik.	Karl Brennan	