

Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

Held on Thursday 21 April from 9.00am to 12.00noon
at Boddington Community Resource Centre (Boddington Old School)

The Chairman opened the meeting at 9.00am

1. Attendance

Present:	Andy Gulliver	Chairman
	Jan Star AM	Deputy Chairman
	Paddi Creevey OAM	Secretary
	Marilyn Gray	Treasurer
	Bob Pond	Executive Committee (DoW)
	Dr Peter Hick	Member
	Michael Schultz	Member
	Cr John Allert	Local Govt Member (Inland)
	Cr Stephen Lee	Local Govt Member Proxy (Coastal)
	Dave Arkwright	PDC (Deputising)

In Attendance:	Jane O'Malley	CEO
	Steve Fisher	Science Advisor
	Thelma Crook	R2R Project Manager
	Luke Rogers	Regional Landcare Facilitator
	Mel Durack	Hotham-Williams NRM Officer
	Patricia Sutton	Office Manager (Minute Taker)
	Chris Littlemore	CEO Shire of Boddington

Apologies:	Darralyn Ebsary	Member
	Howard Mitchell	Member
	Cr Eliza Dowling	Local Govt Member Proxy (Inland)
	Cr Caroline Knight	Local Govt Member (Coastal)
	Norman Baker	PDC
	Craig Olejnik	DPaW
	Scott Haine	DoP (Peel) – Observer
	Chris Ryan	DER
	Rob Summers	DAFWA
	Kim Wilson	Snr Projects Officer
	Francis Smit	Landcare SJ

2. Declarations of Interest

Nil

3. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 25 February 2016

Moved: Jan Star Seconded: Paddi Creevey

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2016 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 [21 August 2014] Chairman’s Report Follow up DER on reporting annually on licensed premises. <i>The Executive Group is looking at this in a strategic manner, including consideration of the SAPPR process. Andy Gulliver and Jan Star due to meet on in April.</i>	Andy Gulliver & Jan Star	Complete
2.	Item 8 [19 February 2015] Staff and Partners Forum The Executive Group to consider the merits of holding a PHCC Board training workshop, in a similar forum as the staff workshop. <i>It appears there is good support for a Board Forum, associated with the February Strategic meeting and details will be provided.</i>	Jane O’Malley	Pending
3.	Item 9 [16 April 2015] CEO Report Request a meeting with DPC to discuss: 1. How to achieve a genuine coordinated approach for land use planning decisions including PHEMC, Agencies and Local Government; 2. Concerns over Lake Pollard decision; and 3. Request a meeting with the EPA to discuss their determination of significance, particularly in light of community expectations of the SAPPR process. <i>Andy, Jan and Jane have had discussions with DPC in respect to PHEMC. Jane has had discussions with the former Chair of the EPA in respect to Lake Pollard. Staff are organising a meeting with the EPA Board for early 2016. Andy, Jan and Amanda met with Tom Hatton on 31 March. Andy to report.</i>	Jane O’Malley	1. Complete 2. Complete (watch for final decision) 3. Complete
4.	Item 5 [17 December 2015] Correspondence Contact Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale regarding submissions on the Scrivener Road gravel reserve. <i>Submission sent 15/1/16. Decision not yet made in relation to use of gravel.</i>	Jane O’Malley	Complete

5. Correspondence

Moved: Marilyn Gray Seconded: Bob Pond

That Correspondence In and Correspondence Out be accepted.

CARRIED

6. Chairman's Report

The Chairman presented his report:

SAPPR Process / Green Growth Plan

- *Our team (and the community) are wading through the scores of documents*
- *Delays in maps have resulted in deferral of submission deadline (see CEO report)*
- *PHCC will deliver info to community to allow more informed submissions.*
- *This meets our stated goal of providing government with a connection to community*

PHCC Strategic Planning Day – Thursday 25th Feb

- *Detailed review of planning day outcomes delegated to smaller group*
- *Many thanks to Jan and Bob for their input into this process (see CEO's report)*

Peel Regional Leaders Forum – Friday 11th March

- *Chair and CEO attended regular PRLF meeting*
- *Proposal for Wheeler Field private airstrip as an advanced firefighting location. Interesting discussion followed on regional infrastructure and a network of sites to support fire fighters closer to the fire front to improve response times and outcomes.*
- *Engagement with PRLF allows us to meet with LGA leaders and creates opportunities for the PHCC to be seen as a partner with local government*
- *PRLF provides a forum to identify projects across the region that require multiple partners and support. PHCC will have a role to play in several such projects.*

After the Fires Workshop – 21st and 22nd March

- *Thank you to the team for organising this important workshop at short notice*
- *Highly recommend looking at the YouTube videos via PHCC website or Facebook.*

Meeting with Tom Hatton, Chairman of EPA – Thursday 31st March

- *Chair, Jan Star and Amanda Willmott met with Tom Hatton*
- *Frank and honest sharing of views on a range of issues including Green Growth Plan*
- *PHCC encouraged to submit its views without fear or favour*
- *Floated idea of renewing MOU between EPA and PHCC. (For later discussions)*
- *EPA reiterated value of connection between EPA and PHCC*
- *Improvement in environmental outcomes is as much (or more) a social and behaviour change issue rather than a regulatory or technical issue – groups like PHCC have an important role to play in this.*
- *Role of PHEMC and its effectiveness still unresolved.*
- *Relationship of government with PHCC still requires clarification.*
- *GGP limited in its ability to deliver transformational change. It is a planning document focused on delivering certainty around urban planning and supply of basic raw materials rather than certainty for the environment (subjective comment by AG)*
- *Whatever happens with the GGP the provisions of the EP Act will remain.*

Launch of Regional Estuaries Initiative (REI) – Monday 4th April

- PHCC invited to share the launch of the REI with Mia Davies and Terry Redman
- Opportunity for cabinet members to be exposed to role and importance of PHCC
- Good exposure for PHCC and real dollars coming into the Peel region
- “Real agreements’ for the flow of those dollars yet to be finalised. (see CEO’s report)

Community Cabinet – Monday 4th April

- Chair, CEO and several Board members at the evening ‘community cabinet’ event
- Good networking with local organisations all in one place at one time

Minster Hunt and Andrew Hastie – Monday 11th April

- Demonstrate number and range of activities undertaken by PHCC and community
- Demonstrated delivery of real world outcomes to Minister (as requested by him on previous visit). Vindicated his decision to support PHCC as an independent region.
- We are building good relationships with Andrew Hastie.

Launch of New Corporate Identity

- This is one step in the evolution of improved communication with our community
- “Soft launch” of new identity without a lot of fanfare. The rationale is that the PHCC is here to serve the community and it would be inappropriate to over-invest funds in promoting ‘us’ when our true ‘brand’ value is in what we deliver to the community.

Jan said the meeting with Tom Hatton (EPA) was positive and Andy added that the message was we have re-aligned with the EPA and they see quite a useful role for us in the Green Growth Plan.

Pete raised the effectiveness of the PRLF. It is important that we are aligned with the local governments and was there anything PHCC could do to keep involvement relevant?

Chris Littlemore said priorities were discussed at the last PRLF meeting and discussion was around the ‘elephant in the room’ being the estuary. They are aware that it is a concern of the group.

Paddi supported Chris and added that the PRLF served a very important purpose in having a unifying effect across the region. It is recognized that some other approaches might need to be taken and they have spoken to the Chair of PDC regarding their withdrawal from the group. It is important that the PDC be part of PRLF for it to be a truly regional group. As an evolving group, there should be some criteria set for how to assess priorities that are regional and of significance to the local communities.

Jan added that local government is important to PHCC and the more we can do to strengthen our role to work together the better it will be for the region.

John said that from a local government point of view the PRLF is essential to tie us all together as a region.

Andy said our connection with local government is very important because of the direct connection with the community. He acknowledged the difficulties faced by local governments, pressured with local interests, to also think about regional interests.

Moved: John Allert Seconded: Peter Hick

That the Chairman’s report be accepted.

CARRIED

The Banksia Awards video was presented at this point (9.20am)

7. Update on SAPPR - Green Growth Plan (Strategic Assessment Perth and Peel Region)

Jane O'Malley presented the SAPPR update:

Members are encouraged to view details on the Green Growth Plan via the big blue tab on the home page of our website "Strategic Assessment of the Perth-Peel Regions". This provides some very valuable information, including contributions from stakeholders.

In summary:

The deadline for submissions has been extended to 13 May and we are preparing our submission with a view to having it completed by 28th April and available for viewing on our website.

We have facilitated two workshops to assist our community to be informed, and provide effective submissions. The first (11 February) was predominately a presentation by the Department of Premier and Cabinet with an opportunity for our community to ask questions. More than 90 people attended this. After the forum questions from participants were provided to the DPC. The responses to these questions can be found on our website.

We held a second workshop on 21 March with speakers:

- *Associate Professor Angus Morrison-Saunders, Murdoch University*
- *Nicole Matthews, Senior Associate, Cameron Strategies*
- *Patrick Pearlman, Principal Solicitor, Environmental Defenders Office (WA)*

This second workshop was excellent in that it reminded our community (and us) of our rights and obligations under the EP Act. It gave some very clear advice re what information to provide, and how to structure it, for an effective submission. Patrick gave an overview of the EDO's concerns about impacts. The EDO is preparing a White Paper which is hoped to be available soon.

We hosted a Peel-Yalgorup Ramsar TAG meeting on 3 March to discuss the GGP."

Jane added that the submission is complex and not yet complete. The draft submission (for public comment) will be presented to the Executive Group for approval and it will be made live on the PHCC website. From an officer perspective the Green Growth Plan is will have significant impacts and needs to be improved. We are offering solutions to modify the Plan so it will have a clear environmental benefit.

Andy said we are trying to get the submission completed well ahead of time to share it with the community so they can make informed decisions.

Moved: John Allert Seconded: Mike Schultz

That the Executive Group be delegated authority to approve the draft submission (for public comment) on the Green Growth Plan.

CARRIED

NOTE: Bob Pond abstained from the above discussions and voting and requested that it was minuted that the Department of Water was not involved in the above motion.

8. Chief Executive Officer's Report

"Peel-Harvey Estuary Management Committee (PHEMC)

The next Peel-Harvey Estuary Management Committee (PHEMC) meeting is scheduled for 5 May (Note – date changed to 28 May after this meeting). Agenda topics include:

- *Update from Peel Regional Planning Committee*
- *Public Consultation Update (GGP)*
- *Update on Mandatory Soil Texting*
- *Regional Estuaries Initiative update*

PHEMC Senior Officers Group meetings have not recommenced as yet but there have been some meetings with relevant representatives of DAFWA, DoW, DPC and PHCC to discuss Mandatory Soil Testing."

Jane advised that she, Jan and Andy are all members of the PHEMC group.

Jan said that they were endeavouring to have the drainage of the coastal plain listed on the agenda for discussion at PHEMC. She said there is a need for reform due to decreasing groundwater levels.

Jane continued with her report:

"It has been an exciting couple of months with some great announcements, good achievements and some not so good loss of staff. As you all know Debra Slater-Lee, our Operations Manager, has resigned and finished up on 30 March. My thanks to the staff who have been magnificent in their support to adjust to this structure change. At this stage we are not re-advertising but have brought in some additional support, called back some volunteers and are moving forward.

The announcement of the Regional Estuaries Initiative is very welcome and we are in the process of determining what aspects of the REI the PHCC will be involved in and or/ deliver with the Department of Water. We anticipate receiving a draft contract by the end of the month. I will provide a couple of slides showing:

- a) overall aspects of the REI and our anticipated involvement and*
- b) the proposed Peel Main Drain project at the meeting. "*

Jane added there is an expectation that PHCC will have a representative on the steering committee. She outlined the process for the proposed Peel Main Drain project and said that Bob would be taking the lead on behalf of the DoW. The Department of Water is kindly recognising some of the PHCC's work done over the past 12 months.

Jane continued with her report:

"Dave Arkwright will give us an overview of the Transform Peel Project which was also announced. The environmental and drainage components of this will complement the REI work and we are keen to see how this will be progressed and our role in this space defined.

We had a brief but excellent meeting with Minister Hunt and Andrew Hastie (Member for Canning) on 11 April. We had the opportunity to introduce him to members of our community including grant recipients, Green Army partners, landowners effected by the recent fires and of course our great team. Water quality and our Thrombolites are priorities for the Minister and we are working with Andrew Hastie to determine how to move forward with this – we have made some suggestions.

Keith Armstrong, Director WA, NT & SA Section of the Program Delivery Division of Department of Environment visited us earlier this month. Neil Blake and Neil Riches joined to show Keith some of the projects the DoE are funding, and some of the highlights of our beautiful Catchment. Our tour included inspections and meet and greets at the Dawesville Cut, Whitehills Road Lookout, Lake Clifton's buffer project with Lake Clifton-Herron Landcare's Jenny Rose and Nancy Fardin, Lake Clifton's thrombolites (where we bumped into researcher Mike Whitehead), the Pinjarra Massacre site with Karrie-Ann Kearing and Mark Salmon (a Rivers 2 Ramsar project) and Coronation Road Reserve, where we inspected post Waroona fire damage and management responses with the Harvey River Restoration

Taskforce's representative Michelle Mullarkey. It was a good day and Keith was grateful to everyone for their time and helping him to better understand the challenges and opportunities in the Peel-Harvey.

Our National Landcare Program is progressing well under all 3 projects and we will give a presentation at the next meeting but in summary:

- *Community Environmental Grants – these 8 grants are progressing nicely and you can read the details on our website http://www.peel-harvey.org.au/?page_id=4724*
- *Work on the Aboriginal Participation Plan is progressing well. We have an agreed acknowledgement and on-country meetings will commence shortly. Cultural awareness training for the Board and staff will be undertaken in the second half of the year*
- *The Sustainable Agricultural Steering Committee had it's first meeting this week. This is a new space for the PHCC and we are prioritising works to maximise our return on investment given that the funding is very tight. Cross regional delivery of projects is proving cost effective. We will show a video on the 'After the Fire's workshop at the meeting. It appears that the Shire of Murray will be the first council to endorse the new local planning policy for horticulture. This will:*
 - *Enable new horticultural developments to protect water quality;*
 - *Clarify criteria and information used in assessment of new horticultural proposals; and*
 - *Guide local governments assessing proposals for new horticulture or giving advice to potential proponents.*
- *Under the NRM WA banner the PHCC, with Northern Agricultural Catchments Council, initiated a Feral Cat meeting (12 April) with all of the NRM Regions present. This information sharing session was very good and has set the agenda for the planned state wide 'Round-table' scheduled for 13 May. The Threatened Species Commissioner is attending this and for the PHCC, this will set the scene for how we can effectively step into this space, with an initial focus on protecting threatened species at Dryandra (on adjacent private properties).*
- *We are currently running the first stage of the Home-River-Ocean "Save the Crabs, Then Eat Them" campaign in partnership with the SWCC.*

The Rivers 2 Ramsar project is in its second largest on-ground delivery stage at the moment so under Thelma's exceptional direction, Jo, Jordan and our many partners are rolling out great things at a cracking pace – Thelma will provide an update at our next meeting. The series of 18 Clean-up days was excellent. This was coordinated by Friends of Rivers Peel and supported by us. The Friends group were very happy with the outcomes and have asked us to partner in a similar process next year.

Our Green Army team commences in July and the team have done a great job to collaborate with 11 of our partners to make up a range of on-ground works that will not only get much needed work done but provide the participants with a diverse range of skills and experiences. The Minister was pleased.

We have formally launched our new logo and you will see this changing from the old to the new over time. The radio announcements with key messages from Paddi Creevey, Harry Nannup and David Rennie were excellent and are now being used as our 'Messages on Hold' (when people ring into the PHCC and are put on hold they hear these lovely messages).

We are continuing to be active on the Peel Regional Leaders Group and put forward 2 major projects as priorities for the proposed delegation to Canberra (unlikely to take place). These were seeking funding for further Water Quality projects, with a focus on supporting local governments to retrofit stormwater systems. The second is for stage 1 of the Peel Waterways Institute. We have requested a robust methodology be put in place to ensure that higher level projects are indeed regionally significant.

We are still waiting for an announcement for our State NRM Capability Grants – We submitted four projects, totalling just over a million dollars. If successful these will provide a significant boost to increasing the capacity of our Landcare Groups (Waroona, Hotham-Williams and HRRT). Noting that Landcare SJ submitted their own projects.

Significant Meetings / Events – Other key meetings include:

- *Chair, WAPC - Jan and I met with Eric Lumsden on 2 March*
- *Regional Cabinet meeting – 4 April*

We have had no significant Work Health Safety issues to report. Staff will undertake Agitated Customer Tactics training shortly.

Keeping up to date with PHCC activities/events – Members are reminded that if you want to keep across all the exciting things that are happening, please keep an eye on our Facebook page.”

Paddi noted that the CEO’s report shows the breadth of the work being done with Federal ministers and senior government officers and it is a credit to Jane and her team. All members agreed.

Jane said she is very conscious of the workload placed on staff who have all done a good job with the change of structure. Andrew Del Marco is working three days per week until the end of June to assist with some projects.

John asked if we had thought about drawing some parameters around the breadth of projects we are involved with.

It was noted that the PHCC’s Strategic Directions are the guiding document to determine projects.

Moved: Bob Pond Seconded: Peter Hick

That the SAPP and CEO reports be accepted.

CARRIED

9. Delegated Authority Register

Marilyn said, in relation to the financial delegations, the Delegated Authority Register does two things. It formalises in writing our common practices, but it also has included some other aspects that don’t necessarily come up on a day to day basis. It is quite detailed and it is good enough to endorse as a live policy document which is open to be revised and amended if it is workable in practice.

Jane said it covers both governance and structure. It will streamline internal processes and we haven’t really had a formal head of power to enable the CEO to delegate authority. Everything currently comes past the CEO. It aims to reduce administration and provide greater authority and responsibility across the senior team members.

It was noted that team members must undertake an induction process to trigger commencement of delegated authority, with sign off by the CEO and the team members to confirm that they understand and will abide by the parameters of the register.

Moved: Paddi Creevey Seconded: Steve Lee

That the Delegated Authority Register be endorsed as presented.

CARRIED

10. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented her report:

“Cancellation of Credit Card:

With the resignation of Operations Manager, Debra Slater-Lee, the credit card that was allocated to her has been cancelled.

Project Funding:

6700 – Local Government Stormwater Project

F15-16 Payment 1. Funding of \$40,000 has been invoiced to City of Mandurah with payment being received on 15th April, 2016.

7200 – Murdoch ARC Linkage Project

\$15,000 has been transferred from the Future Partnership Funding to manage PHCCs 3 year commitment to Murdoch University.

9000 – NLP:

F15-16 Payment 3. Additional Funding of \$550,000 has been invoiced to State NRM Office and pending sign off on Mid-Year Progress Report.

HRRT

HRRT have secured three Grants and new Projects have been set up to manage them.

- 1. 7920 - \$36,956 - Improving the Ecological linkage value of the Harvey River System – Blackberry [A15151] funded by State NRM.*
- 2. 7980 - \$10,000 - Improving the Ecological linkage value of the Harvey River System – Watsonia [CEG2015_001_HRRT_BB] funded by Peel-Harvey Catchment Council Inc.*
- 3. 7990 - \$49,900 - Improving the Habitat value of the Ramsar Listed Lower Harvey River System. [CEG2015_002_HRRT_LHR] funded by Peel-Harvey Catchment Council Inc.*

Term Deposit:

Westpac Term Deposit of \$593,682.51 matures on 30 May 2016. The current intention is to roll over the funds for a further term.

Bank Statement Balance as at 31 March 2016:

<i>ANZ Corporate Online Saver Account</i>	<i>\$152,403.23</i>
<i>Westpac Term Deposit</i>	<i>\$593,682.51</i>
<i>ANZ Project Online Saver Account</i>	<i>\$2,472,453.94</i>
<i>ANZ Project Cheque Account</i>	<i>\$65,810.32</i>
<i>Petty Cash</i>	<i>26.05</i>
<i>Merchandise</i>	<i>50.00</i>
<i>ANZ Visa Card</i>	<i>(\$1,321.33)</i>
<hr/> <i>Total Cash at Hand:</i>	<hr/> <i>\$3,283,104.72</i>

“

Moved: John Allert Seconded: Bob Pond

That:

- 1. The Treasurer's Report be received; and**
- 2. The March financial reports be ratified.**

CARRIED

11. Strategic Directions 2016 – 2026

Jane reported that after the planning session in February, the delegated group (Jan, Bob and Jane) reviewed the information obtained from that session and finalised draft goals for the next two years, for the Boards consideration.

Paddi said this had refined what was discussed at the Strategic Planning day and she was happy with these refinements.

There was general agreement. Bob said there are some big ideas that get synthesised into some pretty small statements. Goals 5 and 6 will be a critical move for gauging where the community considers NRM as a priority as a benchmark for action. He said this is really important to determine future actions in this space.

Moved: Marilyn Gray Seconded: Mike Schultz

That the Strategic Directions 2016 – 2026 be endorsed as presented.

CARRIED

The meeting broke for morning tea at 10.15am and resumed at 10.30am

Presentation : 2015 Overview (powerpoint slideshow)

12. Science Update : Steve Fisher, Science Advisor (presentation available on PHCC website)

Steve Fisher provided his report (below) and a presentation outlining the Marine Stewardship Council, Peel Waterways Institute and the proposed monitoring process for the Regional Estuaries Initiative.

“Advice:

1. *Marine Stewardship Council: certification of the blue swimmer crab and sea mullet fishery (“The Western Australian Peel Harvey Estuarine Fishery”)*
 - *Reviewed the Western Australian Peel Harvey Estuarine Fishery Marine Stewardship Council Full Assessment Public Draft Comment Report and provided comment on behalf of PHCC.*
 - *Certification is sought for the following five combinations of fishing method and fish species with each combination referred to as a Unit of Certification:*
 - *Crab traps (pots) for the blue swimmer crab (commercial fishery)*
 - *Drop nets for the blue swimmer crab (recreational fishery)*
 - *Scoop net for the blue swimmer crab (recreational fishery)*

- Gill net for sea mullet (commercial fishery)
- Haul nets for mullet (commercial fishery)
- The PHCC is generally supportive of the Marine Stewardship Council certification for the Peel Harvey Estuarine Fishery.
- We identified several instances where the information and or interpretation of the information in the report is incomplete and sometimes contradictory and where appropriate suggested recommendations that we believe will improve the report and the rigour of the assessment process.
- It is not the PHCC's intention to delay the MSC certification of the Peel-Harvey Estuarine fishery, in particular the commercial sector. The recreational fishery for blue swimmer crabs is the most contentious of the units of certification with most, but not all, of our comments relating to it. This fishery will continue to operate regardless of whether or not our recommendations are implemented, and some of the recommendations will take some time to implement.
- Recommended that the MSC certification be granted for all five units of certification on the condition that our comments and recommendations are addressed before the first surveillance audit is undertaken.

2. Dredge Strategy Report:

- provided informal comments to Department of Water (DoW, Bob Pond) on
 - Dredge Strategy Report Yunderup Entrance Channel prepared by RPS for the Shire of Murray and
 - Murray Serpentine River Channels Sediment Sampling and Analysis Plan prepared for Department of Transport and BMT JFA Consultants by BMT Oceanica Pty Ltd Feb 2016
- The Dredge Spoil Strategy Report presents a social and environmental risk assessment for disposal of dredge spoil from the Yunderup entrance channel using (i) on-shore disposal near to the dredge site at Goongoolup Island and (ii) in-estuary disposal. Transport and offsite disposal to landfill is discounted due to the high costs of transport and disposal and unsuitability of roads for the heavy vehicles required. The Sampling and Analysis Plan supports this document.
- From the risk assessment, on-shore disposal was deemed lower risk but in my opinion the environmental risks of both options were underestimated.
- There are obvious links to the Ecotoxicity testing of MBOs (see 3. Building research networks (ii) below).

3. SAPPR/Green Growth Plan

- attended the Ramsar Technical Advisory Group meeting on 3 March 2016 to discuss the implications of the Green Growth Plan on the protection of the ecological values of the Peel Yalgorup System
- provided comment (internally to PHCC) on the Draft Action Plan H: Conservation Program of the Green Growth Plan
- expect to make further contributions to the PHCC submission.

Science Communications

1. Presentation to Surf Science Students (John Tonkin College) "Threats to the Peel-Harvey Ramsar System" to approximately Approx. 90 students on 25 Feb 2016
2. Hosted a meeting of the Sustainable Schools WA – Peel Region Network on 2 March 2016.

- *This group consists of primary and secondary school teachers from our region who are interested in incorporating environmental sustainability into their curriculum and daily activities at school. The group meets four times per year and is convened by Peter Crouch (Mandurah Baptist College).*
 - *The purpose of this meeting was to explain the role of the PHCC, suggest opportunities for Citizen Science” and to get a sense of how we could best engage with school teachers and students.*
 - *Presented “Peel Harvey Catchment Council: engaging with school communities” to an audience of approx. 20. Also arranged for a presentation by Hilary Nath (EcoAdvise) who is building a business in running incursions to promote sustainability to schools.*
 - *Lots of interest by science teachers for water quality testing, assessing river health using marron and from manual; arts / technology teaching in building, for example, cockatubes, bat houses, tree-planting shovels etc., so have followed up on all of this interest.*
 - *There is a huge potential audience and team of volunteer helpers looking for Citizen Science projects. We are currently looking at bring on a volunteer “Education Officer” to explore these opportunities further.*
3. *Organised a presentation by Joel Hall (Senior Modeller at DoW) demonstrating the Urban Nutrients Decision Outcomes (UNDO) tool on 9 Mar 2016*
- *UNDO is a conceptual decision support tool that evaluates nutrient reduction decisions for urban developments on the sandy Swan Coastal Plain in south-west Western Australia.*
 - *Assists planners, land developers local and state government to make objective decisions on urban drainage design based on a consistent set of assumptions to minimise the export of nutrients.*
 - *Joel gave a great presentation to an audience of approx. 12 people from PHCC, Local Government, Department of Agriculture and Food WA (DAFWA) and private consultancies. The presentation covered why the tool was developed; where it will be used in the planning process; who it will affect; and how it should be used.*
 - *A ‘trial version’ of the tool is available now from the Department of Waters website (PHCC has the password to activate the tool).*
4. *Presentation to City of Mandurah Council Meeting “Who is the PHCC Science Advisor? What are his priorities?” on 22 Mar 2016.*
- *Described key responsibilities and deliverables, ARC-Linkage Project (Murdoch University), DoW Catchment nutrient reports; Lake Clifton Thrombolites*

Building Research Networks:

1. *Regional Estuaries Initiative (DoW, CSIRO & DAFWA)*
- *PHCC will be heavily involved in two large projects under the REI: the Peel Main Drain and Best Practice Drainage Management – see CEOs report*
 - *The Peel Main Drain project involves diversion of drainage water from the Peel Main Drain into an adjacent water course near the intersection of Karnup Rd and the Forrest Highway. The diverted water will be treated to remove sediment, organic carbon, nitrogen and phosphorus via a range of treatment options and returned to the drain.*
 - *The Best Practice Drainage Management Project involves identifying sites and implementing flow control structures at several (~10) sites in the Mayfield and other subcatchments*

- *Held informal preliminary discussions on the technical aspects of all projects with DoW (Malcolm Robb, Brad Degens, and Zoe Bainbridge) and Matt Giraudo but in particular the Peel Main Drain project.*
 - *Science Advisor's role will be mainly measurement and evaluation of the treatment options.*
2. *Ecotoxicity testing of mono sulfidic black ooze (MBO) from the Peel Inlet (with DoW, & CSIRO, Lucas Heights)*
 - *On request from Stuart Simpson (CSIRO) and with help from DoW, collected a sample of sediment with high MBO content from the floor of Peel Inlet near to the Yunderup entry channel.*
 - *Stuart Simpson was a key scientist involved in developing the ANZECC & ARMCANZ revised Sediment Quality Guidelines (previously interim sediment quality guidelines)*
 - *The sample will be used in ecotoxicity testing by a PhD student to compare the toxicity of PHE sediment with those collected elsewhere throughout Australia. The testing will also involve the introduction of invertebrates as sediment re-workers to test the effect of aerating the sediment on toxicity.*
 3. *ARC Project - Farming in a biodiversity hotspot (UWA, Megan Ryan)*
 - *Finding pasture plants with (i) good uptake of phosphorus at low soil concentrations that (ii) don't store high concentrations of soluble P in the shoots*
 - *All data from the 2015 field experiment (8 species x 6 fertiliser treatments at a dairy farm near Pinjarra) are now collected including shoot nutrients.*
 - *At this high-P site there is no growth response to P addition. Thus the added P is an unnecessary cost and an environmental risk. However, most species, including the typical species used in the region, responded heavily to K, S and N.*
 - *Analysis of the results and reporting will be completed over the next couple of months*
 4. *Jenkins' Weir (UWA, Megan Ryan & Carlos Ocampo)*
 - *The site is used as a proof of concept for the Best Practice Drainage Management project of the REI. i.e. a flow control structure at Jenkins' farm in the Mayfield subcatchment*
 - *The final draft report will be available for review soon.*
 - *The vegetation survey, soil extractable P and shoot P concentrations data have been completed. The vegetation P concentrations were not greatly elevated. Large amounts of extractable P are accumulating in the drains themselves, but very little in the rest of the wetland soils.*

Other

1. *Peel Development Commission (PDC)– Transform Peel Projects*
 - *Attended a discussion with the PDC Board to discuss the Nambeelup Business Park and Peel Integrated Water Initiative on 14 Apr 2016, also attended by Landcorp, DAFWA, DoW.*
 - *My contribution to the discussion was about the technical challenges presented by the Water Initiative e.g. Aquifer Storage and Recovery, nutrient removal, monitoring and evaluating the ecological condition of the drains.*
 - *The discussion was dominated by how to attract industry to the business park and what was the competitive and comparative advantages of the business park over land elsewhere.*
2. *Peel Waterways Institute (PWI)*

- *Currently developing a vision for the PWI (Stage 1) as a facility used by researchers / scientists to help them perform research carried out in the Peel region. The facility would function as an annex to the researchers' main facility / headquarters and equipped to assist them with intensive field work, preparation for meetings or community engagement events, rather than travelling to and from Perth each day.*
- *Modest new building works, sharing existing facilities where practical*
- *PWI part of the Peel Regional Investment Blueprint (PDC) under the Capable People theme and has links to the Nambeelup Business Park*

3. *Recognition of the contribution by Anna Gstaettner*

- *In Feb 2016, Anna joined the PHCC as a volunteer helper. She has been a great asset to PHCC and I would like to recognise and thank her for her efforts which include:*
 - *assisting at the two public information events for the Green Growth Plan*
 - *assisting at PHCC general meetings and the Strategic Planning Forum*
 - *digitising hard copies of reports and other grey literature held at DAFWA and storing in a database.*
 - *completing a literature search for studies conducted within the Peel-Harvey Catchment 2010 – 2016 (i.e. since the publication of the Science Strategy) and compiling into a preliminary review.”*

Steve formally recognised Anna Gstaettner who has been assisting him with cataloguing science library documents.

13. **Staff Updates : Mel Durack, Hotham-Williams NRM Officer – Landowner Grants and overview of Hotham-Williams project**

Mel gave a presentation of work in the upper catchment, via the Rivers to Ramsar Project. The presentation can be viewed on the PHCC website.

Jane thanked Mel, Thelma and the Shire of Boddington for their contribution towards landcare in the Hotham-Williams.

14. **Agency reports**

14.1 **Dave Arkwright, PDC – Transform Peel**

Dave Arkwright gave a presentation on Transform Peel (available on the PHCC website). He thanked the PHCC for its contribution to getting this business case up and approved. An enormous amount of work was done in the early days. He expressed his thanks to Jane for her assistance. He was pleased to say that a lot of what was discussed today is embedded in the Transform Peel program. There were enormous difficulties getting this through the normal processes of government, but to their credit, cabinet decided to approve the program.

It is a program that has several projects sitting under it and PHCC will have a representative on the board and there will be other targeted representatives.

There are three projects – the Peel Business Park, the Peel Food Zone and the Peel Integrated Water Initiative. Each will have a full time equivalent project manager.

Paddi said she saw the first briefing about Nambeelup 22 years ago. She personally congratulated Dave and the team for getting this over the line. It is an important step for the Peel region to get it to this point which is remarkable.

John noted there was an absence of the resource industry. Dave said that has been recognised and they will find another way to work with the project management group.

Dave advised that the funding for the overall Program was split and that Stage One was approved for funding (from 1 July) and rolling out now. Stage Two is still awaiting further funding and this will go back to cabinet. There have also been discussions with the Commonwealth Government about funding Stage 2 and there is a strong interest, via Michaelia Cash (Liberal Senator and Minister for Employment) and Andrew Hastie (Member for Canning).

Jane said PHCC would be talking with PDC in more detail soon and complemented the PDC for some of our areas of interest being embedded into Transform Peel. We now need to see where PDC sees our active involvement in delivering some of the aspects. There are some good opportunities for good drainage aspects that are waiting to go. It has good synergies with the REI and what PHCC is trying to deliver via various programs, including the NLP.

Dave said they are placing a huge r on science.

John asked about the role of the project sponsor. Dave explained that the project sponsor is really the owner and they have an important role to play in having the ownership of it. It is a considerably more strategic role.

Andy concluded that Transform Peel is an incredible program and wished PDC good luck with it.

14.2 Other Agency Reports

Bob had nothing further to add.

The Shorebirds and After the Fire videos were played at this point of the meeting.

14.3 General Discussion

Jane gave a background on the 'After the Fire' video. An up and coming local company was used and they have been contracted over a period of 12 months to produce 10 YouTube videos using drones where appropriate to show the variation of the work carried out by PHCC in seven key areas and three monitoring areas. It is cost effective and another video about the Clean Up Day is currently being edited.

Andy said that Mick and Helen Muir, who were affected by the Waroona fires, spoke to Minister Hunt when he visited PHCC and they discussed what could be done so emergency responses could be more timely and more local. He encouraged us to put together a two pager for Minister Barnaby Joyce (sent 29.4.16).

John said Mr Wheeler, whose private airfield was used during the fires, recently gave a presentation to the PRLF and he appealed to local governments to support the required upgrades.

Jane had a teleconference with Dean Unsworth, Ian Curley and the fire response officer from Waroona and Harvey. They came up with three asks, which were included in the paper to Minister Joyce:

1. A process to coordinate responses
2. Establishment of a reserve fund with unencumbered access
3. Upgrade and maintenance of existing facilities.

The Shire of Boddington has a fire officer paid by the government. Chris said at present the Shire is mapping all assets. During the Hotham fire not all infrastructure on private property was known, which made rescuing the structure difficult. Other infrastructure including transformers, conveyor belt, pump stations, etc are now all mapped which tells the State where the priorities are.

Andy went around the table and asked Members and guests if they had anything further they wished to contribute: Chris said he's very interested in governance and its implications and he stated that the way PHCC operates is fantastic. There appeared to be no power struggles with governance. Goals are clear and they are being pursued

with vigour and vim. Members are pulling together as a team and Jane is a great asset. He fully supports Mel and thanked the PHCC the role they are playing in, and for coming to Boddington.

Andy thanked Chris for his comments and said an outsider's view is valuable.

Thelma noted that after the fire, the number of trucks full of hay being transported to the farmers of Harvey and Yarloop was an amazing show of communities looking out for each other.

Chris said he met with a firm in Perth that has a fire early detection technology which the Shire of Boddington had offered to trial. He is hoping the State Government could assist with funding.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and efforts and closed the meeting.

The meeting closed at 12.00noon

Chairman

Date

Actions from previous meetings

No.	DETAILS	RESP.	COMPLETE
1.	Item 8 [19 February 2015] Staff and Partners Forum The Executive Group to consider the merits of holding a PHCC Board training workshop, in a similar forum as the staff workshop. <i>It appears there is good support for a Board Forum, associated with the February Strategic meeting and details will be provided.</i>	Jane O'Malley	Pending