

# Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

## MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

Held on Thursday 18 June from 9.00am to 12.00noon  
at Marine Operations Centre, 107 Breakwater Parade, Mandurah Ocean Marina

Prior to the commencement of the meeting a video, taken at the Pinjarra Clean Up Australia day, was played. Jane asked for feedback and it was suggested that the video could be shared with shires within the catchment for them to put a link on their websites.

**ACTION: Jane to arrange for all shires within the catchment to have access to the video taken at the Pinjarra Clean Up Australia day.**

The Chairman opened the meeting at 9.05am

### 1. Attendance

Present:	Andy Gulliver	Chairman
	Jan Star AM	Deputy Chairman
	Marilyn Gray	Treasurer
	Bob Pond	Executive Committee (DoW)
	Darralyn Ebsary	Member
	Dr Peter Hick	Member
	Howard Mitchell	Member
	Michael Schultz	Member
	Cr John Allert	Local Govt Member (Inland)
	Cr Caroline Knight	Local Govt Member (Coastal)
	Cr Eliza Dowling	Local Govt Member Proxy (Inland) [until 11.00am]
	Cr Stephen Lee	Local Govt Member Proxy (Coastal)
	Craig Olejnik	DPaW
	Rob Summers	DAFWA
In Attendance:	Jane O'Malley	CEO
	Steve Fisher	Science Advisor
	Kim Wilson	Snr Projects Officer [from 9.45am]
	Luke Rogers	Regional Landcare Facilitator [from 10.30am]
	Patricia Sutton	Office Manager (Minute Taker)
	Andrew Del Marco	Project Support [from 10.30am]
	Jordon Garbellini	R2R Project Support Officer [from 10.30am]
	Jesse Rowley	Volunteer
	Jeanette Jensen	UWA [from 9.45am to 11.45am]
	Alex Gardner	UWA [from 9.45am to 11.45am]
	Kate Duzevich	Harvey Water
Apologies:	Paddi Creevey OAM	Secretary
	Dave Arkwright	PDC
	Norman Baker	PDC
	Scott Haine	DoP (Peel) – Observer
	Francis Smit	Landcare SJ

2. Declarations of Interest

Nil

3. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 21 April 2016

Moved: Jan Star            Seconded: Bob Pond

***That the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 April 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 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

Nil.

5. Correspondence

Jane drew attention to Item 2.6 on the Correspondence Out list – a letter to Barnaby Joyce seeking support to provide an effective rapid response (fire) to enable farmers to minimise production interruptions and recommence operations as quickly as possible, following fire events. A response has not yet been received.

She also noted Item 2.8, a submission to Department of Premier and Cabinet on the strategic assessment of the Draft Green Growth Plan; and Item 2.9, a letter of support to the Department of Environment for the listing of the Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain as a TEC.

Moved: Caroline Knight    Seconded: Rob Summers

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

CARRIED

6. Chairman's Report

The Chairman presented his report:

*"Contracts with DoW as part of REI*

- *Possibly biggest opportunity for PHCC to make progress in the last few years.*
- *Input from Board helped identify risks and inform negotiations with DoW. Thank you.*
- *There are risks associated with the project. CEO has taken legal advice on this.*

WA Landcare Network Forum, Fairbridge, 20th May

- *Chair and Deputy Chair attended. Some enlightening presentations on practical projects – including a great presentation by Thelma Crook, PHCC.*
- *NRM Groups and WALN have an MOU to help cooperation. A policy position published by WALN has created some angst. If PHCC Board/staff are able to influence building good relations I encourage you to do so. We are all working to the same ends and need a united front – particularly when talking to providers of funds.*

Peel Regional Leaders Forum – Friday 13th May

- *Chair attended regular PRLF meeting. No of regional priorities reduced from 60 to 40*
- *Brochure produced highlighting top 10 priorities. Brochure will be part of a package provide to Federal and State politicians and other policy makers.*

**ACTION: Provide members with a copy of the brochure highlighting the top 10 priorities for the PRLF.**

- *PHCC has ensured that protection of NRM assets remain on the priority lists.*

Andy and Jan gave an overview of PRLF. Jane added that it is a very valuable forum, however PHCC has not been able to influence the process of the priorities. They are good projects, but no process that has highlighted the most important for the region and the program logic to address them.

Meeting with Minister for Environment, 9th April

- *Reinforced importance of state-wide NRM groups and the \$20M of NLP (federal) funding that NRM adds to the \$24M of RfR funds that the WA State government funds.*
- *Strong alliances with DPaW and desire to work on priority areas in Conservation Estate.*

NRM Chairs Meeting, 6<sup>th</sup> May

- *Meeting reinforced the need for NRM WA to identify what it does and promote this to the broader community and decision makers.*

Meeting with Kelly Faulkner, Exec Director - Licensing & Approvals, DER, 22 April. This was a frank and open meeting. The DER are:

- *Supportive of open and transparent reporting to the community*
- *DER restructuring for more effective service delivery and recruiting for skills gaps*
- *Interested in role of DER on PHCC. Suggested we contact DG to clarify.*
- *Also discussed need for regular monitoring of critical locations in the catchment.*

**ACTION: Arrange a meeting with DER to clarify their role on PHCC.**

Media / Community

- *Promoted 'Home, River, Ocean' messages on 6MM and at Pinjarra Festival.*

**Andy Gulliver  
Chairman"**

Moved: Marilyn Gray    Seconded: Rob Summers

**That the Chairman's report be accepted.**

CARRIED

## 7. Update on SAPPR

Jane O'Malley presented the SAPPR update:

### *"Update on Green Growth Plan (Strategic Assessment Perth and Peel Region)*

*Our submission was provided to Department of Premier and Cabinet, with a copy to the Department of Environment (Canberra). A copy is available on our website. Our thanks to the staff who did an incredible job of wading through the documents and providing a very robust solution based submission.*

*Nearly 600 individual submissions and over 3000 pro-forma's were received. At the PHEMC meeting the DPC advised that key matters raised included:*

- Broad support for mandatory soil testing and Peel Regional Park*
- Support for new wetland buffer policy and review of Resource Enhancement Wetlands*
- Difficulty in interpreting maps due to their large and complex nature*
- High level of interest around measures to protect migratory birds and shorebirds*
- Further information being sought on funding*

*DPC have advised that next steps are aimed at achieving:*

- Analysis of submissions and discussions with stakeholders - June/July*
- Preparation of Cabinet submission early - August*
- Final key policy directions considered by Cabinet - October*
- Submit final document to the Commonwealth – December"*

Craig added that a key issue in the submissions was about plantations, which is the main area of food for Black Cockatoos. Submissions provided some argument that assisted in discussions.

Jane said that the number of submissions was a good message back to the State that a lot of organisations and community groups have an interest. It was a big number of submissions to assess.

Mike Schultz said that Amanda Willmott should be congratulated. The submission was superb and it firmly plants the flag in terms of PHCC.

*Moved: Mike Schultz    Seconded: Marilyn Gray*

***That Amanda Willmott and PHCC staff be acknowledged for their tremendous efforts in the submission on the Green Growth Plan.***

*CARRIED*

Jane said she would touch base with Bruce Edwards (Assistant Secretary for the Commonwealth Department of Environment for the Strategic Assessment Process) for an update. The Urban Bush Council met with him in WA and they have been very clear it is not good enough and, without significant changes, the Commonwealth should not accept it. Jan asked if submissions were available to the public. Could a site be developed for groups to upload their submissions?

**ACTION: Jane to check if submissions to the Green Growth Plan are available to the public.**

Jane continued with her report:

*“Peel-Harvey Estuary Management Committee (PHEMC)*

*The Peel-Harvey Estuary Management Committee (PHEMC) meeting was held on 26 May. Andy, Jan and Jane attended.*

*Agenda topics included an update on:*

- the public consultation phase of the GGP*
- Mandatory soil testing*
- Regional Estuaries Initiative*
- Transform Peel project (from David Arkwright)*
- updates on Vegetable farms in the Shire of Murray.*

- *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 (removed ‘not’) recommenced (removed ‘as yet’) but there have been some meetings with relevant representatives of DAFWA, DoW, DPC and PHCC to discuss Mandatory Soil Testing.”*

The question was asked if the issue of drainage reform was raised as a priority for discussion. Jane needs to discuss the minutes of that meeting with Jan and Andy.

**ACTION: Jane to review the minutes of the last PHEMC meeting with Jan and Andy.**

## 8. Chief Executive Officer’s Report

Jane provided a short presentation along with her report:

*“We are travelling well under our new temporary **staff structure** and now have a workforce plan prepared which we will trial for 12 months, with a six month review in December. This basically sees senior staff (Thelma, Kim, Steve and myself) taking on the primary role of the Operations Manager, with a staff development program to upskill our team across the delivery level, so that they take on more responsibilities and a more diverse range of tasks. I think this is an exciting, non-traditional model that will work well for the PHCC.*

**Staff movements** include:

- Welcome to Kate Barr who will be working with Mel Durack in Boddington (8 hrs/wk – temp role); Jamie Wright (welcome back); and new ‘professional volunteers’ Jesse Rowley and Lauren Morris*
- Farewell to Annette Brown and Mia Lacy from June 30 (though both will continue in a casual/temporary basis to assist until we fill a new communications position). We will also farewell Amanda Willmot before the next meeting, as her baby is due in August*
- Shift in positions for Julie MacMile (Coordinator, Community Engagement) and Jo Garvey (Coordinator Natural Assets)*
- We will soon be advertising for a WQIP Program Manager; Administration Officer and Communications/Marketing Officer*

[Jeanette Jensen, Alex Gardner and Kim Wilson arrived at 9.45am]

[Craig Olejnik left the room at 9.45am]

Thank you to everyone for their comments on the draft contract for the **Regional Estuaries Initiative**. We have had legal advice and modified the contract and are awaiting further discussions with the DoW. However, work has commenced, in good faith, ahead of the contract and we will provide an update on progress at the August meeting – hopefully with our new WQIP Program Manager in attendance.

We have also commenced work, again in good faith, with the DoW, ahead of a short term contract to prepare the project brief for the Integrated Water Initiative component of the **Transform Peel Project**. This work will be undertaken by Matt Giraud, with support from Steve Fisher and myself as members of the Steering Committee. The intent is to develop a water supply to support development in the food zone and business park, and reduce nutrient flows across and into our Ramsar wetlands.

I recently met with Andrew Hastie (Member for Canning) in the lead up to the **Federal Election** to discuss our major asks, which are:

- Funding for NRM Regions (Nationally) to be secured beyond 2018
- Competitive funding grants to be re-introduced (e.g. Biodiversity Fund & Water Quality Funds) (for Water Quality and e.g. Thrombolites of Lake Clifton)
- Peel-Harvey Regional Allocation to be increased (so we can do more)
- Would like a bi-lateral agreement with the State to encourage the State to have more focus on management of natural resources

We are awaiting confirmation of a meeting with the Labor Candidate for Canning (Barry Winmar). This is being coordinated by David Templeman on our behalf.

The first of our three **Green Army** teams have commenced and we are applying for two more teams in the Round 5 applications.

[Craig Olejnik returned to the room at 9.55am]

We are still waiting for an announcement for the **State NRM Capability Grants**. It has been six months since applications closed.

Our **National Landcare Program** is progressing well under all three projects, as is the **Rivers 2 Ramsar** project. It is difficult to cover the huge array of outcomes and successes of these projects in a short report and I encourage you all to look through our Facebook page for regular information on what we, with our delivery partners and community are achieving.

We have, with the assistance of Andrew DelMarco, staff and Steering Committee members, undertaken a **prioritisation process** to assist us to further refine project planning to meet our NLP targets by June 2018 and to plan for future projects out to 2022 (within and outside of NLP funding). Andrew will give a presentation at the meeting but we have already commenced discussions with our key stakeholders (local government and state agencies) to look to where we can work together to value add to NLP funding.

Our engagement with our **Noongar** community is going well under Annette and Thelma's direction. The **Participation Plan**, protocols and fee structure are progressing well. I am particularly pleased with engagement in the upper catchment with the assistance of Elder Geri Hayden. This has been a gap for some time and initial meetings show there are exciting opportunities to work together. If members can please make every effort to attend our **cultural awareness training** sessions: come to both and RSVP please.

1. 24 June in Mandurah with George Walley;
2. 19 August in Dryandra with Geri Hayden.

Jane also advised that members would be receiving an invitation by email to the Binjareb Park Cultural Day on 9 July.

Our **Feral Cat Round Table** on 13 May was very successful with good attendance (from Canberra and across WA). Three key topics were identified for further action (The need to list Feral Cats on the BAM Act; Legal risks operating in this space; and the need for support Local Government) and subgroups were established with a lead organisation. The evaluation was very positive and we have a role to play in working with stakeholders to progress identified actions.

No Members terms expire this year and therefore we will not be advertising for new members – we can all relax !

We have had no significant **Work Health Safety** issues to report. Staff undertook 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 and/or **Twitter** account.

Jane O'Malley  
**Chief Executive Officer**

Moved: John Allert      Seconded: Jan Star

**That the SAPPR and CEO reports be accepted.**

CARRIED

Andy welcomed Jeanette Jensen and Alex Gardner at this point (10.00am)

## 9. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented her report:

*"The **Finance & Audit Committee** met on 16 May 2016. Key business arising from this Meeting was:*

- 1. Westpac Term Deposit due to mature on 7 June 2016 to be reinvested. In determining the best option, I have looked at short and long term investment strategy and was able to secure a rate of 2.7% for a 12 month term maturing on 7 June 2017.*
- 2. A proposal to invest Project Funds in a Term Deposit Account to maximise interest return on unspent project funds in the new Financial Year.*
- 3. Jane Townsend, HRRT Rivercare Officer, has received her Credit Card and has been activated. A Credit Card for Mel Durack for Hotham Williams purchasing will also be required. (See Items for Endorsement)*
- 4. Purchase another vehicle in the very near future with Equity funds. (See Items for Endorsement)*
- 5. As part of Risk Management process, the Treasurer and Finance Manager to review passwords for ATO, Banks, MYOB, ACNC websites and financial documents they previously provided to CEO, and update accordingly.*

## **ACNC Register**

*The ACNC Register has been updated and thank you to members who were requested for information to complete this task. Karen attended an ACNC Webinar last week on End of Financial Year reporting requirements and obligations. The main message from this Webinar had an emphasis on the importance of Charities needing to be made aware of its Record and Financial Reporting obligations to be maintained at the level determined by the Annual Turnover and that obligations are met within the required timeframes.*

Marilyn added there are some excellent free webinars available on the Australian Charities and Not-for Profits Commission (ACNC) website and urged board members to view some to gain an understanding of how the ACNC works and how we as an organisation meet our Charitable Status obligations. Particularly recommending "Welcome to the board – 9 March 2016".

**ACTION:** Members encouraged to access the free webinar “Welcome to the board – 9 March 2016” on the ACNC website - <http://www.acnc.gov.au/ACNC/Comms/Multimedia/Multimedia.aspx>.

### **Organisational Audit**

The Organisation Audit is scheduled for 3 and 4 August 2016 to be conducted by AMD Chartered Accountants. Prior to this, annual Project acquittals for the NLP, R2R and Science Advisor Projects will be submitted for audit.

### **PHCC Support**

The PHCC Support is tracking very nicely and it is anticipated that we will have a small budget surplus at 30 June. The main area where there will be an over spend is Marketing & Promotions due to the implementation of our new Branding being rolled out across the Organisation.

### **Project Funding:**

1. 9000 – NLP: The final F15-16 payments of \$500,000.00 was received in May. We anticipate a carryover of funds at 30 June 2016.
2. 8000 – R2R – Partnership and Landholder Agreement Tax Invoices have been received for Stage 6 and payments will be made once Reporting and site visits have been finalised and signed off. We anticipate a carryover of funds at 30 June 2016.
3. 6600 – Mel Durack has secured funding through South32 Worsley Alumina for a new project “Returning Mussels to the Tunbridge Gully” for \$79,865 over a three year period. PHCC will be managing the finances for this project and has organised the Tax Invoice to South32 for F15-16 funding of \$29,363.

### **End of Financial Year FY2015-16**

With the approach of June 30, there is the usual pressure on officers to ensure that all invoices and payments are processed before the deadline in order for financial reports to be accurate for audit purposes. Members are requested to submit today’s travel claims directly to Pat at the end of the meeting in order to allow their claims to be processed before 30 June.

### **Items for Endorsement at June Meeting:**

1. Endorse a Credit Card with a max of \$1,000 / month for Mel Durack for Hotham Williams purchasing (to streamline process and make easier for Mel and us); and
2. Delegate authority to Executive to authorise the purchase of a fit for purpose vehicle (4WD utility) to be used for the delivery of projects, initially the Regional Estuaries Initiative. The proposal is to purchase this from the Asset Replacement Vehicle Fund which is currently \$20,894. Our previous 4WD vehicle was about \$28,000 with approximate 4 year payback period (4 years to the project at \$600/month).

### **Bank Statement Balance as at 31 May 2016**

ANZ Corporate Online Saver Account	\$152,403.23
Westpac Term Deposit	\$593,682.51
ANZ Project Online Saver Account	\$2,026,550.28
ANZ Project Cheque Account	\$589,582.95
Petty Cash	\$110.25
Merchandise	\$50.00
ANZ Visa Card	(\$-1,874.77)

**Total Cash at Hand:** **\$3,360,795.24**

Marilyn Gray  
Treasurer”

Moved: Howard Mitchell

Seconded: Darralyn Ebsary

**That:**

- 1. The Treasurer's Report be received.**
- 2. The May financial reports be ratified.**
- 3. Members endorse a credit card with a maximum of \$1,000.00/month for Mel Durack for Hotham-Williams purchasing.**
- 4. Delegate authority to Executive to authorise the purchase of a fit for purpose vehicle (4WD utility) for the delivery of projects, initially the Regional Estuaries Initiative.**

CARRIED

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

Andy welcomed Kate Duzevich from Harvey Water

10. Presentations – Jeanette Jensen, UWA (on behalf of Alex Gardner) Legal duties for environmental water allocations (a copy of this presentation is available with the minutes)

*[Eliza Dowling left at 11.00am, during this presentation]*

11. Andrew Del Marco – NLP Natural Assets Project – Update and Onwards (a copy of this presentation is available with the minutes)

*[Jeanette Jensen and Alex Gardner left the meeting at 11.45am]*

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

Steve Fisher presented his report and presentation on Jenkins Weir, Peel Integrated Water Initiative, MAR, MSC, scenario planning workshop for Perth and Peel region

**“Advice:**

**1. Review of the Jenkins Weir Study report:**

- *The Jenkin's Weir was constructed in 2013 on private property on the Mayfield K drain upstream of its confluence with the main Mayfield Drain. The intent is for the weir to hold up the flow of water from the property, thereby reducing the export of nutrients dissolved in the water as well as those bound to particulate material. Holding up the flow also extended the duration and extent of inundation of an existing wetland on the Mayfield K drain, increasing the exposure of the nutrient rich water to soil and vegetation in the wetland*
- *The report was prepared by University of WA for the PHCC presents the results from research undertaken by UWA from August 2013 – December 2015 including monitoring of water-level, concentrations in water of various forms of phosphorus (P) and nitrogen (N), vegetation survey, soil extractable P and shoot P concentrations at various locations in the drains and wetland behind the weir structure.*

- *The main findings were:*
    - *that the N and P exported from the site decreased by an estimated 80% and 90% respectively, largely due to the decrease in volume of water discharged to Mayfield Drain (60% reduction).*
    - *The concentration of P in water was attenuated between the inlet to the wetland (0.25 – 0.58 mg/L) and the weir (0.15 – 0.22 mg/L), largely due to depletion of soluble reactive phosphorus.*
    - *extractable P and total P is accumulating in the wetland but mainly in the soil of the drains themselves with very little accumulating in the rest of the wetland soils.*
    - *Further monitoring is required to investigate the processes affecting N & P attenuation.*
  - *The findings of this study will inform the service delivery project Best Practice Drainage – A collaborative approach from Mayfield Drain led by PHCC as part of the Regional Estuaries Initiative.*
- 2. Peel Development Commission (PDC) Transform Peel Projects including the Peel Integrated Water Initiative (PIWI)**
- *Attended four meetings, workshops and briefing sessions regarding the Transform Peel Projects.*
    - *Science Innovation Hub and overlap with proposed Waterways Institute – meeting with PDC officers (26/04/2016)*
    - *Transform Peel Projects general overview organized by PDC (10 May 2016)*
    - *PIWI workshop organized by DoW for water science experts (16 May 2016)*
    - *PIWI briefing to PDC Board (19 May 2016)*
  - *Of the Transform Peel Projects, the PIWI is the main focus for PHCC. To date the discussion has been focused on water reuse, and more specifically managed aquifer recharge and /or aquifer storage and recovery, as a seasonally independent water source for the Peel Food Zone and Nambeelup Business Park. The direction of this project will be clearer on completion of a project plan.*
- 3. Imbedding scientific method in the prioritisation of projects**
- *Assisted Andrew del Marco, in development of a scientifically sound process for prioritising activities and projects within the NLP Natural Assets theme. This process is still under development but will be used to set PHCCs work plan to meet NLP deliverables for the next two years. The process should be transferrable to other programs and themes*
- 4. Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification of the Peel-Harvey estuarine fishery**
- *Our comments (submitted 18 April 2016) on the draft assessment report were addressed by the MSC assessment team. These were mostly well received with the final assessment report altered to reflect many (but not all) of our concerns.*
  - *The certification will be granted, with a likely announcement on 24 June 2016.*
  - *The assessment is on-going. We will be re-engaged when the audit reports of the assessment process are released.*

**5. Review of Department of Fisheries Draft guideline for stakeholder engagement on aquatic resource management-related processes**

- Consultation on this document was a direct result of our engagement through the MSC certification process. Engaging PHCC in this way gives us some confidence that the Department of Fisheries is committed to improving its consultation with non-fisher stakeholders. My comments related to:
  - the importance of identifying the most appropriate key stakeholders
  - the value in engaging with non-government organisations, including catchment councils such as the PHCC, in providing local knowledge and community engagement
  - inclusion of the effect on Ramsar sites and values in the list of guiding questions used for the identification of key stakeholders
  - ensuring that processes are in place for alerting key stakeholders and other stakeholders of opportunities for comment, and allowing sufficient time for comment rather than relying on visiting the department's website
- Department of Fisheries appreciated our comments. The final document is currently in preparation so we will see how influential these were in shaping the guidelines when they are released.

**Science Communications:**

**1. Oral presentations to the following groups:**

- Dawesville Probus Club, The Cut Golf Club, Dawesville Threats to the Health of the Peel-Yalgorup Ramsar Site (50 attendees: retired professionals and business people ) — 12 May 2016
- Greenfields Primary School students , on site at Lake Clifton Boardwalk and estuary foreshore at Dawesville (40 students, teachers and parents from Year 4 Year 1/2 classes) — 18 May 2016

**2. Face Book / social media posts**

- Four Face Book posts:
  - Dawesville Probus Club presentation
  - Greenfield Primary School presentation
  - Post-fire water quality meeting
  - Promoting the Western Shield Camera Watch Program and Ringtail Possum Rally

**Building Research Networks:**

**1. Measuring impacts of the Waroona and Yarloop bushfires on water quality in the Harvey Basin**

- Organised (mostly via Jane Townsend) a meeting to discuss interest in sharing information; devising a monitoring program to investigate the effects of bushfire on water, in particular erosion and sediment export, nutrient export and effects of fire-retardants; and developing a fire-response framework. Attendees were:
  - Jane Townsend (Harvey River Restoration Taskforce)
  - Dr Helen Nice & Dr Frances D'Souza [Department of Water (DoW), Water Science]
  - Prof. Pierre Horwitz [Edith Cowan University (ECU)]
  - Amanda Mitchell (Water Corporation)
  - Kate Duzevich (Harvey Water)
- Dr Jeff Davis (Principal Scientist, Dept. of Fire and Emergency Services) and Dr Tim Storer (DoW) could not attend but have also been engaged in this discussion through separate conversations.
- As a result a funding proposal is being developed with Jane Townsend for submission to ECU Industry Collaboration Scheme to perform a desk top review of existing data and develop a sampling and analysis plan.

- To date The Harvey River Restoration Taskforce has committed \$5,000 and DoW \$2,500. If successful ECU will provide \$2 for each cash dollar from partners. Other potential partners have offered in-kind support.

## 2. Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities

- PHCC are now members of the reference group for Catchment-scale Landscape Planning for Water Sensitive City–Regions in an Age of Climate Change (Project B1.2) aimed at providing whole-of-catchment landscape planning process and methodology which acknowledges the critical dependency that cities have on secure and high-quality water sources.
  - Attended Series 1 of Scenario Workshops for the Perth and Peel region with approx. 60 representatives from Local Government, State Government, Universities, Urban Development Institute of Australia, Land developers, Water Corporation AND Perth NRM – 15 June 2016.

## 3. Sustainable Schools WA (Peel Region Network)

- Attended a meeting on 25 May 2016 and followed up on opportunities for involvement of schools in citizen science and other projects, including:
  - Science and Enterprise projects for Mandurah Baptist College with Birdlife Australia, Baldivis Secondary College and Baldivis Children’s Forest
  - Western Shield Camera Watch presentation by Dr Michelle Drew (Department of Parks and Wildlife)

## 4. Monitoring salinity of surface and groundwater at Lake Clifton

- Accompanied Mike Whitehead on his approx. monthly monitoring event on 5 May 2016. He is working in partnership with Assoc. Prof. Ryan Vogwill (UWA) to better understand the hydrology of Lake Clifton and the effect of salinisation on the Thrombolites by:
  - maintaining and downloading salinity (electrical conductivity) and temperature readings from a measurement cell and logger deployed at the boardwalk at Lake Clifton
  - collecting water samples from the lake to determine salinity (total dissolved solids)
  - measuring water levels (staff gauge and laser level)
  - collecting groundwater samples from a piezometer on the eastern shoreline and determining salinity.
- Arranged to borrow a “spear probe” from CSIRO (8 June 2016) to enable collection of samples of shallow groundwater from multiple depths and locations along the western foreshore on which salinity measurements may be made and saline seeps identified.
- Organised a volunteer (Lauren Morris) to assist on the next sampling event to assess the spear probe

### Other:

1. Provided a supporting letter as a testimonial for the Department of Water’s Urban Nutrient Decision Outcomes (UNDO) Tool.
2. Assisted with initiating the Peel Main Drain project, a service delivery project of the Regional Estuaries Initiative

Steve Fisher

**Science Advisor”**

## 13. Agency reports

### 13.1 Craig Olejnik – DPaW

- Lowlands – planting (approx. 30,000 plants in the ground) and fencing. Planning for re-doing fauna survey this spring. Will give an indication of survival rates of quenda released into lowland following survey and tour of the planting after the October meeting.
- Spent a lot of time on the Green Growth Plan. Looking at how to retain mature wilding pines for Black Cockatoo habitat.
- Working group has been established by DPC to discuss Keralup future use. Next meeting will discuss a draft master plan developed by Dept of Housing. Jane noted that there was an agency workshop yesterday and that PHCC had asked for involvement in that workshop. PHCC would like to be at the table to lobby for innovative people to put fresh ideas into the plan.
- Fire rehab is continuing and hoping the rehab plan will be signed off shortly. Over 100kms of tracks on Parks and Wildlife managed land are being restored, with Swan Coastal proportion being 25kms. Insurance claims being processed on walk trails signage, day use infrastructure destroyed in the fire.
- 3kms of fencing (split posts and ringlock) were stolen from the boundary of Kooljaranup. Will request the Shire of Murray to close some road reserves that do not lead anywhere and might ask PHCC to assist in that request.
- Hamel Nursery site. Met with local residents and discussed key points about fire risks. Will do some burning within the Hamel State Forest over winter and spring. There are opportunities along the brook for camping, expanding walk trails with planning to commence over the next 12 months. This will include to establish a working group to develop this plan for Hamel. There is over 100 years history there and a local friends group is being established including a retired DPaW former manager of the site which is assisting with the history.

### 13.2 Bob Pond – DoW

- DoW is going through a business transformation process where our business and activities are being analysed closely. It is a recognition that ongoing resource constraints can no longer be just absorbed and changes in what business we do and how we do it are required. There is a significant overhaul coming and reports are due in September.
- Within Waterways Cons Act – busy with licences and activities with the Mandurah Old Bridge Replacement Project and the Eastern Foreshore Redevelopment.
- The land at Waroona Dam which was held by DoW is being transferred to DPaW and will be included within conservation estate. It is a good move and makes more sense that the land be managed by DPaW.
- Regional Estuaries Initiative – hopefully in final throes of revised sampling and analysis plan for the Estuary.
- Peel Main Drain project – Bob has presented a conceptual project to Water Corp, DoP and the City of Rockingham.

### 13.3 Rob Summers – DAFWA

- Peel Food Zone - The DAFWA project is in its early stages and is still subject to input from the steering committee with Peel Development Commission. There is currently no project plan. Trina Anderson (9368 3640 [trina.anderson@agric.wa.gov.au](mailto:trina.anderson@agric.wa.gov.au)) who has a background in infrastructure and planning is going to be working part time on the PFZ project. Trina has previously documented downstream agricultural product processing opportunities in PFZ area and Kim Antonio (9368 3676 [kim.antonio@agric.wa.gov.au](mailto:kim.antonio@agric.wa.gov.au)) is the project manager.
- Regional Estuaries Initiative - Agreements from DoW and Geocatch to carry out nutrient management work are being reviewed by DAFWA. The project is due to start on July 1 2016 and includes the Peel-Harvey, Leschenault, Vasse-Geographe, Hardy, Wilson and Oyster catchments. We have presented a workshop in Elleker near Denmark on nutrient management and how to interpret soil tests and aim to do this in all of the catchments to coincide with soil testing or other appropriate times.
- DAFWA - The Waroona office is currently being retained and DAFWA is considering co-location of others at the office. There are currently 7 desks with (5 separate offices) and a further 5 easily added to this in a more open plan format (desks currently flat packed). There is also an air conditioned transportable office that can house 4. There are several sample refrigerators, an air conditioned wet lab and an air conditioned soil lab as well as a workshop and machinery sheds. There is also internet access at all desks as well as a colour

photocopy/scanner/printer. Redundancies appear to have ceased for now. The water monitoring equipment can remain safely housed in Waroona.

- Mandatory Soil Testing in the Peel-Harvey and Swan Canning - The Consultation Regulation Impact Statement (CRIS) has been drafted and reviewed again by DAFWA and returned to DPC. The MST is unlikely to start before July 2017.

[Jan Star left the meeting at 12.25pm]

#### 14. General Business

14.1 Jane gave an overview of the proposed program for the next meeting to be held on Thursday 18 August at Dryandra Woodland in the Wheatbelt. It will include a night tour of the Barna Mia Nocturnal Animal Sanctuary, a cultural awareness session and a proposed board workshop session.

14.2 John Allert said the Shire of Boddington had three projects underway:

- Hopefully taking over the dam from Water Corp
- Opening up Ranford Pool to the foreshore
- Looking at dredging the fish ladder which is very toxic at moment. Mel Durack and Kate Barr are a great asset.

14.3 Pete Hick said that CSIRO is holding its Annual Mid-Year Forum on 4 August. This year they have chosen wildfires and CSIRO is looking at the science. Pete is chairing the forum and he has been asked to bring an NRM aspect and to use the PHCC post fire interview and anything else PHCC wishes to add.

**ACTION: When information is available, provide link to our partners for the CSIRO Alumni Mid-Year Forum to be held on 4 August.**

Craig added that Kings Park had just won a grant on the effects of prescribed burns. Very intensive monitoring of before and after burns.

14.4 Howard said the Department of Water’s “Water for Growth Urban Water Outlook 2050” report was worth looking at. The report provides the data and highlights the opportunities for industry to analyse challenges, plan for future water needs and collaborate to create water supply solutions.

14.5 Caroline said the City of Mandurah had put in a submission of support for the Listing of the Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain as a Threatened Ecological Community.

14.6 Andy said members may want to Google *Green Space Alignment*. It could be of interest. He asked members to take and distribute copies of the Strategic Directions document that was tabled.

*The meeting closed at 12.40pm*

Chairman .....

Date .....

## Actions from previous meetings

No.	DETAILS	RESP.	COMPLETE
1.	<p>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.</p> <p><i>It appears there is good support for a Board Forum, associated with the February Strategic meeting and details will be provided.</i></p> <p><i>Board Members to consider the opportunity to meet on Thursday 18 August at the meeting at Dryandra Woodlands.</i></p>	Jane O'Malley	Complete – August meeting

## Actions from meeting of 16 June 2016

No.	DETAILS	RESP.	COMPLETE
1.	<p>16 June 2016 Arrange for all shires within the catchment to have access to the video taken at the Pinjarra Clean Up Australia day. <i>Letter sent to all shires on 12 July including the link to the video and inviting shires to link to our website, Facebook page and Twitter account.</i></p>	Jane	
2.	<p>Item 6 Chairman's Report [16 June 2016] Provide members with a copy of the brochure highlighting the top 10 priorities for the PRLF.</p>	Jane	
3	<p>Item 6 Chairman's Report [16 June 2016] Arrange a meeting with DER to clarify their role on PHCC.</p>	Jane / Andy	
4.	<p>Item 7 SAPPR Report [16 June 2016] Check if submissions to the Green Growth Plan are available to the public.</p> <p><i>Submissions are not made public by the DPC. However, some organisations (like PHCC) published their submissions (through their websites or by emailing them out among the 'network'. We published many to our own website = <a href="http://www.peel-harvey.org.au/?page_id=5391">http://www.peel-harvey.org.au/?page_id=5391</a> Note – the list is not exhaustive.</i></p> <p><i>It is also worth noting that we understand that the DPC are required to respond to all submissions, and to provide an account of how they have responded when the final draft goes to the Commonwealth. Note – as far as we are aware there is no obligation for the State (the DPC) to make public either the submissions or their response.</i></p>	Jane	
5.	<p>Item 7 SAPPR Report [16 June 2016] Jane to review the minutes of the last PHEMC meeting with Jan and Andy.</p>	Jane, Jan & Andy	
6.	<p>Item 9 Treasurer's Report [16 June 2016] Members encouraged to access the free webinar "Welcome to the board – 9 March 2016' on the ACNC website - <a href="http://www.acnc.gov.au/ACNC/Comms/Multimedia/Multimedia.aspx">http://www.acnc.gov.au/ACNC/Comms/Multimedia/Multimedia.aspx</a>.</p>	Members	
7.	<p>Item 14.3 General Business [16 June 2016] When information is available, provide link to our partners for the CSIRO Alumni Mid-Year Forum to be held on 4 August.</p>	Patricia / Peter Hick	