

MINUTES OF PHCC GENERAL MEETING

Held on Thursday 15 June 2017
at Landcare SJ, Cnr Cockram & Paterson St, Mundijong



The Chairman opened the meeting at 9.04am and welcomed everyone. Andy welcomed Vanessa from Serpentine Jarrahdale Council along with Landcare SJ volunteers Sarah and Jane. Andy reminded everyone to network. He advised that Brett Fitzgerald was an apology and that Megan Sheehan was here in his place.

1. Attendance

Present:	Andy Gulliver	Chairman
	Jan Star AM	Deputy Chairman
	Marilyn Gray	Treasurer
	Paddi Creevey OAM	Secretary
	Darralyn Ebsary	Member
	Howard Mitchell	Member
	Michael Schultz	Member
	Cr John Allert	Local Govt Member (Inland)
	Cr Caroline Knight	Local Govt Member (Coastal)
	Cr Stephen Lee	Local Govt Member Proxy (Coastal)
	Megan Sheehan	DPaW (Representing Brett Fitzgerald)
	Rob Summers	DAFWA [left at 11:54am, returned at 11:57]
In Attendance:	Steve Fisher	Acting CEO
	Jess Oakley	Acting Office Manager (Minute Taker)
	Kim Wilson	Program Manager
	Luke Rogers	Regional Landcare Facilitator [arrived at 9:42am]
	Megan LeRoy	NRM Officer – Fire Recovery [arrived at 9:55am]
	Jordon Garbellini	Project Support Officer [arrived at 10:54am]
	Francis Smit	Landcare SJ Inc – Observer [left at 9:48am, returned 10:29am]
	Kristy Gregory	Landcare SJ Inc – Observer
	Sarah Way	Landcare SJ Inc – Observer
	Rick Dawson PSM	Senior Wildlife Officer, DPaW – Observer
	Ellen Walker	SJ Food & Farm Alliance Inc – Observer
	Jane Brown	Landcare SJ Inc Management Committee – Observer
	John Erren	Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale – Observer
	Merri Harris	SJ Food & Farm Alliance Inc – Observer
	Neil Kentish	Landcare SJ Inc Board – Observer
	Pascal Balley	Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale – Observer
	Roger Harington	Landcare SJ Inc Board – Observer
	Vanessa Slater	Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale – Observer
Apologies:	Bob Pond	Executive Committee (DoW)
	Dr Peter Hick	Member
	Brett Fitzgerald	DPaW
	Andrew Ward	PDC
	Cr Eliza Dowling	Local Govt Member (Inland) Proxy
	Louise Oorschot	DER
	Suzanne Brown	Water Corporation – Observer
	Scott Haine	DoP (Peel) – Observer
	Jane O'Malley	Chief Executive Officer

2. Welcome of new observer Suzanne Brown, Water Corporation

Andy welcomed Suzanne Brown from Water Corporation as an observer at this and future General Meetings in anticipation of Suzanne attending later in the meeting (Suzanne was not in attendance at the time).

3. Declarations of Interest

Jan Star declared an interest in the Food and Farm Alliance.

4. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 20 April 2017

Andy informed everyone that the minutes were not available on the website, however, the Board were notified when they entered the meeting that they had a copy in front of them to read over. Andy checked if anyone needed more time to read them. No one said that they did.

Moved: Cr Caroline Knight Seconded: Marilyn Gray

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2017 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Summary of actions from previous meetings:

No.	DETAILS	RESP.	COMPLETE
1.	Item 6 Chairman's Report [15 December 2016] <i>Seek an opportunity for Marilyn Gray to present to the Peel CCI</i>	Marilyn Gray	

Summary of actions from meeting of 20 April 2017:

1.	Item 5 Correspondence [20 April 2017] <i>Jane to work with DoW and others to clarify specific tourism activities that would not be permissible in or on the Estuary under the Waterways Conservation Act, 1976. Steve and Andy met with Karen Priest on the 17th May to discuss a proposal.</i>	Jane O'Malley	Complete
2.	Item 6.1 Board Performance [20 April 2017] 1. <i>Jane to amend Ref No's 05 and 06 on page 14 of the draft Evaluation to refer to PHCC.</i> 2. <i>Send the survey to Craig Olejnik, asking him to complete on behalf of DPaW.</i> 3. <i>The report back to the PHCC to be collated to show any difference in response from Community, Local Government and Agency representatives.</i> <i>Survey sent to all Board members and Craig Olejnik. Report to be presented to this meeting.</i>	Jane O'Malley	Complete Complete Complete
3.	Item 7 CEOs Report [20 April 2017] <i>A copy of the Staff Forum program will be provided with the minutes of the 20 April meeting</i>	Jane O'Malley	Complete

4.	Item 7 CEOs Report [20 April 2017] <i>Jane to seek a meeting with Minister MacTiernan.</i>	Jane O'Malley	In progress
5.	Item 7.1 Science Advisors Report [20 April 2017] <i>Steve to report on the outcome of the 28 February meeting with Urbaqua at the next meeting.</i> <i>Steve to report at meeting on 15th June.</i>	Steve Fisher	Complete
6.	Item 11 <i>Andy Ellett to be invited to the ARC Linkage meeting at PHCC on 28 April.</i>	Jane O'Malley	Complete
7.	Item 14.2 Agency / Member Reports [20 April 2017] <i>Brett to provide information on the Tuart recovery program and the Wandoo project.</i> <i>Brett was absent from the meeting. Steve to ask Brett to report at the August meeting</i>	Brett Fitzgerald	
8.	Item 14.7 Agency / Member Reports [20 April 2017] <i>Jane to ask the Minister for Environment if there were plans for roadside vegetation clearing in the Peel-Harvey catchment.</i> <i>Jane and Andy meeting with the Minister on Tuesday 30 May.</i>	Jane O'Malley	Complete
9.	Item 14.7 Agency / Member Reports [20 April 2017] 1. <i>Jane to write a media release about the Farmers for Fauna forum held at Dryandra Woodland.</i> Media release emailed to network on 12 th May 2017. A copy will be provided with the media file. 2. <i>Jane to write to the Threatened Species Commissioner, Gregory Andrews, with a copy to his minister, thanking him for attending the Farmers for Fauna forum held at Dryandra Woodland.</i>	Jane O'Malley	Complete

Item 5 Correspondence [20 April 2017]: Steve advised that he and Andy met with Karen Priest regarding the proposal made to for sea planes to land in the Harvey Estuary. PHCC raised concerns about bird disturbance with Karen. Andy provided Karen with a summary of the Shorebird 2020 SHARE event so she had some further information. Karen was going to follow up with Bob Pond to discuss the implications of the Waterways Conservation Act on the proposed business venture. Steve advised that this item had been dealt with for the time being.

Item 7 CEOs Report [20 April 2017]: Board performance outcomes will be spoken about by Paddi in Item 10 of the agenda below.

Item 7.1 Science Advisors Report [20 April 2017]: Steve advised the Board that Urbaqua is a not-for profit organization providing consultancy and project based services in urban water management, environmental impact assessment, environmental planning, NRM and policy development. They were formerly trading as Essential Environmental. Shelley Shepherd, Helen Brookes and Gary Middle are the directors. Jan asked if the proposal for a Peel Park was going ahead. Steve said that in December PHCC became aware of a project they were advertising "Establishing the Peel Regional Park". The perception from the language used in the description of the project was that the project was in progress.

PHCC requested a meeting with Urbaqua and met (Steve, Kelly Lavell & Andrew Del Marco) with all three directors in Dec 2016 to discuss and discovered it was them getting ahead of the game promoting the project to see if anyone was interested in partnering with them. Steve informed everyone that Urbaqua's strategy is to align the projects with the Green Growth Plan and Shaping Perth as a Water-sensitive City (Minister for Water's Water Innovation Advisory Group. He said he also discovered that Essential Environmental was being wound up to form Urbaqua. Steve advised that as a not for profit organization, Urbaqua earnings from the consultancy would be used to subsidise partnership projects that deliver a water and environmentally sensitive future for WA. He said that

Shelley is still involved in New Waterways (Coastal Catchments Initiative) and the CRC WCS. Steve explained that he, Jane, Shelley and Helen met on 28 February to discuss possible collaborations but did not reach a conclusion.

Item 11: Steve apologised for Andy Ellett not being invited to the ARC Linkage meeting and advised that he will be invited for the next meeting. Steve explained that Andy Ellett wasn't invited because Steve was not present at the April meeting of PHCC, did not return from leave until 26 April and was not aware of this action item until after the meeting on 28 April. Bob Pond and four other DoW employees from the research team were in attendance. Jan asked who Andy was. Steve advised Jan that Andy is the Program Manager for Transform Peel and Peel Food Zone.

Item 14.2 Agency / Member Reports [20 April 2017]: Steve informed everyone that due to Brett's absence this action would be deferred to the next meeting.

Action 8: Andy provided feedback that the view of the Minister was that public safety would always be prioritised over the environment including the survival of trees and other vegetation. Mike made the comment that roadway barriers could always be put up.

Item 14.7 Agency / Member Reports [20 April 2017]: Steve said he was unsure if a letter thanking the Minister for Endangered Species had been sent out. He could not see it recorded in the correspondence register but that he would check with Jane to see if she had done so via email.

6. Correspondence

Marilyn congratulated the PHCC team on keeping up with the correspondence. Andy said that he thought it was good having the correspondence uploaded weekly, Jan agreed.

Moved: Jan Star Seconded: Michel Shultz

That Correspondence In and Correspondence Out be accepted.

CARRIED

7. Chairman's Report

Andy Gulliver spoke to his report:

Meetings and events attended during May/June

- *PRLF at Waroona Shire offices, 12th May*
- *Minister MacTiernan 'Town Hall' meeting, Rushton Park, 12th May*
- *MAPTO at PHCC office, 17th May*
- *PHCC SHARE 18th May "Shorebirds"*
- *NRM (WA) Quarterly meeting, 19th May*
- *Minister for Environment, Stephen Dawson, Tuesday 30th May*
- *NRM Regions Australia Chairs Forum, Melbourne 31st May – 2nd June*
- *CCWA Meeting, Monday 12th June*

Meetings with Federal and State politicians

- *General feedback from politicians and bureaucrats*
 - *PHEMC continues and PHCC will have a seat. SAPPR process should continue.*
 - *'Green Growth Plan' may be re-badged to shed political baggage.*
 - *Government needs 10-point 3-4 year action plans with known deliverables.*
 - *Preferably plans will have no net cost to government – the government has no new money therefore any extra spending has to be accompanied by equivalent cut in spending elsewhere*

- PHCC still working with/on government on delivery of election promise for \$1.5M for Peel
- Minister for Environment, Stephen Dawson, 30th May
 - Relationship building. First meeting. Well received.
 - Reinforced PHCC role as bridge between government and community and useful role we had played for government during the SAPPR process. Supported continuation of PHEMC
 - Expressed our support, in principle, for the SAPPR process and desire that it continue
 - Discussed PHCC assistance in delivery of pre-election promise to deliver \$1.5M to region
 - Reinforced role of 7 NRM groups across WA and support/assistance with state NRM strategy
- David Templeman – ‘soft launch’ of \$20,000 election commitment, PHCC shed, 2.00, Friday 16th June.
- Planning to meet Dave Kelly (Minister for Water) and Robyn Clark (Murray-Wellington)

Peel Regional Leader’s Forum

- Discussion about ‘Who is the Peel Region’. What is the narrative that describes our community and region? Peel region identity is to be discussed at a workshop of PRLF members at end of June (Fri 16th).
- This is a good question for the Peel Harvey Catchment Council as well. Does the community relate to and connect with the term ‘Peel’? If we are to get people to value our natural assets and build civic pride in our environment and the way we care for it then do we need a regional identity that the community can connect with? (We know that the aboriginal community have difficulties with the term ‘Peel’).
- Regional festivals are doing well. 12-13,000 people attended Dwellingup Pumpkin Festival. Over 60 sponsors and 70 stalls. Since then the Pinjarra Festival ran over 2 days on June 3/4th June. This made me wonder whether PHCC marketing plan could invest more in attendance at events. Whilst thinking about connecting with community do Board members have a view on re-starting an annual community forum?

John Allert expressed that some people fear that the term ‘Peel’ could disappear. He gave the example of how Mandurah is now commonly referred to as the Perth metropolitan area. John suggested that we need a narrative to explain why the Peel is different to the metro. Jan stated that the waterways are what makes the Peel Region different. John Erren said that the fear for Serpentine Jarrahdale is that the town will be excluded. He stated that the biggest issue is the people of the Peel Region don’t know that they live in the Peel. John thinks the PRLF should be asking who we, the occupants of the Peel Region, are. Andy told John that he had an interesting point. Andy said we have three rivers and we are all connected. He suggested that perhaps we need to pull on peoples heartstrings. Andy said that maybe we could buy into us crossing boundary and that a concept of 3 rivers may help cross the boundary issue that we have. Darralyn said that we need to connect people with the rivers and the land. She thought that we may have to make that story and not wait for it to happen. John Allert said that members of the PRLF are writing a narrative of what they think the ‘Peel’ is. Jan said that this topic has been a question historically and that the logic behind the signs recently installed by the CoM was to use the rivers. Steve added that the Peel Region from an NRM perspective was represented by the water catchment from the Peel-Harvey Estuary with the catchment boundary being logically organised around the network of waterways in the region

NRM (WA) and NRM Regions Australia

- Some excellent Chairs Forum papers can be accessed at <http://nrmregionsaustralia.com.au/2017-national-nrm-regions-chairs-forum/nrm-regions-chairs-forum-2017-presentations/>

Highlights from papers

- ‘Our Catchments Our Communities’ - Adam Hood, Director, Catchments Management Victoria
 - Victoria’s first state-wide Integrated Catchment Management Strategy for all 10 regions
 - Great tag line for government funded programme. About \$400M investment over 4 years
 - Victoria has statutory NRM groups with wider responsibilities than NRM groups in WA
 - \$22M allocated (4 years) for management of state NRM body, ‘Catchments Management’
 - WA’s 7 NRM regions contribute about \$200K/year to run voluntary group. No State funding.
- Australian National Outlook and the future of regional NRM – Steve Hatfield-Dodds, CSIRO

- Terrific presentation. Highly recommended. Presented scenarios for Australia in 2050.
- Positive outlook for future even in a changing climate
 - 33% of land produces 66% of production – enormous range in productivity
 - Carbon farming could outcompete food production across 2/3 of agricultural land
 - Agricultural output increase by 50% or more even with land use changes
 - Rising water demand can be met whilst enhancing resource security
 - Trends in rainfall are the dominant factors.
 - Surprising reductions in GHG with effort across all sectors
- Interesting comment in discussion “This is the first time in Australian history that ideology is trumping business and economics” (Reference to ‘trump’ is incidental, honestly)
- Australian Conservation Foundation - Paul Sinclair, Campaign Director
 - Insightful presentation about changing our story to connect with the community at an emotional level and build a constituency for change if we want to change a broken system
 - There is a pharmaceutical medicines ‘Parliamentary Friends’ group but not for the environment
 - The environment has not been in the top 5 issues over the last 2 elections
 - Our story IS the mainstream. We’re just not good at telling it
- National Environmental Accounts - Max Kitchell, past Chair of NRM Regions Australia
 - Project piloted by 10 regions around Australia, including NACC in WA
 - Environmental accounts are practical, affordable and useful. Impressive list of supporters
 - Annual cost ~\$15M. Ken Henry commented this was low compared to national accounts for financial economy and arguably management of natural environment was just as important.
 - Max Kitchell keen to implement, saying it’s possibly most important project in a long career
- Carbon Economy – Kate Brunt, Goulburn broken CMA in Victoria
 - NRM’s should keep an eye on this space. It is demanding attention and attracting funds
 - An aggregator ‘industry’ is establishing. NRM groups role maybe as honest information broker
- Productivity Commission National Water Reform Inquiry - Jane Doolan, Productivity Commission
 - COAG and NWI represent >20 years of national water reform, governments are committed
 - Reforms implemented in most states. WA awaiting implementation. NT further behind
- Sustainable Agriculture – what does it mean? National Farmers Federation
 - Farmers must “Deliver more, with less (and with less impact), through innovation”
 - Establishing industry frameworks. Completed for cotton, dairy, sugar and beef
- Dairy Australia Sustainability Story - Cathy Phelps
 - Dairy sustainability framework can lock farmers into BMP’s and improved environment
 - Demanded by international investors and customers. Partnering with NRM groups will help
- National Landcare Network – Terry Hubbard, Chair of National Landcare Network
 - Desired collaboration with NRM but clear statement that NRM does not equal regional delivery
 - Provided an insight into some of the antagonism between different factions in other states.

The business of NRM

- Signing of MOU between NRM Regions Australia and NFF
 - Fiona Simson, new President of NFF presented NFF rationale.
 - NFF want to put data behind claims of clean green industries for export markets
 - Fiona promised an active partnership and engagement with NRM regions
 - Expect a workshop between NFF and NRM in near future.
 - NFF supplied horrendogram showing how stakeholders fit together (copy at PHCC office)
 - (Perth NRM have moved into WAFF building which may provide opportunities in WA)
 - This MOU took on greater significance after hearing from Federal government bureaucrats
- Australian Government briefing on progress with NLP2
 - Execs from Depts. Of ‘Environment and Energy’ and ‘Agriculture and Water Resources’
 - NRM was recognised as valuable delivery model but only just made it through cabinet process

- Current mantra of government is 'budget repair' and cutting NRM funding would save \$1 bn.
- There are negative perceptions of NRM regions. NRM (WA) letter to Barnaby Joyce helped
- National effort by NRM groups to convince cabinet was necessary and saved NRM
- Commitment to regional delivery was still under discussion, expect decision in next few weeks
- NRM suffered 20% cut and this was considered mild in current fiscal environment.
- \$1 Bn committed over 5 years (compared to \$1 Bn over 4 years for NLP1)
- Extra \$100M over 4 years for Landcare as part of the 'backpacker deal' with the Greens party
- \$100M available starting in FY18 (from 1/7/17) whilst \$1 Bn starts in FY19 from 1st July 2018.
- No decisions on funding allocations yet. Expect a 'roadshow' in near future
- Government considering competitive 'procurement' model to increase efficiency and effectiveness where 'the market' invited to bid for service delivery. NRM groups expected to be in best position for bids but government wants to know that it is getting best value for money.
- Audience expressed concern that there was not enough time to for Canberra to develop new processes and risk that NRM groups would be unfunded for a period. AG Execs aware of this.
- There is a possibility that alliances of like-minded groups may bid and compete with NRM groups in some regions (this made the signing of the MOU with NFF more pertinent)
- The regional delivery model is enduring and comprehensive. A procurement model may lead to 'cherry picking' with no one left to fill the gaps (e.g. bush fire response) when it's needed.
- Audience expressed concern about government picking winners and past issues such as problems with 'Pink Batts' insulation and 'Building the Education Revolution' programs.
- NRM groups are audited and are subjected to 'Performance Evaluation Framework'. This acts as a type of QA for the government to give them confidence to invest in NRM groups
- There was some debate about 'credit rating' for NRM groups. Those groups that had excellent governance, a track record of delivery and high evaluations might have easier access to funds
- Lesson for PHCC is to review its relationships with stakeholders and other groups to explore collaboration rather than competition. Our governance audit later in year is also significant.
- Should NRM (WA) put in one bid for whole of WA? Others suggested one national NRM bid.
- Jim Sullivan (Wheatbelt NRM) observed at the end of the session that we were now talking about the survival of NRM whereas we should be talking about survival of the environment.
- **National Landcare Advisory Committee – Sue Middleton**
 - NLAC made up of volunteers and provide advice direct to relevant 2 ministers.
 - Sue's presentation constrained because expected release of NLAC report had been delayed
 - NLAC had tried to make a compelling case for NRM to Ministers
 - NLAC's advice used to convince other cabinet Ministers to support NRM.
 - It's difficult to measure value of NRM, it's too intangible for most politicians
 - (this demonstrates importance of national environmental accounts, see above)
 - NRM has 30-year legacy (not just 4-year term) with profound and lasting change
 - This is the foundation upon which Australian producers now market clean and green 'Brand Australia' to international markets
 - NRM community has a deep knowledge of how landscapes work.
 - NRM builds communities/ social capital – but this is not fashionable (Andy G comment)
 - We (NRM) need to articulate this better.
 - NRM groups should ask themselves what is it that they should be doing now so they are not in the same position for the next review in 4 years' time.
 - NLAC has heard stories of mistrust of NRM groups. NRM needs to work on this also

Government Agencies

- **Department of Water**
 - Detailed contract negotiations for Peel Main Drain project have been protracted and delayed
 - CEO is handling in positive, pro-active and professional manner

- *Whilst this particular contract is proving difficult this experience may help us establish some processes and procedures for future service delivery contracts with state government*
- *CEO is still confident there will be a positive outcome. I feel an obligation to highlight a resource and reputational risk to the PHCC. The overhead cost of managing a difficult contract may be too onerous for the PHCC. We have to weigh up the opportunity cost of wasting valuable staff time. The reputational risk of pulling out of the contract negotiations also has to be weighed against the reputational risk of failure to meet client expectations if the contract was unworkable in the first place. No need for action. For information only at this stage.*

Governance

- *Staff review – this has been completed and will be addressed by CEO*
- *Board Performance Evaluation*
 - *Thank you for prompt responses and the information is now available*
 - *Generally the ‘scores’ were fairly high and we can be pleased with the result without getting complacent. Please feel free to let me know if you have a particular interpretation to share*
 - *Survey responses will be passed onto Governance Committee for review*
 - *The Governance Committee provides a vehicle for continuous improvement of the PHCC Board*
 - *As Chair I am grateful for the feedback and would welcome conversations with any Board member who has ideas or concerns that will help improve the performance of the Chair and/or the group*
- *Australian Government Performance Framework – PHCC Desktop Audit*
 - *This has taken on an increased importance after revelations at Melbourne Forum*
 - *The PHCC Organisation Audit has been scheduled for 11th and 12th September*
 - *The role of Board members on steering committees is important and members may be approached with questions about their role and participation in steering committees.*

Good News

- *Jane O’Malley is attending the Harvard course during the week of this meeting. We wish her well.*

Paddi advised the Board that only about 60 women were accepted into the course and congratulated Jane on her achievement. Jan let the Board know that Liz Harris had mentored Jane through the process. Paddi advised that she has seen the positive impact of this course on another CEO that had attended and the networking opportunities available through Jane’s attendance at the course gives ongoing value to Jane and the PHCC. She said the course will be enriching not only for Jane, but also for PHCC and the region.

- *Jane has been nominated as a WA Parks Ambassador along with an illustrious group of Western Australians. See <https://www.ourwaparks.org.au/about/ambassadors/>*
- *We had another delightful SHARE session this time on ‘Shorebirds’. Congratulations to all involved.*
- *David Templeman – ‘soft launch’, PHCC shed, 2.00 this Friday (16th). Please come if you are available.*

Andy Gulliver

Chairman

Mike stated how NLP is our core and posed the question “where do we go from here?” He said that we need to pull apart the information Andy provided. He advised that roadshows are scary because it means that all of the decisions have been already been made. Mike said that the point Andy made in his report about NRM having a 30-year legacy is very important. Andy said that if it didn’t scare you to think that cabinet ministers were not aware of NRM as they should be, that you should be. He made the point that we are doing great work, however, we don’t sell our story. Selling the good work we do would be our challenge.

John Allert asked if there was anyone in PHCC to deal with public relations. Steve advised John that there wasn’t a designated staff member but that Julie MacMile does that work as part of her role. Steve informed everyone that PHCC didn’t have the funds to hire a dedicated person for that role and that Julie does a fantastic job. Steve said that we have had staff in the past dedicated to communications, Annette Brown and Mia Lacey, that were not replaced when they left. John stated that it is good to let the world know about PHCC’s good deeds. Steve agreed

and said that PHCC sends media releases and uses social media and other communications methods where we can. John asked if we have a film with the progress we have made on projects. Steve told John that for some of the new projects there was video footage. Jan advised John that case studies were being done at the end of projects. Andy said that we need to make a point of creating awareness of what we do. He also said that we need to continue to have free and frank conversations with government.

Paddi thanked Andy for his comprehensive report and said she thought the problem with a lot of groups is they did not consider that the government is one seat away from election. She thought that for the Ministers, individual election is their main focus. Paddi said that she thinks we are in a different dynamic and that we need to come up with different strategies to adapt to this new dynamic. She said we need to work through our Federal senators so they can make everyone in Canberra aware of the work we are going and the work that needs to be done.

Kim informed everyone that there used to be 30 Commonwealth employees based in Western Australia who helped the NRM regions with their work and that as of July 1st, there would only be one.

Paddi suggested that the Executive Committee could form a small working group who use the knowledge Kim and Sharon have on Community Based Social Marketing. She said that how we pass on a message needs to be done differently. She thought that we need to come up with different ideas on how we can get our message across to the politicians. Steve clarified that Community Based Social Marketing is about behavioural change and to change behaviour you must first find the barriers that are preventing someone from changing their actions and actively go through steps to change those barriers.

ACTION: Executive Committee to form a small working group to strategically think about how to change behaviours. This will be used as a package to politicians describing the value of NRM to the Peel Region.

Moved: Jan Star

Seconded: Michael Schultz

That the Chairman's report be accepted.

CARRIED

8. Chief Executive Officer's Report

Steve Fisher, Acting CEO, provided the following report which he spoke to.

Staff Movements & Training

- *Jane has been (or will be) away from 8 to 18 May inclusive, 8 to 23 June inclusive and 19 July to 25 August inclusive. During these periods, Steve Fisher will be Acting CEO.*
- *Luke Rogers attended the National Landcare Facilitators National Conference in Canberra (17 – 18 May)*
- *Andrew Del Marco and Neil Dixon attended the Environmental Practitioners Network WA Conference in Perth (26 May)*

Steve advised that Andrew DelMarco will be leaving the PHCC in June. Steve recognised all the hard work Andrew has done and said that he hopes Andrew returns after his travels.

Strategic Issues

1. *Labor Government Election Commitments*
 - *PHCC have produced a proposal for the Labor Government where we lay out a plan for how their \$1.5M election commitment could be delivered in the Peel (**see Attachment 1**). Jane has met with and presented this paper to Andrew Ward (Peel Development Commission), David Templeman (Minister for Local Government; Heritage; Culture and Arts and Member for Mandurah); Robyn Clarke (Member for Murray-*

Wellington); Stephen Dawson (Minister for the Environment; Disability Services) and has submitted to Simon Taylor (Department of Premier and Cabinet, DPC). This proposal includes salary for a Program Manager to oversee the program and an extension of the Science advisor position, to be based at PHCC. Jane will meet with Dave Kelly (Minister for Water; Fisheries; Forestry; Innovation and ICT; Science) on 29 June to discuss this proposal amongst other things.

- A further \$20,000 was made available through a separate election commitment to assist in projects in catchment management for which we have also applied to the Peel Development Commission through the Royalties for Regions Local Projects, Local Jobs scheme for funding of a project entitled Saltmarshes of Ramsar 482. Here we propose to complete a survey of the fringing and littoral vegetation of the Ramsar site that satisfies the requirements of the evaluation and measurement components of the Management Plan for the Ramsar site. Although the result of this submission has not yet been publically announced, we have been successful in this application. A soft launch will be held on Friday 16 June at the PHCC Offices.

Steve informed everyone that the intention was for Sandra Williamson (PHCC volunteer with a PhD in botany) and Jesse Rowley will be upskilled for local jobs through this process.

2. Visit by Australian Government Department of Energy and Environment (DoEE) Representatives

- On 15 May, Steve Costello (Assistant Secretary Landcare Branch), Keith Armstrong, Neil Riches and Neil Blake from the Australian Government DoEE visited the Peel Region. Thanks to Kim Wilson, Jo Garvey, and Kristy Gregory and Frances Smit (Landcare SJ) who took our guests on a tour of on-ground projects funded through NLP showcasing successful partnerships via Community Environment Grants. Sites visited were: North Dandalup Primary School; Mundijong Rd and Duckpond Reserve (Mundijong), Brickwood Reserve (Byford) and Wattle Rd (Serpentine). They also spent some time at Landcare SJ where Francis displayed the cockatubes. The feedback from our guests was very positive with the take home message that PHCC and Landcare SJ were a great example of how a partnership should work.

Steve thanked Kim Wilson, Jo Garvey, Kristy Gregory and Francis Smit for their work arranging and running the tour for the Department of Environment and Energy.

Partnerships / new projects / submitted grant applications

1. Drainage Partnering Agreement with Water Corporation and Department of Water

- A Drainage Partnering Agreement between PHCC, Water Corporation and Department of Water was endorsed by the respective CEOs and Director General (**see Attachment 2**). Briefly, the agreement commits all three parties to work collaboratively, provide leadership and support innovative approaches and recognise the importance of water quality in the management of drainage water.
- On 23 May, PHCC hosted a workshop facilitated by Sergey Volotovskiy (Water Corporation) to develop actions to implement the Drainage Partnering Agreement.

Steve said that the workshop covered the 72 hour rule, which is still being applied to drainage design, and drain maintenance. Steve acknowledged how instrumental Suzanne has been in getting agreement off the ground.

2. Threatened Species Recovery Fund: Farmers for Fauna

- Luke Rogers has submitted a proposal on 14 June to the Threatened Species Recovery Fund: Round 1 for funding (\$250,000) to undertake feral animal control and revegetation on farms around the Dryandra Native Reserve and by doing so provide habitat and reduce threats to threatened species such as woylies and numbats.

3. Alcoa Foundation: Restoring the Serpentine River

- *Thelma Crook submitted a Grant Concept Paper to the Alcoa Foundation on 9 June requesting USD 750,000 over three years for a project entitled “Restoring the Serpentine River”. This project aims to achieve this through implementing on-ground works including fencing, revegetation, bank stabilisation, feral animal control, development of a River Action Plan for areas where none exist, and performing ecological surveys of river heath. Community engagement events including the local Noongar community are also proposed.*

Operational Issues

1. Staff Forum

- *The results from the Staff Forum held at Nanga Bush camp on 28 March have been compiled. In summary, as a result of the information exchanged at the forum:*
 - *11 of 15 respondents had a greater appreciation of the constraints and opportunities facing PHCC as an NRM Region*
 - *6 of 15 staff had a greater appreciation of the obligations that must be met by PHCC as an NRM Region (so 9 did not). The values, principles and governance of PHCC were reinforced for most (11/16) staff, however this was not the experience for 3 of the 16 respondents. Both of these are areas in which we can improve*
 - *all but one (15/16) had a better appreciation of the work of their peers*
 - *generally the majority of staff understood the requirements and expectations regarding administrative processes, however a need for more information and training in Work Health and Safety, Project summaries, GRID and Project Reporting emerged.*
 - *The value of weekly standup meetings was questioned by 6 of the 14 respondents, however monthly lunchtime meetings were valued by most (13/14).*
 - *most (15/16) would like to do a staff forum again, with most (11/14) opting for annual recurrence with an overnight stay (7/14). Including team-building activities (e.g. the “Tree Adventure” activity) was unanimously supported.*
 - *most staff offered opinions on priorities they would put in place regarding operational practices. Although varied there was a common theme around providing more feedback through staff performance reviews.*
- *Steve will discuss these findings with Jane on her return to devise a strategy for improvement in the identified areas*

2. Other items of interest

- *Steve attended the NRM WA CEOs Meeting on 18 May. The main topics of discussion were the need to work towards / develop a State NRM Strategy and what form the NLP funding model will take beyond June 2018. Steve Costello et al. (see above) attended part of the meeting and shared the limited information they had regarding funding. They hinted that there may be some form of competitive process for a portion of the funding.*
- *Steve attended the Peel Regional Leader’s Forum CEOs meeting at Pinjarra on 19 May. One issue discussed was Alcoa’s plans for export of unrefined bauxite. There is a follow up meeting of the PRLF with Alcoa to discuss this on 16 June. The PRLF have a workshop scheduled for 30 June to discuss and decide on strategy direction for the organisation.*
- *The National NRM Regions CEO’s meeting is scheduled for 27 & 28 June*
- *The next S.H.A.R.E. Event will be held on in the PHCC Shed on 20 July with the Jarrah forests as the theme*
- *There are still some challenges around the delivery of the Peel Main Drain component of the Regional Estuaries Initiative and we are working towards a solution (see also Science Advisors report)*
- *Karen and Julie are in the preparing for the Performance Framework Desktop Audit by the Australian Government DoEE on 4-5 July. PHCC been provided with a list of items of evidence required by the auditors in advance of the audit. The core items of the evidence relate to governance and financial responsibilities*

and obligations, and existence of a regional NRM plan, a community participation plan and indigenous participation plan and accurate MERI plans and MERIT reporting.

- *Karen will be attending a training event to be run by AMD in Bunbury on 23 June.*
- *There are no significant WHS issues to report.*

Please keep following our Facebook and Twitter accounts for project information, events and more. A huge thank you to the team who are doing a great job.

Steve Fisher

Acting Chief Executive Officer

Moved: Caroline Knight

Seconded: Paddi Creevey

That the CEO report be accepted.

CARRIED

The meeting broke for morning tea at 10.07am and resumed at 10:29am

Andy moved to Item 13 on the agenda and said the meeting would proceed as per the agenda after the presentation by Rick Dawson.

13. Presentation: Rick Dawson PSM, Senior Wildlife Office, DPaW – Artificial Hollows for Black Cockatoos

Andy introduced Rick Dawson and explained that Rick had received the Public Service Medal for his work on conservation of black cockatoos. Andy explained that the project had been running for 12 years, five of those years with the help of Rick. Rick thanked Andy for being invited.

Rick made his presentation on the artificial hollows for Black Cockatoos.

Andy thanked Rick for his presentation and opened up the floor to questions.

Sarah asked Rick what the best way to naturally feed the birds was. Rick advised the best food source is macadamia. He said that natural food sources were best but noted that plants take a long time to grow.

Vanessa asked Rick why red tail cockatoos are not located in the Serpentine Jarrahdale area. Rick advised that this was because of their food sources. Rick said that Cape Lilac trees are a food source that they seem addicted to and are happy to travel large distances for. Jan asked Rick if this was a good food source for the birds in terms of nutritional value. Rick said that no study had been conducted on that as of yet. It doesn't seem to be doing the birds any harm and they were flying long distances to eat it. Jan asked Rick if we should be encouraging or discouraging them from using Cape Lilac as a food source. Rick said that if the food source was in the right place then it is fine to encourage them to use it.

Caroline asked what the community can do in the metro area to enhance the environment for them. Rick said bird baths are a very good option for residents.

Jan asked what PHCC should be considering when replanting. She asked if we should make sure water is available and that we include sources of food in the stock used to replant in the area. Rick said that this question would depend on where the replanting was taking place. If there was replanting near a road he would advise that we didn't add food sources and water as the birds are likely to get hit by cars. Rick stressed to everyone that the impact of cars on the population of birds is a huge issue.

Andy thanked Rick again for coming to the meeting and presenting.

9. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented her report:

The past two months have been very busy with the increased number of grants that PHCC is providing to its community in the way of Small Action Grants, TEC Grants, Community Environment Grants and Sustainable Agriculture grants plus finalising the last of the Rivers to Ramsar Landholder and Partnership grants. With the volume of invoices being processed at the moment, weekly payment runs have been in place since the beginning of May and will continue until the end of financial year.

I am very pleased to report that our funding is being spread across all areas in our catchment and is worth noting that in one particular payment run in May, 11 new creditors were added to our Accounts Payables.

Our Administration staff have been reviewing existing contracts and renewals and have been able to find significant savings with IT and asset purchases, Internet charges and MYOB subscription – every little bit helps!

Term Deposits:

The Corporate Westpac Term Deposit of \$601,099.48 matured on 7 June 2017 with grossed interest earning of \$16,299.69 for the 12 month investment. The Principal and interest of \$617,329.17 has been reinvested for a further 12 month period at a negotiated rate of 2.55%.

The Project ANZ Term Deposit of \$1,000,000.00 matures on 15th June 2017 and investment opportunities will be investigated within the timeframe provided.

Other:

The Organisation Audit has been set for September 11th and 12th and AMD Chartered Accountants will carry out the audit at our Office. The Audit Checklist, Fraud Checklist and Bank Confirmation Listings documents have been received in preparation for the audit. The Financial Statement for period ending 30th June 2017 will be ready for presentation at the AGM.

The R2R requires a final project acquittal and the Science Integration, REI and NLP Projects require a project acquittal audit and these have been organised to be carried out by AMD Chartered Accountants in July 2017.

Karen has been liaising with City of Mandurah Payroll and Finance Departments to assist with EOY Payroll and Leave entitlement reporting.

With the R2R project coming to an end, the R2R vehicle [1DWB765] has recently undergone maintenance to repair the tray due to general wear and tear; front tyres and brake pads replaced and a routine 180,000km service carried out. On 1 July, the vehicle will now transfer over to NLP Natural Assets with the same vehicle lease arrangements.

Karen has been invited and will attend a "Financial Reporting Update" Training Course being offered by AMD in Bunbury on 23rd June.

Karen will attend an ACNC Webinar on 20th June titled "Completing the 2017 Annual Statement Information Session". This is scheduled for 10am – 11am in the Office Meeting Room and if anyone would like to join her, please feel free to attend.

Project Funding:

1. 9000 – NLP: A number of 1st and progress Milestone payments due by end of 30 June 2017.
2. 8000 – R2R: In the final 2 weeks of the project. Employment costs and Provisions for a project evaluation to be conducted and end of project Celebration are the only expenses outstanding before closing project off on 30th June, 2017.
3. 7870 – FPF: Shire of Boddington to fund \$10,000 for Hotham Williams NRM Officer position - Tax Invoice send and will be paid by 30th June, 2017.

4. 7600 – Transform Peel: Tax Invoice sent to Department of Water to finalise PIWI Stage 1 Project. Funds received in June
5. 7500 – State NRM Waroona Fire Recovery: Progress Milestone payment of \$20,000 received upon acceptance of Reporting.
6. 7400 – State NRM Hotham-Williams: Progress Milestone payment of \$20,000 received upon acceptance of Reporting.
7. 7300 – State NRM Wetlands and Peoples: Progress Milestone payment of \$20,000 received upon acceptance of Reporting.
8. 6500 – Green Army: Project will be complete by 30th June 2017.
9. 5300 – REI Fertilising the Farm: Payment of \$45,000 received in May 2017.
10. 5200 – REI Peel Main Drain: Payment of \$900,000 was received in May 2017.
11. 5100 – REI Mayfields: Tax Invoice for \$150,000 sent to DoW; payment pending agreement on revised Mayfield’s Project Plan.
12. 3700 – Saltmarsh 482: New Project funded through PDC for the amount of \$20,000 – Tax invoice requested and sent on signing.
13. 7960 – HRRT R2R Project: Project is almost completed with only employment costs to be expended. This project closes on 30th June 2017.
14. 7920 – State NRM Blackberry: Final project payment of \$17,898.00 received in May 2017.

Bank Statement Balance as at 31 May 2017

ANZ Corporate Online Saver Account	\$332,679.43
Westpac Term Deposit	\$601,099.48
ANZ Project Online Saver Account	\$2,743,563.15
ANZ Project Cheque Account	\$102,461.63
ANZ Transaction Account	\$0.10
ANZ Term Deposit	\$1,000,000.00
Petty Cash	\$248.45
Merchandise	\$50.00
ANZ Visa Card	-\$5,505.74
Total Cash at Hand:	\$ 4,775,046.50
PHCC Equity at 31 May 2017:	\$1,020,226.96

The next meeting of the **Finance and Audit Committee** will be held on Monday 10 July at 10:00am.

Marilyn Gray
Treasurer

Moved: Jan Star Seconded: Howard Mitchell

That the Treasurer’s report and May financial statements be endorsed.

CARRIED

10. Present Board Performance Review

Paddi presented a summary of the Board Performance Review and tabled a copy of the results.

This Board Performance Evaluation is part of the Australian Government’s requirement under their Performance Expectation Framework “Regional NRM Organisation Governance”

The self-assessment questions are categorised under the following eight sections:

1. Strategy and purpose

2. *Structure (including committees)*
3. *People*
4. *Processes*
5. *Dynamics*
6. *Stakeholders*
7. *Accountability and results*
8. *Compliance and reporting.*

Each of the topic areas were assessed by a seven-point Likert scale, ranging from one (strongly disagree with the particular statement) to seven (strongly agree).

In addition to the rating responses to each of the questions, for each of the eight categories there was also provision for open-ended, free text responses. This provided an opportunity for Members to elaborate in their own words on performance in each area.

Andy thanked Paddi for her summary of the results.

11. Modifications to the Delegations of Authority

Andy advised that this item could not be deferred as consideration of changes was required before the audit.

Marilyn advised that this was an amendment to terminology. She said staff had noted that the document had made references to the 'Executive Group' rather than the 'Executive Committee' as used commonly throughout other PHCC documents (including the Annual General meeting minutes), and the proposed modifications would make this terminology consistent .

Moved: Marilyn Gray Seconded: Jan Star

That the PHCC accept modifications to the Delegations of Authority to change the term "Executive Group" to the term "Executive Committee" wherever it appears in the document.

CARRIED

12. Endorsement of Policies

Pat has been working with Lisa Potter from Perth NRM on the Policies review. We aspire to have them all up to date and endorsed by the end of this calendar year.

12.1 Policy 4.1 Code of Ethics

PHCC is committed to ethical conduct. The Board and Employees of PHCC have a legal and moral responsibility to manage the organisation in the best interests of the community it serves. This Policy indicates PHCC's position on ethics and proper practice and the standards and conduct expected of the Board, Employees and Volunteers of PHCC.

The Board of Management Policy (1.1) includes additional expectations of Board members specifically relating to the conduct of their duties on the Board.

Jan said she thought the Policy was far too wordy and complex. She would prefer Board members to make comment and take it back to the relevant committee, than endorse the policy.

Andy opened the discussion up to others members views.

Marilyn said that she supported Jan and she believed the Policy was unduly prescriptive. It should be a one page document and the level of detail included in the Policy isn't necessary. She suggested that the Policy be revised.

Andy said that he thought the Policy had strayed into a procedures document rather than describing a policy.

Moved: Paddi Creevey Secoded: John Allert

That PHCC endorse Policy 4.1 Code of Ethics as presented.

NOT CARRIED

Jan suggested that the Board review the Policy and provide comment to the CEO.

Moved: Jan Star Secoded: Marilyn Gray

That Policy 4.1 Code of Ethics be reviewed and presented to the next General Meeting for endorsement.

CARRIED

ACTION: The Board to review Policy 4.1 Code of Ethics and provide comment to the CEO before the next general meeting. PHCC staff to revise the Code of Ethics Policy for presentation at the next General Meeting.

12.2 Policy 4.2 Conflict of Interest

PHCC considers that raising awareness around conflict of interest helps to build organisational and individual capacity to manage work effectively and strengthens public perception and confidence.

PHCC acknowledges that it is not wrong or unethical to have a conflict of interest, but that it is important to identify and appropriately manage it where it cannot be avoided.

The objective of this Policy is to provide a framework to identify and measure the level of risk posed by conflicts of interest and determine a consistent protocol for resolving concerns.

This Policy provides guidance for Board, Employees and Volunteers in cases where tangible, apparent or potential conflicts of interest arise that may compromise their ability to maintain organisational transparency and/or personal integrity.

Moved: Paddi Creevey Secoded: Jan Star

That Policy 4.2 Conflict of Interest be endorsed as presented.

CARRIED

14. Science Advisor Update

Andy said that due to a lack of time the Science Advisor Update would be taken as read.

Science Advisor report:

Building Research Networks

1. *Measuring impacts of the Waroona and Yarloop bushfires on water quality in the Harvey Basin*
A meeting with project stakeholders was held on 27 April at Alcoa, Pinjarra to share results of the project to that date, explain what the outcomes of the project will be and discuss the potential for future work. Since that meeting, the results of sediment sampling became available. Briefly, most of the chosen chemical analytes (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, total organic carbon and selected metals) were either not detected or detected at concentrations below guideline values for the protection of aquatic ecosystems (ANZECC and ARMCANZ 2001) in sediments deposited in streams after the fire.

2. *ARC-Linkage project: Balancing estuarine and societal health in a changing environment*
The WA-based members of the Research Team met with the project partners on 28 April at PHCC to give an update on progress for the first year of the project. In summary:

- *Intensive collection of fish has been ongoing with the aim of producing an index of estuary health based on the fish population of the estuary and estuarine portions of the rivers. I accompanied Chris Hallett and Alan Cottingham to observe sampling on 13 April.*
- *An assessment of sediment quality has been completed through sampling sediments at 100 sites throughout the estuary. This largely qualitative assessment will guide the selection of sites for the benthic fauna monitoring.*
- *The catchment hydrological modelling (Department of Water) and estuary hydrodynamic modelling (Matt Hipsey, UWA) is progressing however there is still work to be done in coupling the models*
- *Samples collected by Southern Cross University researchers in March 2017 using isotopes to trace nutrient sources are being processed and analysed. The team will visit the Peel-Harvey catchment again in July 2017 to undertake more sampling at point sources of nutrients in the catchment, the estuary, drains, and at individual landholdings. PHCC is assisting in landholder consultation initially established through the REI Fertilise the Farm project and consultation with the water Corporation.*
- *The Social Science components of the research (Ecosystem Service Provision and Socio-economic indicators of estuarine health) are still at the planning stage.*

The next meeting to update project partners will be held sometime around Oct 2017. In the meantime I'll stay actively engaged in the research, in particular with assistance for selecting sites for the nutrient source-to-fate component to be undertaken in July 2017.

3. *Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Certification*

I met with Hans Kemps and Emily Fisher (DoF) on 26 April regarding the conditions placed on the MSC Certification and how the Department of Fisheries (DoF) were tackling the response to these conditions. Briefly they have set up a project team to deal with each, but the most problematic is investigating the disturbance of bird habitat by recreational fishers while scoop netting for crabs (Condition No. 7). As a result, Emily:

- *attended the S.H.A.R.E. Event on 18 May to learn about the Shorebird 2020 count, and*
- *met with Fiona Valesini in May to discuss potential overlap between the benthic fauna component of the ARC-Linkage Research (see 2 above) and the MSC Condition #7.*

4. *Water Sensitive Cities Index – Benchmarking Mandurah Workshop*

I attended this event on 23 May, organized by the City of Mandurah, where about 40 people representing local and state governments, university researchers and consultants took part in a workshop to assess how water sensitive the City of Mandurah is and to provide a benchmark for future improvements. The benchmarking used a method developed by the CRC for Water Sensitive Cities and took into account how well or otherwise water services such as urban drainage in the City of Mandurah promote or enable a liveable, productive, resilient, and sustainable urban community. Based on the scores given by the participants, Mandurah ranked highly against other cities.

5. *Disturbance of birds in by human activity the Peel-Yalgorup Ramsar System*

I met with Nic Dunlop (Conservation Council WA), Mike Bamford and Helen Bryant (Birdlife WA) on 9 June to scope a possible collaborative research project to assess the physical disturbance of birds by users of the Ramsar system, including recreational fishers. This proposed project would be funded through the State NRM Community Action Grants and would provide useful information for the audit of the MSC Certification (see 3 above) and would overlap with the Shorebird 2020 count.

6. *Peel Knowledge Council*

Peter Hick, Jan Star and I attended the initial stakeholder meeting of the Peel Knowledge Council on 30 May, organised by Regional Development Australia (Peel Region) and facilitated by Rhys Williams (The Makers). Guest speakers were Prof. Lyn Beazley, Prof. Adrian Egan (South West Science Council) and Carmen Smith (Inspiring Australia) with approximately 30 other attendees from universities, schools, TAFE, Local government, State Government and industry. The purpose of the workshop was to present the concept for a knowledge council to the audience and to consider assets and opportunities in the Peel Region that currently exist and could be leveraged through the Peel Knowledge Council; those that are missing and need to exist; and what the potential role of a knowledge council is in the region. On 13 June I attended a second meeting with a select group to set a vision for the Knowledge Council.

7. Other

- With Sharon Meredith, attended the meeting of the Sustainable Schools WA (Peel) Network on 24 May

Advice (Integrating Science into PHCC Projects)

1. Regional Estuaries Initiative (REI):

- I submitted an Expression of Interest: Scholarships to Support Industry Engagement PhD Projects to Edith Cowan University. This EoI was to provide a top up scholarship to attract a student to undertake a PhD program Investigating the effects of changing hydrology for a significant claypan wetland on the Swan Coastal Plain, a Threatened Ecological Community (28 April).
- With Neil Dixon, I analysed the water quality data collected to date and revised the Sampling and Analysis Plan for the Peel Main Drain Project (9 May)
- I attended a meeting of the Peel Main Drain Technical Working Group (PHCC and DPaW) on 2 June to discuss progress of the project; consider an alternative design option to avoid inundation of the environmentally sensitive southern wetlands and provide input into design of future sampling and analysis plan to determine the water quality improvements at the site.

2. Swan-Canning Drainage Intervention site visits

Organised by the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) Rivers and Estuaries Division and involving representatives from Department of Premier and Cabinet and Department of Water on 12 May, Neil Dixon and I visited two sites in the Swan-Canning catchment where drainage interventions to improve water quality had been implemented, namely:

- the Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary where a portion of water from the Bayswater Main Drain is diverted into a constructed wetland prior to discharge into the Swan estuary. The scale of this intervention is similar to, and there are parallels with, the REI Peel main Drain Project.
- the Ellen Brook Wetland where water is diverted from Ellen Brook into a constructed wetland prior to discharge into the Swan Estuary.

The purpose of the visit was to share information from the Swan-Canning that could be transferred to the REI Peel Drainage Projects and subsequently to meet the environmental commitments to improving water quality improvements for the SAPPR (see also 3 below).

3. Other

- Reviewed and provided comment (twice) on the Lake McLarty Hydrological Review written by Peter Muirden for the Friends of Lake McLarty (3 May and 6 June)
- Attended a teleconference to discuss potential drainage intervention sites in the Peel-Harvey Catchment, organised by DPC (14 June) – (see also 2 above)
- Met with Rob Summers (DAFWA), Andy Ellett (DoW), Like Rogers (PHCC) and Piers Goodman (MZI) to discuss possible collaboration with MZI in the Peel Integrated Water Initiative component of the Transform Peel Program (7 June)
- Met with Alan Lymbery, Susan Kueh (Murdoch University) and David Arkwright (PDC) to discuss a proposal to aquaculture freshwater native fish on the Peel Region (27 April).

Science Communications

1. Participated in a radio interview with 6MM with Paddi Creevy (Focus on Peel, 22 May 2017) promoting the research undertaken by the ARC-Linkage Research Team and the potential for the Peel Knowledge Council (see above).
2. Presented (1 June) to approx. 65 Year 3 students, teachers and parents at the Greenfields Primary School excursion to Lake Mealup and Lake Clifton organized by Sharon Meredith (PHCC Wetlands and People

Officer), describing the values of the lakes in the context of Ramsar. This presentation was made in tandem with George Walley who described the aboriginal cultural significance of both sites to the audience. Angela Rossen, an artist who accompanied the excursion, will follow up by helping the students to produce a mural depicting what they saw and learned from the excursion. The excursion and artwork will meet one of the deliverables of the State NRM –funded “Wetland and Peoples Plan” project, delivered by Sharon and the NLP-funded Community Engagement Program delivered by Julie MacMile (PHCC Community Engagement Coordinator).

3. *Prepared a response to the query from the Mandurah Mail regarding entanglement of aquatic wildlife in plastic bags; PHCCs position on banning the supply single use plastic bags by retail outlets and a comment regarding the FeralCatScan program and App administered by DPaW. The story on entanglement appeared in the 26 May edition. An article on the FeralCatScan was published in the 25 May edition.*

Steve Fisher

Science Advisor

15. Staff updates: Summary of grants

15.1 Community Environment Grants Round 1 & 2 – Jo Garvey

Jordon Garbellini reported on the Community Environment Grants (CEG) Round 1 and 2 on behalf of Jo Garvey.

CEG Round 1

Goal:

1. *Wetlands and Waterways are healthy and productive*
2. *Coastal and nearshore areas and processes are resilient and valued*
3. *Biodiversity is conserved*

Strategy:

1. *Wetlands and Waterways are healthy and productive*
 - *Improve condition of wetlands and watercourses*
 - *Protect wetlands and watercourse*
2. *Coastal and nearshore areas and processes are resilient and valued*
 - *Protect foreshores for their ecological and recreational values*
3. *Biodiversity is conserved*
 - *Protect priority terrestrial and aquatic natural areas*
 - *Identify and monitor threats and threatening processes*
 - *Restore ecological linkages*

Date works commencing: February 2016

Date works have to be complete: April 2018

Funding Source: NLP Natural Assets

Total Funding Amount Available: \$141,813

Project Manager: Jo Garvey

CEG Round 2

Goal:

1. *Wetlands and Waterways are healthy and productive*
2. *Coastal and nearshore areas and processes are resilient and valued*
3. *Biodiversity is conserved*

Strategy:

1. *Wetlands and Waterways are healthy and productive*
 - *Improve condition of wetlands and watercourses*
 - *Protect wetlands and watercourse*
2. *Coastal and nearshore areas and processes are resilient and valued*
 - *Protect foreshores for their ecological and recreational values*
3. *Biodiversity is conserved*
 - *Protect priority terrestrial and aquatic natural areas*
 - *Identify and monitor threats and threatening processes*
 - *Restore ecological linkages*

Date works commencing: June 2017

Date works have to be complete: March 2018

Funding Source: NLP Natural Assets

Total Funding Amount Available: \$142,033.00

Project Manager: Jo Garvey

Kim advised that the goals and strategies are those stated in our Strategy for NRM in the Peel-Harvey Region and align with NLP outputs.

Marilyn said how great the work PHCC is doing.

Andy said how PHCC are enabling people to get on with their good work. He also said that in Board evaluation it was hinted it was hard to get an appreciation of everything that is going on. Andy wondered how the Board could keep on top of it all.

Howard suggested that knowing what is happening and then following up on what has been done would help to keep on top of everything. Howard asked how effective what we do is. He said that this is an important aspect.

John asked if PHCC do acquittals which should tell us if something is effective. Steve advised that acquittals are in place and that we go through this process but that measuring effectiveness of the projects as good outcomes for the environment is more difficult to quantify.

Jordon added that all applications for funding go through a panel to ensure quality control.

Darralyn said that there is good intent and PHCC grants are acquitted. She asked what the long term benefits of the project are and does the community see the benefit further on. Jan said that it would be a marketing exercise.

Andy said that this conversation comes back to our previous conversation regarding Community Based Social Marketing.

15.2 Threatened Ecological Communities Grant – Jo Garvey

Jordon Garbellini reported on the Threatened Ecological Communities Grants.

Goal: Protect and maintain the “Eucalypt Woodlands of Western Australian Wheatbelt” a National Threatened Ecological Community (TEC), within the Peel-Harvey Region.

Strategy: The funding is available to support farmers, land owners and local councils to undertake on-ground works within the boundary of the Hotham-Williams sub catchment.

Date works commencing: August 2016

Date works have to be complete: November 2017

Funding Source: Natural Assets

Total Funding Amount Available: \$49,966.96

Project Manager: Jo Garvey

15.3 Small Local Action Grants – Jordon Garbellini

Jordon Garbellini reported on the Small Local Action Grants.

Goal/Strategy: 5 & 6 Delivering Quality Environmental Outcomes by Engaging and Enabling Individuals and Communities

Date works commencing: November 2016

Date works have to be complete: 30th March 2018

Funding Source: Natural Assets

Total Funding Amount Available: \$27,225.00

Project Manager: Jo Garvey

No questions or comments were made.

15.4 Sustainable Agriculture Small Grants – Luke Rogers

Luke Rogers reported on his Sustainable Agriculture Small Grants:

Luke gave some background information on the grants before commencing presentation.

Goal:

1. *Effective Natural Resource Management*
2. *Soils are Healthy and Productive*
3. *Natural Water Resources are Managed and used Wisely*

Strategy:

1. *Effective Natural Resource Management*
 - *Establish appropriate support structures across the Region, including Landcare Centres*
2. *Soils are Healthy and Productive*
 - *Support land managers to match land uses and management practices to soil type and land capability*
 - *Support land managers to implement sound soil management practices and use suitable land productively*
3. *Natural Water Resources are Managed and used Wisely*
 - *Support land managers to manage water resources—for multiple benefits*

Date works commencing: 29th May 2017

Date works have to be complete: 30th October 2017

Funding Source: NLP (Sustainable Agriculture)

Total Funding Amount Available: \$45,000

Project Manager: Luke Rogers

John said that a lot of areas covered by the Sustainable Agriculture Small Grants fall under Department of Agriculture and Food. He asked if the Department make any contributions to the grants. Luke responded saying that PHCC work with DAFWA closely on a few different projects. Luke provided the example of the REI Fertilise the Farm project (farm nutrient mapping) for which Rob is a member of the Steering Committee. John noted that we have taken on a lot of the responsibility. He asked if we have taken on everything. Luke said that wasn't a question he could answer. Kim said that both organisations are trying to work together with limited resources.

Andy said that in other regions their sustainable agriculture department was a lot larger. He thought that it may be a case of having a program running before the money comes in. Luke agreed with this statement.

Steve reinforced that we are collaborating with DAFWA on the Fertilise the Farm project and have proposed to direct \$200,000 out of the \$1.5M election commitment to sustainable agriculture activities, including extending the whole farm nutrient mapping / voluntary soil testing program beyond the 2-year funding lifetime provided by the

REI. The proposed Green Growth Plan includes a mandatory soil testing component, and we see this voluntary soil testing program as a prelude to this.

15.5 Fire Recovery Grants – Megan LeRoy

Megan LeRoy reported on her management of the Fire Recovery Grants.

Megan provided some background information about the fire that went through the area and advised that she started working for PHCC after the fire that went through Yarloop.

Goal: The protection and restoration of the natural environment post-fire on private landholdings

Strategy: Assist farmers with recovery works on their properties following the 2016 Waroona-Yarloop fire by providing funding to the farmer to undertake on-ground projects including the protection of remnant vegetation, weed/pest control, erosion control and revegetation.

Date works commencing: April 2017

Date works have to be complete: 31st October 2017

Funding Source: State NRM Community Action Grant

Total Funding Amount Available: \$55,000

Project Manager: Megan LeRoy – NRM Officer for Fire Recovery

Megan advised that we are going to apply for the State NRM Community Action Grant again as a lot of farmers need a lot more help. John Allert asked if cotton bush had been declared as a weed. Megan advised it is a C3 weed. Mike said that as a visual learner he appreciated the maps showing the location of where the fire recovery actions had taken place that Megan had shown. Paddi thanked Megan for her presentation.

Jan said that PHCC needs to consider how much effort has been put in so far and how much funding is needed. Darralyn stated that the over subscription by approx. 60 % shows the need for funding.

Andy thanked the PHCC staff for their work and presentations.

16. Agency / Member Reports

Andy said thank you to Landcare SJ for hosting the event and let the community know that they will have a chance to say something after the agency members had spoken.

16.1 Rob Summers - DAFWA

- Whole Farm Nutrient Mapping (WFNM) and the REI
 - Finalised the workshops of the farms that have been soil tested with Luke Rogers. A total of 21 farms mapped and fertiliser plans developed with consultants. Farmers have been given their maps to show their nutrient status of their maps and consultants have worked with the landholders to develop their fertiliser management plans
 - 2017/18 soil sampling season is being developed now. Expressions of interest are being initiated at the beginning of July.
 - A new soil sampling contractor will be employed for the Peel-Harvey and Leschenault region to increase the involvement and capacity of private industry.
 - DAFWA staff are now Fertcare accredited at the same level as industry
- PIWI
 - Developing a soil amendment project with PHCC, DAFWA and MZI using their clay in rehabilitation of their Keysbrook sites within the Peel Food Zone
 - Working with PIWI to extend the WFNM soil testing program focussed on the Peel Food Zone.

Megan said she would be reporting on behalf of the Mandurah office.

- Lowlands Nature Reserve
 - DPaW have recently completed Stages 6 and 7 of the Lowlands Rivers 2 Ramsar Project and are currently completing the final report on the activity milestones
 - With the R2R funds received DPaW purchased remote cameras and used these cameras to monitor presence and abundance of foxes and cats within the Nature Reserve
 - Using the camera footage it was discovered that a Chuditch is living on the property. A Chuditch hadn't been sighted in the area since the year 2000. Fauna monitoring trapped a Chuditch as well
- Application for the Threatened Species Recovery Fund: Restoration of critical fauna habitat along the Serpentine River, Lowlands Nature Reserve
 - DPaW have been working with Kristy from Landcare SJ to submit an application which focuses on recovery actions to protect the Chuditch as a Federally Listed Vulnerable species but will also protect a range of WA listed Threatened and Priority fauna and flora present within the Nature Reserve.
 - The focus of this application will be:
 - Restoration of riverine vegetation through dense plantings of lepidosperma (sedges) and weed control along the Serpentine River (which will build on work carried out through the R2R project).
 - Fox and cat control
 - Installation of Cockatubes
 - Purchasing additional remote cameras for monitoring
 - Community engagement and working with volunteers to complete on-ground conservation activities
- Yalgorup National Park
 - Fauna monitoring at Yalgorup National Park was undertaken in June within an area currently baited for foxes as a part of the Western Shield program. Monthly 1080 fox baiting is being undertaken at Yalgorup National Park
 -
 - Monitoring of the Western ringtail possum has been undertaken in Autumn through spot-lighting surveys
 - DPaW will be working closely with the Western ringtail possum recovery team and the City of Mandurah to undertake fauna monitoring and land management activities to protect this threatened species
- Protecting the Peel-Harvey's Natural Assets- improving ecological character and the habitat for TECs- Austin Bay Nature Reserve Project
 - Funded through one of PHCC's TEC Grants
 - Austin Bay has a planting day organised
 - DPaW are establishing a "Friends of" Group for Austin Bay
- Protecting the Peel-Harvey's Natural Assets- improving ecological character and the habitat for TECs- recovering Tetraria spp. and TECs- Watkins Road Nature Reserve Project
 - Funded through one of PHCC's TEC Grants
 - DPaW are currently undertaking weed control
 - Mandurah Herbarium Volunteers have assisted in completing flora surveys at existing TEC plots at Watkins Rd and Bradby Nature Reserves which will also be used where possible to monitor the effect of weed control undertaken as a part of the projects
- Samphire Cove Nature Reserve
 - Funding received from PHCC through the Local Action Grants for seedlings, mulch and weed matting
 - Planting day has been organised for the Friends of Samphire Cove and other Volunteers for Sunday 25th June

- A prescribed burn has been undertaken at Hamel

Andy raised the issue of cat control. He discussed Gregory Andrews' (Threatened Species Commissioner) recent visit to Popanyinning where Gregory said that every cat is not a cat. Andy asked where cats rate on the feral animal control radar from a Government perspective. Megan said she wasn't the best person to answer that question. She knew that ErRadicat is just about ready for use. Megan informed everyone that cats and foxes can both use cat baits, a lot of research has gone into this topic however she isn't an expert.

Andy advised that the disposal of cats is governed by the Animal Cruelty Act.

Darralyn said that she follows Gregory Andrews on Facebook and noted a post from him where a dissected cat contained the remains of 23 native animals in its stomach. Darralyn said that it was unbelievable the amount of damage a feral cat can do.

Luke noted the mentioning of Popanyinning and pest control and said that when there is an asset to protect DPaW focus on cats as they have with Dryandra. He advised that one of the hurdles is humans dealing with and disposing of feral animals humanely. PHCC are developing an ethics plan. The Threatened Species Grant application (see CEO's Report) proposes to catch and eliminate 150 feral animals in the vicinity of Dryandra.

Jan and Andy wondered if the Board members would like a presentation on cat control. Darralyn said she would like to hear about ErRadicat and if it is working. Vanessa let everyone know about a recent WALGA presentation she attended that covered cat control that was targeted at local government officers and rangers. The presentation included ErRadicat, how to use it and what it is being used for. Vanessa suggested we contact WALGA and request a copy of the presentation. Steve reminded everyone that PHCC organised a S.H.A.R.E on feral animal control last year and reminded everyone to come to the S.H.A.R.E events.

Andy broke from the Agency reports to ask the community how they feel about the work that PHCC is doing.

- Vanessa thanked PHCC for the opportunity to attend. She said she felt the meeting had been very informative and that all can learn from it. Great work PHCC.
- Neil advised that he has recently finished a riffle with the R2R funding he received. He has been working on the riffle for over 50 years, however, thanks to R2R funding, it was the first time rocks have been brought in. Neil expressed his thanks for the funding and support received from PHCC. Andy thanked Neil for his work.
- Merri spoke about the support SJ Food and Farm Alliance has received through PHCC. Merri explained that PHCC had supported and funded at critical times allowing them to take advantage of great opportunities such as Joel Salatin presenting. Merri let everyone know that their base of participants is growing greatly. She said that she believed their status has gone from small organisation to an organisation where people come to them to ask for their opinion. She hopes the collaboration will help others with their endeavours and gave an open invitation to a PHCC funded workshop being held on 22nd July on developing productive soils with Major General Michael Jeffrey as the keynote speaker.
- Kristy from Landcare SJ handed out National Tree Day event pamphlets and let everyone know that they are welcome to attend.

Steve discussed his involvement in forming the Peel Knowledge Council. This is a working title for what will be a hub with PHCC positioned in the middle and spokes leading out to research, education, citizen science, community engagement etc. Steve explained that the purpose of the Peel Knowledge Council is to bring together information about everything that is going on in the Peel area, creating a big network that includes the arts. Steve said that Paddi and John Lambrecht (Regional Development Australia) were instrumental in forming the Peel Knowledge Council.

16.3 Paddi Creevey OAM, Secretary

Paddi complimented Steve and acknowledged the work that he has done with young people and their education, especially with the Wetlands Yarn's event at Lake Mealup with Greenfields Primary School. Steve advised that Sharon was instrumental in organising this event and her contribution should be acknowledged.

16.4 Darralyn Ebsary, Community Member

Darralyn talked about the lack of rainfall and the Department of Agriculture's notice sent out regarding this issue. She made the point that communities need to work together to get through these issues. John said that Boddington had recorded its highest temperature in June on record.

Darralyn notified everyone that DAFWA have issued a notice asking for landowners to put together a best practice guidelines for livestock. Darralyn said that landowners have been given less than a month to put this together. She believed that the best practice guidelines will have an impact on people selling livestock and that there was quite a bit of concern in the community about the issue.

Darralyn attended a workshop the Food and Farm Alliance held to showcase women producing food in the Peel region, and said that it was a great workshop. She also said that she believed that the Chuditch in Dryandra hadn't been seen often partly due to a lack of feral animal control.

16.5 Cr Caroline Knight, Local Government Representative

Caroline advised everyone that the City of Mandurah are working with Murdoch University on Quenda research and their role in turning over soils. Steve noted the relationship of this research with the work proposed through PHCC's application on behalf of DPaW to the Threatened Species Grants (see CEO's report)

16.6 Cr John Allert, Local Government Representative

John discussed how the Shire of Boddington have 12 special interest groups formed, each consisting of a one hour interview with the group leader, these groups are: Environment & Bio Diversity; Agriculture Sector; Racial, Ethnic & Cultural; Sports; Business; Arts & Culture; Families with Young Children; Seniors, Vulnerable & Those With Disabilities; Recycling & Recovery; Bauxite Mining; Clubs, Associations, Community and Voluntary; Gold Mining. All these interest groups have submitted a list of their desires and the main issues are included in the Strategic Communications Plan 2017 – 2027. Kate and Mel plan will be written into the Boddington strategic plan.

16.7 Mike Schultz, Community Member

Mike said that we need to think ahead.

16.8 Marilyn Gray, Treasurer

Marilyn expressed how proud she was of the office and the PHCC partners work.

16.9 John Erren, President Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale

Jan mentioned that amazing amount of work going on and asked John Erren if he wanted to mention anything about the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale Shire. John Erren advised everyone that the Shire Council has endorsed a funding commitment of \$200k for three years for Landcare SJ. John wanted everyone to know that this funding acknowledges the importance and value that the Shire places on the work Landcare SJ does.

16.10 Neil Kentish, Landcare SJ Board Member

Neil Kentish said he had done a lot of projects over the years and would be happy to have the Board of PHCC visit his farm to see the work that had been done. Paddi thanked him for his invitation. Merri seconded what Neil said and invited the PHCC Board to a bus tour to view the outcomes of healthy soil.

Andy thanked everyone for attending and their contributions. He acknowledged the great closing notes from the community and the great work PHCC was doing connecting with children.

The meeting closed at 12.13pm

Chairman:

Date:

Summary of actions from previous meetings:

No.	DETAILS	RESP.	COMPLETE
1.	Item 6 Chairman's Report [15 December 2016] <i>Seek an opportunity for Marilyn Gray to present to the Peel CCI</i>	Marilyn Gray	
2.	Item 7 CEOs Report [20 April 2017] <i>Jane to seek a meeting with Minister MacTiernan.</i>	Jane O'Malley	IN PROGRESS
3.	Item 14.2 Agency / Member Reports [20 April 2017] <i>Brett to provide information on the Tuart recovery program and the Wandoo project.</i> <i>Brett was absent from the June meeting. Brett to report at the August meeting</i>	Brett Fitzgerald	
4.	Item 14.7 Agency / Member Reports [20 April 2017] <i>Jane to write to the Threatened Species Commissioner, Gregory Andrews, with a copy to his Minister, thanking him for attending the Farmers for Fauna forum held at Dryandra Woodland.</i>	Jane O'Malley	

Summary of actions from meeting of 15 June 2017:

1.	Item 7 Chairman's Report [15 June 2017] <i>Executive Committee to form a small working group to strategically think about how to change behaviours. This will be used as a package to politicians describing the value of NRM to the Peel Region.</i>	Andy Gulliver	
2.	Item 12.1 Endorsement of Policies – Code of Ethics [15 June 2017] <i>1. The Board to review Policy 4.1 Code of Ethics and provide comment to the CEO before the next general meeting.</i> <i>2. PHCC staff to revise the Code of Ethics Policy for presentation at the next General Meeting.</i>	Board Jane O'Malley	