

# Peel-Harvey Catchment Council MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

Held on Thursday 20 October 2016  
at Lowlands Farm, Mardella

The Chairman opened the meeting at 9.10am and welcomed new member Louise Oorschot (DER) guests

## 1. Attendance

Present:	Andy Gulliver	Chairman
	Jan Star AM	Deputy Chairman
	Marilyn Gray	Treasurer
	Paddi Creevey OAM	Secretary [until 11.15am]
	Bob Pond	Executive Committee (DoW) [from 9.15am]
	Darralyn Ebsary	Member
	Dr Peter Hick	Member
	Howard Mitchell	Member
	Michael Schultz	Member
	Cr John Allert	Local Govt Member (Inland)
	Cr Stephen Lee	Local Govt Member Proxy (Coastal)
	Karl Brennan	DPaW
	Louise Oorschot	DER
	Adrian Parker	PDC
In Attendance:	Jane O'Malley	CEO
	Thelma Crook	Program Manager
	Steve Fisher	Science Advisor
	Luke Rogers	Regional Landcare Facilitator
	Patricia Sutton	Office Manager (Minute Taker)
	Jess Oakley	Admin Officer
	Chris Dunlop	Shire of Waroona
	Cr John Erren	President, Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale [from 9.15am]
	Peter Lacey	Nature Conservation Program Leader, Wheatbelt Region DPaW
Apologies:	Cr Caroline Knight	Local Govt Member (Coastal)
	Cr Eliza Dowling	Local Govt Member Proxy (Inland)
	Leon Brouwer	DoW
	Scott Haine	DoP (Peel) – Observer
	Craig Olejnik	DPaW
	Rob Summers	DAFWA
	Andrew Ward	PDC

2. Declarations of Interest

Nil

3. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 18 August 2016

Moved: John Allert      Seconded: Mike Schultz

**That the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 August 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 6 Chairman's Report [16 June 2016] Arrange a meeting with DER to clarify their role on PHCC. <i>New representative, Louise Oorschot, appointed</i>	Jane / Andy	COMPLETE
2.	Item 7 SAPPR Report [16 June 2016] Jane to review the minutes of the last PHEMC meeting with Jan and Andy.	Jane, Jan & Andy	COMPLETE

Summary of actions from meeting of 18 August 2016:

No.	DETAILS	RESP.	COMPLETE
1.	Item 7 SAPPR Report [18 August 2016] Jane to ask DPC for a summary of the main issues that have come from the submissions on the Green Growth Plan and how they are addressing them. <i>Awaiting summary. General presentation made at September SHARE meeting</i>	Jane	PENDING
2.	Item 8 CEO Report [18 August 2016] - Organisational Professional Excellence self-assessment.  1. Circulate to all members the Organisational Professional Excellence self-assessment, as required by the Australian Government. <i>Organisational Professional Excellence self-assessment document</i>  2. Members' performance management to be discussed at a future meeting. <i>Andy to report at October meeting</i>	Jane         Andy	COMPLETE

3.	Item 8 CEO Report [18 August 2016] Eliza Dowling to send information to PHCC concerning the Shire of Cuballing's experience with eco-tourism.	Eliza Dowling	
4.	<i>Item 9 Treasurer's Report [18 August 2016]</i> <i>The Community Engagement Steering Committee to discuss purchasing PHCC t-shirts and hats that could be sold and also used by members and staff.</i> <i>Endorsed at Community Engagement Steering Committee meeting on 13 October:</i> <i>1. Funds from the marketing budget be utilised for the purchase of PHCC hats</i> <i>2. A review being undertaken of the Ramsar 482 T-Shirts.</i>	Jane	COMPLETE

John Allert noted that Minister Albert Jacobs had announced the previous day that Dryandra Woodlands is now a National Park. He also announced the Government's purchase of the Sarich property in Yalgorup.

5. Correspondence

*Moved: Paddi Creevey Secoded: Howard Mitchell*

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

***CARRIED***

*[Bob Pond and Cr John Erren arrived at 9.15am]*

6. Chairman's Report

The Chairman, Andy Gulliver spoke to the following points:

- Election asks for the March 2017 State Election are being discussed by the Executive Group
- Building bridges between Landcare groups and NRM. The two groups have competing interests but there is a consensus view. The Federal Government has chosen a regional delivery model and our role is to complete it efficiently
- The Federal Government is keen to see that good governance is in place, therefore we are obliged to conduct an organisational performance review. We will review how we manage ourselves and how we are performing as a group over the next 12 months
- Andy had attended a site visit with Minister Albert Jacobs where the Minister announced the purchase of 960ha of the old Sarich land at Yalgorup which will become part of the Yalgorup Park. Andy took the Minister to three local sites where they met locals on the ground. It was a good demonstration of the value of PHCC and the community working together to achieve positive outcomes
- Green Growth Plan – is still a work in progress
- DoW contracts are progressing. There is some great work taking place
- During the past period some Green Army projects have been completed, for example the Pinjarra Community Garden
- We had launch at Boddington of the Hotham Williams NRM Plan. It was a good opportunity to connect with the Hotham Williams community. Local governments in the area and Rick Wilson, Member for O'Connor were among the guests. Rick Wilson announced a round of wheatbelt grants at the launch.

- The Peel Regional Leaders Forum has issued a media release criticising the State Government for not consulting enough with local governments, particularly on the Green Grown Plan. Jane and Andy sit on that group and they understand the position of local government feeling of disconnect.

Moved: John Allert      Seconded: Stephen Lee

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

CARRIED

6.1      2017 State Election Asks document

**Note: State Government agency representatives abstained from the discussion and voting for this item**

Jane referred to the PHCC's draft State Election document "Protecting the Peel-Harvey" which outlines our asks for the March 2017 Election which was attached to the agenda, seeking endorsement with an additional item in respect to Ramsar obligations.

Moved: Marilyn Gray      Seconded: Cr Steve Lee

**That the PHCC "Protecting the Peel-Harvey" Election Asks be endorsed with the following addition to No. 2:**

**"Fulfilling our international obligations to restore the Ramsar listed wetland through establishment, monitoring and maintenance of environmental water provisions (surface flows and groundwater)."**

CARRIED

Members also suggested that reassurance be sought that there is a monitoring regime in place for water Dirk Brook.

7.      Update on SAPPR

Nothing further to report.

8.      Chief Executive Officer's Report"

Jane O'Malley spoke to her report:

**Staff movements include:**

- Welcome to
  - **Kelly Lavell** - Healthy Waterways Program Manager delivering drainage components of the REI (12.9);
  - **Avril Baxter** - assisting Mel Durack with TEC Grant site visits (casual basis responding to EOI's);
- We have made an offer to our **NRM Officer – Fire Recovery** in Waroona (38 hrs / fortnight for 2 years); add Megan Leroy has accepted.
- **Alexia** is unable to continue providing media support and we are looking at alternative solutions.

Our 2015-16 **Organisational Audit** has been returned and was again 'unqualified' so a big thank you to Karen and the team for their diligence in this process. Marilyn will cover this in more detail in her report.

Thank you to everyone that was able to attend the **Dryandra** meeting, visit to Barna Mia and the Cultural Awareness **On-Country** tour with Geri Hayden and the information session with the representative from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs. This was a great couple of days, thank you to Pat for organising it.

The launch of the **Hotham Williams NRM Plan** and the **Eucalypt Woodland Grants** on 24 August went really well, with both officially launched by Rick Wilson, Member for O'Connor. There was a good turn out with all upper catchment Local Governments well represented and community members that were involved in the Plan preparation. Thank you to Thelma and Mel for their role in both of these projects. Grants close 28.10.

We are very pleased that the Commonwealth have approved the Conservation Advice and listed the **Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain (SCP)** as a **Threatened Ecological Community** (26 August, 2016). The objective is "To mitigate the risk of extinction of the Banksia Woodlands of the SCP ecological community, and maintain its biodiversity and function, through the protections provided under the EPBC Act 1999 and through the implementation of priority conservation actions" (defined in the advice). This will enable NLP TEC funding to be used on Banksia Woodlands & we are working to determine if we adjust deliverables to respond in this round, or post 2018. I have a tentative appointment with Mark Bourne (Ecological Communities Section, Protected Species & Communities Branch DoEE) to meet with him in Canberra in November. This will be to cover SAPPR process as well as general community engagement/awareness about the listing and what it means for landowners and decision makers (eg Local Government).

ECU held an **Environmental Legislation Symposium** on 23 September (Research Week). This was well attended with speakers for & challenging the new **Biodiversity Conservation Act, 2016**. I was on a Panel with Albert Jacobs, Min. for the Environment, Chris Tallentire, Shadow Min. for the Environment and Lynn MacLaren, Greens MLC. This got a bit feisty & it was great to see such passion around how we can better protect our Biodiversity. We have sought to be involved in the preparation of the Regulations and will keep you informed as to how the Act will impact on our (and our community's) operations/objectives.

Our draft **election asks** have been prepared and circulated to members, as discussed in the Chairman's report. These have been used as a basis for discussions to date and once endorsed will be used in our round of meetings to sitting members, candidates and Ministers within, or impacting on the Peel-Harvey.

Jan, Paddi and I met with **Chris Tallentire** at Parliament House on 20 September to discuss Labor's platform for the Election. This was very positive and we were able to get a good hearing for our draft election asks.

Paddi added that Jan and Jane presented well and opened the door for further discussion.

Paddi and I attended the **Chamber of Commerce and Industry Breakfast** with **Mark McGowan** and David Templeman on 16 September. It appears that we have a role to raise the Labor Leader's awareness of the Peel-Harvey and the risks to it, particularly the opportunities of the Strategic Assessment

Thelma and I attended the re-opening of the **Winjan Aboriginal Corporation** building on 17 October. This was a very moving event. The community has worked through difficult issues, refurbished the building and are moving in a positive direction. PHCC received a Certificate of Appreciation for our support. Thanks Thelma.

**Landcare SJ** had a fabulous, well attended AGM on 14 September. It was great to see how much they have achieved over the 2015-16 year and we look forward to continuing to work with them in 2016-17.

I joined WALGA and DAFWA as speakers at the **Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group** meeting on 24 August. The group is looking at priorities and structure and we are working with them to meet mutual objectives.

I was invited to attend a **Peel Preservation Group** meeting on 7 September to assist facilitating discussions about future directions for PPG. They sent a survey to members asking if they felt PPG should a) continue as its own entity; b) amalgamate with other groups; or c) disband. The meeting resulted in a plan to ramp up a recruitment for members against described priority activities. PHCC contributed funding towards media support. Their AGM is coming up and hopefully this will see new members and some more support for activities.

**NRM WA** CEO and Chairs meetings were held on 29 and 30 September. John Holley (State NRM Office) and Neil Riches (DoEE) attended parts of the CEO's meeting. The Chairs meeting was held at DoW in Perth and the DG (Mike Rowe) and colleagues attended. Mike has a very positive view on partnerships with NRM Regions.

Andrew DelMarco and I met with Suzanne Brown, Manager of **Drainage and Liveable Communities at the Watercorporation** (with Jason MacKay) to discuss our draft 'drainage reform paper' we planned to submit to the State Steering Committee. This was a positive meeting & we are meeting with them on 27 October to prepare a draft partnership agreement for the management of drains in the Peel-Harvey – watch this space!

We are working through how/if we will be involved in the delivery of **Land for Wildlife** Projects and will discuss this further with the Natural Assets Steering Committee, including the synergies with delivery of **Voluntary Management Agreements** over the Yalgroun Footprint (as a contract to the City of Mandurah).

We have commenced delivery of the '**Fertilising the Farm**' schedule of our **REI** contract which will provide \$80,000 over two years to deliver aspects of soil testing & extension programs & workshops.

Our **Green Army** team is ticking along under Jo Garvey's management. We are waiting to hear if our Round 5 applications have been successful.

Our **State NRM Capability grants** project plans have been approved & first payments received. We have made an offer for our Waroona NRM officer. We plan to advertise for our Wetlands and People Plan officer in November, to commence in January. We will appoint Mel Durack to the new Hotham Williams position, which rolls nicely from the winding down of the R2R funding that has enabled this position to date.

Our **National Landcare Program** is progressing well, as is the **Rivers 2 Ramsar** project. We launched **Small Community Action Grants** & applications are starting to roll in. We have sent draft **contracts** to **DPaW** (\$121,326 over 4 projects) & **Shire of Murray** (\$13,500 over 2 projects) for on-ground works. We have not received a proposal from DPaW re our proposed Dryandra partnership. We anticipate launching a 2<sup>nd</sup> round of **Community Environmental Grants** in November. We will complete our **Aboriginal Participation Plan** and present to the December Meeting. **Noongar Chem-Safe training** has been completed over last couple of weeks in Boddington and Narrogin. Thank you to the **Natural Assets Steering Committee** for their support to Jo Garvey in prioritising projects and reviewing processes etc. Luke will discuss the **Landcare Capability Grants**.

Our **SHARE** event on 15 September was an update of the **Green Growth Plan** – how the State is responding to submissions. This was well attended by our community.

The **National Regions CEO meeting** will be on 28 November in Canberra. I have sought a meeting with the Minister for Environment and am waiting a response.

Thank you to those who completed the **NLP Survey**. We will distribute the results when received.

Thelma is working with our community and has established a "**Debris Coalition**" to look at effective ways to try to reduce the amount of rubbish being dumped in and around our waterways – watch this space!

We have had no significant **Work Health Safety** issues to report.

The office will officially be closed from Monday 26 December to Tuesday 3 January.

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."

Members discussed the possibility of local governments to draw attention to the impact on Banksia Woodlands with development applications. There is also a direct relationship between Banksia Woodlands and fire and it is worth highlighting with local governments. This could be considered by the Peel Regional Leaders Forum.

**ACTION: Arrange for impacts on Banksia Woodlands to be discussed with Peel local governments at the Peel Regional Leaders Forum.**

Paddi Creevey thanked Jane for her comprehensive report and acknowledged the huge amount of work in dealing with stakeholders from the highest level of government down. The outcome is fantastic.

It was noted that the staff have been working with the DPaW team in the upper catchment for some 18 months with an aim to developing a project to enable feral animal control on the private properties surrounding Dryandra. It is hoped that there will be an outcome to progress this work in the near future.

Moved: Bob Pond      Seconded: Jan Star

**That the CEO report be accepted.**

CARRIED

## 9. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Marilyn Gray, presented her report:

*The Organisation has purchased a second-hand vehicle to add to its fleet of vehicles at a cost of \$23,287.28 plus an extended MechaniCare warranty costing a further \$2000. This vehicle will be leased to the REI Project as per organisation charge out rates.*

*Karen was able to complete the Organisation Audit and all Project Audits prior to her taking leave on 29 August. Requests to carry over Project funds into F16-17 have been sent to the relevant funding body for approval and trigger contract payments as per payment schedules. With no adjustments to the Balance Sheet at 30 June, 2016, the PHCC has closed off F2015-2016 and rolled-over to F2016-2017. All reports can be viewed at the meeting today, they are in the Correspondence folder.*

*I would like to thank Pat Sutton for assisting with the finances in September whilst Karen was on Annual Leave. Karen has finalised August Financial reports but is still catching up on September paperwork to reconcile Ledgers. PHCC equity as at 31 August 2016 was \$852,933.92 and Unspent Project funds \$2,731,920.34.*

*I am currently liaising with ANZ Bank to ascertain best interest rate for transferring approx. \$1,000,000 of project funds to a Term Deposit and will compare with the other Banks before any recommendations are made.*

### **Project Funding:**

*During the past two months, funding for the State NRM grants have been finalised and initial payments received for 3 of them. The Supporting People for Wetland Wise Use in the Peel-Harvey Project will not be finalised until December.*

*In summary:*

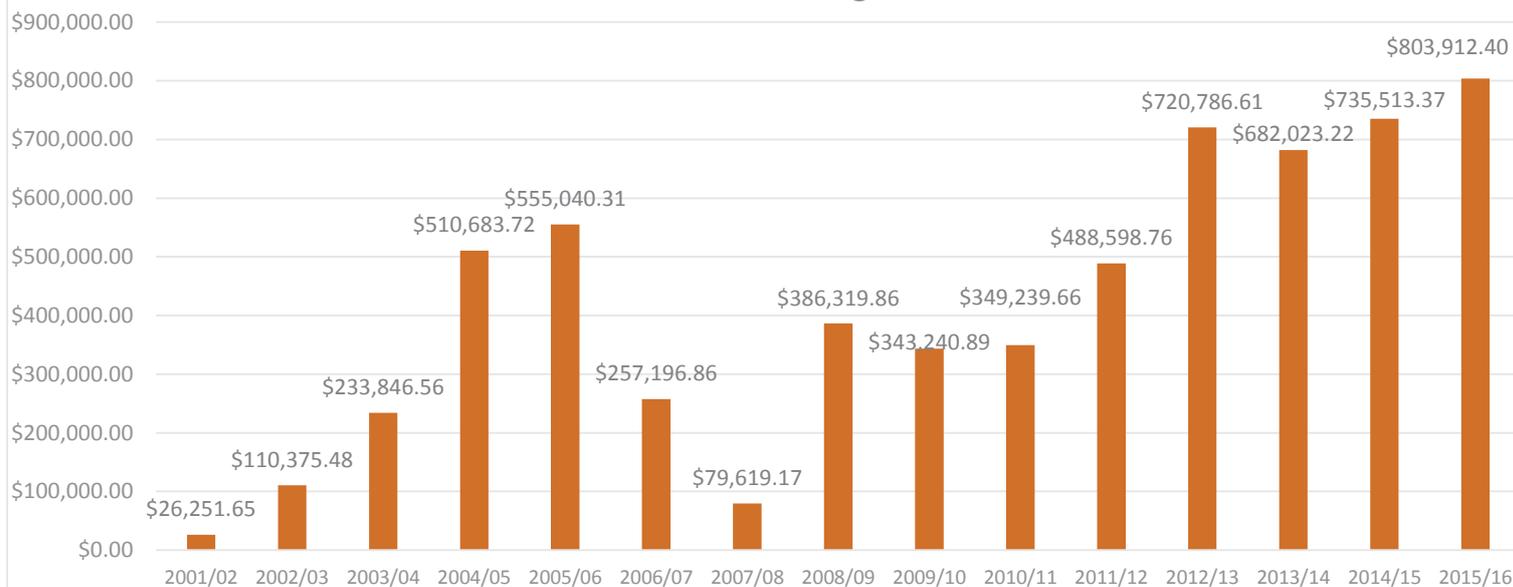
- 1. 9000 – NLP: 1<sup>st</sup> payment F16-17 of \$222,300 was received on 19/09/2016. We are waiting for 2<sup>nd</sup> payment of \$389,390 which was due on 15/09/2016.*
- 2. 8000 – R2R – 1<sup>st</sup> payment F16-17 of \$77,740 was received on 26/08/2016. We are waiting for 2<sup>nd</sup> payment of \$155,479 which was due on 15/09/2016.*
- 3. 3600 – Lake Clifton Community Engagement: Progress payment of \$50,000 was received on 19/08/2016.*
- 4. 7300 – Building NRM Capacity in Hotham Williams: Initial payment on signing of new project [\$45,000] was received on 14/09/2016.*
- 5. 7500 – Waroona NRM and Fire Recovery Support: Initial payment on signing of new project [\$60,000] was received on 14/09/2016.*
- 6. 7600 – Transform Peel – PIWI Planning: Initial payment on signing of new project [\$18,181.82] was received on 15/09/2016.*
- 7. 7890 – HRRT Saving the Marron in the Harvey River: Initial payment on signing of new project [\$30,000] was received on 24/08/2016.*

**Bank Statement Balance as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

ANZ Corporate Online Saver Account	\$216,439.56
Westpac Term Deposit	\$601,099.48
ANZ Project Online Saver Account	\$3,153,286.72
ANZ Project Cheque Account	\$44,470.20
Petty Cash	\$100.75
Merchandise	\$50.00
ANZ Visa Card	\$1,371.07
<b>Total Cash at Hand:</b>	<b>\$ 4,014,075.64</b>

Below are graphs of the Corporate and Project Bank accounts showing the history of our closing Balance at 30<sup>th</sup> June of each year since 2002. Our trend is upwards which supports our strong fiscal position.

PHCC Finances 2001/02 to 2015/16 - Closing Balance CORPORATE Accounts



PHCC Finances 2001/02 to 2015/16 - Closing Balance PROJECT Accounts



***That the Treasurers report and August financial statements be endorsed.***

CARRIED

10. Science Update : Steve Fisher, Science Advisor

Steve Fisher presented his report:

***“Building Research Networks***

1. *Measuring impacts of the Waroona and Yarloop bushfires on water quality in the Harvey Basin*
  - *On 19 September I chaired and facilitated a meeting of stakeholders for the Designing water quality monitoring protocols in catchments after severe wildfires: the 2016 Harvey River Basin case study funded via the Edith Cowan University (ECU) Industry Collaboration Scheme. The purpose of the meeting was to describe the approach to measuring changes in water quality after the fire and to access water quality metadata collected by stakeholders.*
  - *On 17 October I completed a desk top review of existing water quality and flow data and locations of sampling sites provided by members of the stakeholder group from Department of Water, Water Corporation, Harvey Water and Alcoa. Based on the proximity to the burn scar and the availability, frequency of collection and relevance of data, 10 existing sites were selected to construct a baseline data set and develop a sampling and analysis plan for post-fire analysis. The water quality parameters include nutrients, metals, suspended solids, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and a screen for surfactants used in the formulation of fire-retardant foams.*
  - *The next step is to ground-truth selected sampling sites and collect water samples for analysis to complement the existing data sets.*
2. *Australian Research Council (ARC)-Linkage project: Balancing estuarine and societal health in a changing environment*
  - *I organised and hosted a set of presentations by the project research team (the Investigators) to give an update on progress of the ARC-Linkage project. The presentations were held at PHCC on 6 September and delivered to representatives from the Partner Organisations. The presenters were as follows:*
    - *Fiona Valesini (Murdoch University): Introduction and overview*
    - *Matthew Hipsey (University of WA): The estuary model*
    - *Peta Kelsey (Department of Water): The updated catchment model*
    - *Brad Eyre: Using isotopes of nitrogen to trace the provenance and fate of nutrients in the catchment*
    - *Chris Hallett: Faunal ecology – fish and benthic invertebrates*
    - *Fiona Valesini: Social science / evaluation of ecosystem services*
  - *Following the presentations, representatives from the Partner Organisations led a tour of the catchment visiting sites selected to demonstrate to the Investigators the issues and management decisions that the Partners would like addressed by the research team as well as familiarising interstate visitors with the catchment and estuary. The sites selected were:*
    - *the channel entrance to the Mandurah Marina (City of Mandurah, sediment quality and dredge spoil management)*
    - *Novara boat ramp (City of Mandurah, macroalgae, aesthetics, erosion control, expectation and demand for boat ramps)*

- Dawesville Channel (Department of Water, tidal exchange, water circulation, hydrodynamic estuary modeling)
  - Nairns/ Coodanup foreshore (PHCC, Department of Water, Shire of Murray, dredge spoil management, disturbance of bird habitat by recreational fishers)
  - Gull Rd Drain and Peel Main Drain Regional Estuaries Initiative sites (PHCC & Department of Water, water quality, nutrient attenuation)
- Tony Free (City of Mandurah) requested a presentation to Council about the progress of the project. After discussing with Fiona Valesini and Chris Hallett, I will present a summary of the objectives of the project and progress to date to the Council on 22 November.
3. *Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities: Catchment-scale Landscape Planning for Water Sensitive City–Regions in an Age of Climate Change (Project B1.2)*
    - On 1 September, Anna Gstaettner and I attended the second Scenario Planning Workshop for this project. The workshop was attended by approximately 20 representatives from Local Government, State Government, universities, land developers and Water Corporation, with the purpose of considering the effectiveness of current legislation and policies in enabling innovation to protect the future ecological health and ecosystem service delivery of Perth and Peel waterways. The workshop was followed by a one-on-one interview to discuss the scenarios and broader issues affecting the Peel-Harvey estuary and waterways.
  4. *Conservation Council of WA*
    - On 11 October I met with Nic Dunlop (Environmental Science and Policy) and Piers Verstegen (Director) to discuss the Conservation Council of WA's Caspian Tern monitoring program. Sixty Caspian Terns were banded on Penguin Island in 2012, 2013 and 2016. Many of the banded birds were subsequently observed in the Peel Inlet, near to the confluence of the Serpentine River, with all but one of the reported 52 sightings of banded birds. The Caspian Terns are easily identified from a distance, use the Peel-Harvey estuary almost exclusively for feeding and do not travel large distances and so are potential indicators of estuarine health.
    - The feathers of the Caspian Terns contain high concentrations of mercury which accumulates as methylmercury through the food chain. Research is needed to establish whether naturally occurring mercury is being converted to methylmercury in the benthic environment of the Peel Inlet, with potential for collaboration between Department of Water, Murdoch University, Conservation Council of WA, the Chemistry Centre of Western Australia and others.
    - We also discussed ideas for monitoring the disturbance of bird habitat by recreational fishers (scoop netting) to address the conditions of the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification of the Peel-Harvey estuarine fishery
  5. *Peel Waterways Institute (Stage 1)*
    - The vision for the Peel Waterways Institute (Stage 1) is to establish a headquarters with modest buildings and infrastructure that serves the immediate needs of current researchers, scientists and students in the Peel Region. Subsequent stages of the institute will use existing facilities in the region as appropriate.
    - On 9 September I met with representatives from the Peel Development Commission, the Shire of Waroona and C.Y. O'Connor Foundation to consider potential links between the North Dandalup Research Facility and the Peel Waterways Institute.
    - Since then, I explored the needs of current researchers (ARC-Linkage Investigators; Murdoch University Cetacean Research Unit) and how they could be met by the establishment of the Peel Waterways Institute. From this discussion it emerged that accommodation, office space, wet preparation area, cold storage, and proximity to the estuary were important features
    - I met with Tony Free and Mark Newman City of Mandurah on 14 September to discuss leasing the land adjacent to PHCC on Sutton St from the City and installing temporary buildings appropriate for use by researchers currently working in the region. They agreed in principle support but I have not progressed further.

- *To progress, I need to more thoroughly survey researchers and other potential users of the Institute followed by a workshop to identify and prioritise needs.*
- *I will meet with Kim Savins (Principal, John Tonkin College) on 25 October to discuss the potential for collaboration at their Maritime Centre at the Dawesville Channel.*

### **Advice (Integrating Science into PHCC Projects)**

#### **1. Regional Estuaries Initiative (REI): Peel Main Drain – offline water treatment**

- *The Department of Water and PHCC have been collaborating closely on all of the Peel-Harvey Drainage Projects and have developed a common set of water quality variables to monitor and evaluate improvements in water quality. Bronte Grant (Department of Water, Water Science Branch) has been a great help to Kelly Lavell who commenced as the Healthy Waterways Program Manager. I assisted in the design and review of the Sampling and Analysis Plan and some of the logistics for the initial sampling event on 12 October.*

#### **2. Lake Clifton Recovery Team**

- *I represented PHCC at the meeting of the Recovery Team on 12 October, the first meeting of this group since November 2015. It is apparent that the group is not receiving sufficient administrative support to function effectively, so I moved that future meetings be facilitated by PHCC who will provide appropriate administrative support e.g. provision of agendas, notice of meetings, meeting minutes, and reminders and follow up on actions. Karl Brennan and Heidi Bucktin (both Department of Parks and Wildlife) will remain as Chair and Executive Officer of the Recovery Team. This motion was supported by all present.*

#### **3. Assessment of sediment at the Lions Weir pool, Boddington**

- *Assisted Mel Durack (on behalf of the Shire of Boddington) to devise (i) a plan to assess the quantity and quality of sediment accumulated in the pool behind the Lions Weir, and (ii) an approach to assess the effect on the aquatic ecology in and downstream of the pool through disturbance or removal of the sediment. As a result, the University of Western Australia Aquatic Ecology and Ecosystem Studies and Wetlands Research and Management, an environmental consultancy specialising in aquatic ecology and water quality management, submitted quotes for these respective components to the Shire of Boddington, who applied for funding from the Peel Development Commission Community Chest Fund. If successful, my future involvement will be to review the scientific reports and provide interpretation of these to the Shire.*

### **Science Communications**

#### **1. Article for the Peel Development Commission's Peel Magazine**

- *On 4 October I prepared and submitted the article titled *The blue tick of sustainability for our blue swimmer crabs and mullet* to the Peel Development Commission for inclusion into the Summer 2016 edition of Peel Magazine. The article described the process followed and advantages and opportunities arising from the Marine Stewardship Council's certification of the Peel-Harvey Estuarine Fishery. The MSC are aware of the article and provided photographs to complement the publication.*

#### **2. Other**

- *On 8 September I presented to Surf Science (English) class at John Tonkin College, promoting the Home River Ocean Simple Fertiliser Guide and Save the Crabs and Eat Them campaign and other practical things the students could do to protect the estuary. The students took notes from the presentation to use as source material to write an essay on the topic.*
- *On 14 September I was a member of the Expert Panel and attended the Gala Dinner at the Kids Teaching Kids Conference, organized by City of Mandurah."*

## 11. Staff Updates – Luke Rogers

Luke Rogers provided a presentation which is attached to the minutes.

## 12 Agency Reports

### 12.1 Bob Pond - DoW

- Nothing further to add at this stage regarding the DoW business transformation. He hopes to report further at the next meeting
- PIWI – Looking at water within Nambeelup. Believe contracts are now in place. Should be well progressed if not in place. Better integration of water needs in food zone. There is potential for some greater superficial water use and a look at managed aquifer recharge – not part of the project. Can organise a briefing at one of the council meetings
- Within the REI work, Jennifer Stritsky has been appointed as REI Project Manager across all the projects and she is working out of the DoW head office which should help with communications
- Site characterisation and baseline monitoring and some trialling of application techniques have been carried out at Punrak Drain and Gull Road Drain. At Gull Road the first trial was getting some geotech style fabric to try to capture some of the water. Have also been doing work on sampling in Lake Amarillo including working on hydrographic surveys in Serpentine River system and across Lake Amarillo.
- Peel Main Drain site – sampling and analysis plan completed on 19 sites. The vegetation surveys have been initiated on site and waiting for the report. Have in place full access to the site now in agreement with Water Corporation.
- Dredging for the Mandurah new bridge and Eastern Foreshore works is working well.

### 12.2 Adrian Parker - PDC

- There are a lot of changes at PDC. The new CEO, Andrew Ward, has been meeting stakeholders in the Peel. Adrian has been appointed as Director Economic and Regional Development and Linda Cunningham will start on Monday as Director Transform Peel.
- There are plenty of opportunities in terms of grants and it is hoped to have recommendations to the PDC board November meeting.
- Transform Peel – MoUs are being executed with DAFWA, Landcorp and DoW.
- The Peel magazine will be released before Christmas. Adrian recognised PHCC support of the magazine.
- There is a reform process in progress at the Department of Regional Development, with portfolio reestablishment occurring. One of the new strategic portfolios is called Regional Centres Development program and Mandurah has been identified as a regional centre. It is hoped a joint venture with the Mandurah and Murray local governments will get underway in the New Year to develop an economic and regional development plan for development centres.
- Some discussions with Murdoch in the water CRCs.

### 12.3 Karl Brennan – DPaW, Swan Coastal District (SCD)

- Karl Brennan expressed his excitement that the meeting today was being held at Lowlands, he then went on to thank the PHCC for their funding which had enabled the Lowlands Rivers to Ramsar project including partial funding of Megan Shehan's salary as project officer. He also recognised the excellent support the project has had from PHCC staff Thelma Crook and Jo Garvey.
- Karl Brennan outlined recent acquisition to the conservation estate; former Sarich property is an extension to Yalgorup NP, extension to Austin Bay NR and extension to Lake Mealup NR.

- The SCD has been heavily focused on weed control at local reserves around the Peel-Harvey Estuary. The SCD Green Army has undertaken weed control at Creery Islands NR, Len Howard CP, Serpentine NR, and Austin Bay NR. At the latter, the highly invasive weed Black Flag was noted for the first time. A high abundance of pigs was also noted at Austin Bay. SCD crews have undertaken weed control at Lowlands NR, Pinjarra NR, Mooytjootj NR, Kooljerrenup NR, Itty Bitty NR, Roman Rd NR, Lambert Lane NR, and Watkins Rd NR. At all of these reserves key weeds for targeting were watsonia, freesia, and arum lilly
- Rising salinity remains an area of major concern to the long-term viability of the Thrombolites at Lake Clifton. There have been productive discussions recently between Parks & Wildlife, PHCC, DoW and university academics regarding increasing the amount of groundwater monitoring. Karl Brennan expressed his thanks to the PHCC for their kind offer to provide administrative support that will assist the recovery team to meet more regularly.
- Stage 7 of the Lowlands project involves 5km of fencing – this will be completed between now and 31 December.
- PHCC has offered funding for four new projects. This represents \$121K over two years and is being matched with \$155K of in-kind support from SCD. The four projects were briefly described:
  1. Austin Bay Nature Reserve
  2. Roberts Bay Nature Reserve
  3. Bradby Nature Reserve
  4. Watkins Rd Nature Reserve
- Karl Brennan again raised the issue of feral pigs along the eastern side of the Peel Estuary and noted that this was a growing area of concern to SCD. Pigs are in Austin Bay, in fact, it is a well-known hunting spot for illegal pigging. There are unconfirmed reports of pigs at Lake McLarty, pigs are also established in the Furnisdale area. A collaborative project to control pigs in the area is in the early stages of discussion with staff from AgWA, PHCC, Parks & Wildlife and the Shire of Murray.

*Paddi Creevey left the meeting at 11.15am*

- 12.4 Louise Oorschot – DER  
Nothing to report at this meeting.

*The meeting closed at 11.20am*

*Chairman .....*

*Date .....*

Summary of actions from previous meetings:

No.	DETAILS	RESP.	COMPLETE
1.	<p>Item 7 SAPPR Report [18 August 2016]</p> <p>Jane to ask DPC for a summary of the main issues that have come from the submissions on the Green Growth Plan and how they are addressing them.</p> <p><i>Awaiting summary. General presentation made at September SHARE meeting</i></p>	Jane	PENDING
2.	<p>Item 8 CEO Report [18 August 2016] - Organisational Professional Excellence self-assessment.</p> <p>1. Circulate to all members the Organisational Professional Excellence self-assessment, as required by the Australian Government.</p> <p><i>Organisational Professional Excellence self-assessment document</i></p> <p>2. Members' performance management to be discussed at a future meeting.</p> <p><i>Andy to report at October meeting</i></p>	Jane  Andy	COMPLETE
3.	<p>Item 8 CEO Report [18 August 2016]</p> <p>Eliza Dowling to send information to PHCC concerning the Shire of Cuballing's experience with eco-tourism.</p>	Eliza Dowling	

Summary of actions from meeting of 20 October 2016:

No.	DETAILS	RESP.	COMPLETE
1.	<p>Item 8 CEO Report [20 October 2016]</p> <p>Arrange for impacts on Banksia Woodlands to be discussed with Peel local governments at the Peel Regional Leaders Forum.</p>	Jane O'Malley	