

Staff – Movements, Professional Development and more

- **Scott Young** gave notice ahead of commencing his full time REI contract and will finish with the PHCC on 21 June. Neil Dixon is continuing on a casual to keep some things moving (just a few hours a week), Jane has stepped up in this space and Matt Giraudo is assisting (on a contract basis).
- Several **staff contracts** are coming to an end and we are in the process of renegotiating them. It is our intention to continue all existing contracts, at least for an additional year. There will be some modifications, e.g. Jane has supported Thelma's request to reduce to 2 days a week, from 1 July.

Endorsement Sought

1. Harvey River Restoration Taskforce (HRRT) Auspice Agreement – refer attachments

Recommendation:

“That the PHCC:

- Endorse the draft HRRT Auspice Agreement, as presented, with delegated authority to the CEO to finalise any minor modifications and sign the Agreement on behalf of the PHCC, noting that the Agreement will be reviewed on an annual basis; and**
- Modify the Delegation of Authority Register to provide the CEO delegated authority to sign the Agreement on an annual basis, on the recommendation of the Board.”**

The Executive Group considered the Auspice Agreement at their meeting held on 13 June, 2019 and recommended that PHCC endorse the Agreement, noting that key role that the HRRT play in respect to working towards mutual objectives of improving the health of the Harvey River. It was also noted that the existing document would suffice to meet the immediate HRRT governance needs, as outlined in the briefing note, but that future Agreements will need to be more concise, particularly in respect to obligations of each party.

2. Correspondence In and Out

Recommendation:

“That the PHCC:

Endorse the change in process so that hard copies of Correspondence In and Out are no longer provided at the PHCC General Meetings, noting that all correspondence is made available to Members via the Members Page, on a regular basis.”

The CEO is seeking support to no longer provide hard copies of correspondence at meetings. This process is time consuming for staff and means that correspondence is not filed promptly (with it being held for up to 8 weeks) waiting for the meeting. Members all have access to all correspondence via the Members page. This change would mean that Members would need to note any correspondence they would like to discuss at the meeting, and can ask Pat to print any particular copies to bring to the meeting. Correspondence In and Out will still be formally accepted at meetings.

Projects

Please refer to the Program Manager reports that provide a summary of project status, highlights etc. Our thanks to the project team, but also the support team enabling the project delivery.

3. National Landcare Program – Core Services

- **Review of NRM Strategy against NLP2 Outcomes** – The initial review has been undertaken and submitted to the Australian Government. A survey has been prepared and went out to our community with the Makuru edition of the Wattle & Quoll and we have commenced discussions with some of our key groups, e.g. Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group. There will be some significant works that will be important in the update of the Strategy, e.g. the outcomes of the ARC Linkage Research.
- **Noongar Participation – Thelma Crook** – The **Noongar Participation Plan** was endorsed by the Noongar Steering Committee and will be presented seeking final endorsement at this meeting. At its meeting on 13 June, the Executive Group endorsed the draft MOU between the Department of Water, Binjareb Noongar Elders and the PHCC to **pilot an Aboriginal Waterways Assessment Program for Binjareb Country**, as presented, with delegated authority to the CEO to sign on behalf of the PHCC. It was noted that the PHCC is providing technical support, knowledge sharing activities and a financial contribution, with total support of \$10,000 towards the Pilot.
- Our organisational **Work Health Safety Plan** was not accepted and we are pulling together additional information to meet this requirement.
- All requirements for Core Service are **on track for delivery**.
- The team are busily finishing their **quarter 4 outcomes and reporting** so that we can invoice for the balance of the Work Orders before 30 June. The team have done an amazing job to achieve the scale and scope of works that they have within these reduced timeframes, particularly with new staff commencing – full marks to the team, including a special thank you to Bart (our volunteer) and Karen, for their efforts in systemizing the budgets and invoicing processes.

4. Regional Estuaries Initiative

Peel Main Drain

- We have not yet received approval for the final design of the culverts, or the preliminary design of the weir. We cannot progress until we have these approvals.
- Meeting WAPC and DBCA on Friday 21st re asset management for the swales and balance of site (outside Water Corporation Reserve). Our hope is that we will not have to hold a decommissioning bond and can redirect these funds to the rapidly expanding shortfall for the PMD project.
- Site management plan preparation has commenced, with the first draft sent to stakeholders for comment. Scott will progress modifications as far as he can until he finishes up on Friday 21st.

Mayfield

- 4 weirs constructed (just waiting for stop boards to be installed)
- 2 new site identified and progressing feasibility works look positive (these sites have been selected so that we don't have to wait for Water Corporation approvals)

Strategic Issues (refer also to Chair's report)

1. Federal Election Campaign

While we didn't secure any election commitments from the Coalition, we have been advised of an announcement re up to **\$3 million to protect Black Cockatoo habitat** in WA – see media statement: <https://www.liberal.org.au/latest-news/2019/04/18/3-million-protect-black-cockatoo>

The commitment states that “The Government will work with the Regional Land Partnerships service providers including Wheatbelt NRM, South West NRM, Peel Harvey Catchment Council & South Coast NRM (partnering with Birds Australia)”. So, while we were unaware of the commitment, we have been advised that the commitment has been earmarked for funding through a new program: the **Environmental Restoration Fund**, which is scheduled to commence in 2019-20.

We are advised that even though some broad parameters have been outlined for this program, there are still some planning and implementation steps to be undertaken before the program can start, including budget approvals and development of funding guidelines. The Australian Government has indicated that they hope to have further information later this calendar year on how the election commitment will be implemented and, will let us know.

2. SAPPR and PHEMC Update – Suspension of SAPPR:

No updates here

3. Point Grey (Refer Chairs report):

4. Other highlights and project updates

1. **Feral Cat Working Group and Research Funding Submission** – The interim working group (WABSI, Bush Heritage and an officer of the DBCA) have prepared a funding application to fund a part time officer + website + additional symposium etc. and research priorities. We have sought a meeting with Mark Webb, Fran Stanley and Margaret Byrne hoping to get support for both parts of the funding application.
2. **State NRM Grants** are now closed. We held a workshop in Mandurah, but the Boddington workshop was cancelled. While we have not applied for funding ourselves (PHCC already have the maximum Large Grants allowed at any one time), we have supported several of our partner groups with commitments of in-kind and/or financial support for their projects. The team were very supportive helping to plan and design projects – hopefully we will have some great outcomes across the Catchment.
3. The Mandurah **Water Towers** project has stalled waiting for Water Corporation Licensing Agreements, to enable us to proceed with the contract with FORM.
4. **NRM WA CEO's** meeting is scheduled for 26 June.
5. **We are continuing to work with DWER and Water Corporation re “Design Guidelines for Drainage Intervention” and a “Drainage Management Plan”.**
6. We are aspiring to have the new CEO of Water Corporation resign the **drainage agreement** (with DWER, PHCC and Water Corporation).
7. **Integrate Sustainability** have offered the PHCC some pro-bono work which we have gladly accepted e.g. peer review reports. More information to come once this is formalized
8. **Strategic Directions** – printed and will be distributed at the June meeting

9. **PDC Blueprint Annual Report** – Kim has provided input so that the PHCC progress and contribution across the pillars is recognised and recorded (very much summarized). We believe this will be published shortly.

5. PHCC Events – not covered in Project Manager Reports (see events webpage)

6. Operational Issues

Occupational Health and Safety - There are no incidences to report

We have arranged ergonomic assessments for staff (Mandurah and Boddington offices).

We were unsuccessful in getting a **restraining order** on a community member who has been causing a nuisance to staff for >3 years. We have instead again written to advise that any access on the property will be considered trespassing, and the police will be called. We have now installed a security system which means that people have to be “buzzed” into the building, once they have been viewed through the surveillance camera – not very friendly entry to the PHCC unfortunately but is giving the team comfort in respect to this situation.

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.

Jane O’Malley
Chief Executive Officer

We acknowledge the Noongar people as Traditional Custodians of this land and pay our respects to all Elders past and present