

MINUTES OF WATERWAYS (RIVERCARE & RAMSAR ON-GROUNDS STEERING COMMITTEE)

Held on 12 March 2019
at PHCC Shed
58 Sutton Street Mandurah WA 6210



Marilyn Gray opened the meeting at 9.00am

1. Welcome

In Attendance:

Johanne Garvey
Steve Fisher
Jesse Rowley
Rick James
Mike Griffiths
Michael Schultz
Marilyn Gray
Mark Cugley
Bob Pond (Chair)

2. Apologies:

Rob Summers
Howard Mitchell

3. Declarations of Interest

Nil.

4. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 15 November 2018

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2018 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

Accepted and signed by Chair

5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Summary of actions from previous meetings:

No.	DETAILS	RESP.	COMPLETE
1	Send out date to Sub-Committee for grant assessments	Jo Garvey	Complete
2	Collate application data and send to Sub-Committee before meeting date	Jo Garvey	Complete
3	Notify all steering committee members of sub-committee decisions to endorse	Jo Garvey	Complete
4	Update committee of progress with other land holders re: Karnup Road vandalism and 4WD access	Jo Garvey	Complete
5	Follow up TNC about contacting DWER in regards to bivalves/mussels projects	Steve Fisher	Complete

6. Terms of Reference

Steve went through Terms of Reference and reminded committee of its purpose.

7. Ramsar On-grounds

- Steve gave an overview of the on-grounds component of the Ramsar project
- Rick introduces Mike Griffiths and explains Wetlands Restoration Officer role
- Rick provides update and explains the on-ground activities in progress
 - Marilyn provides feedback about preferred supplier method and explains how it is a good tool to use when needing to deliver on-ground activities efficiently
 - Furthermore, Rick states it is a time saver to help move through deliverables rapidly but with precision
 - Steve explains *Community Targeted Work Agreements* as a targeted landholder approach rather than going through the Community Environment Grant (CEG) Program due to time restraints
 - Mark asks Rick about stakeholder consultation success
 - Rick explains meetings have been successful so far with Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and local landcare groups

8. Alcoa Foundation

- Action 1: Jo to circulate Measurable Outcomes table (page 2 of June – December 2018 report)
- Jesse provided update and summary of successful grants
- Jo explained each targeted on-ground project idea
 - Dung Beetle project idea: Marilyn suggests to rephrase 'landholders' to 'equine landholders' during engagement as it displays a more defined and targeted approach
 - Water Hyacinth project idea: Marilyn suggests if C-Wise can utilise dried out hyacinth as compost
 - Lower Serpentine River Habitat Enhancement project idea: Approvals and permissions could prove **challenging and more information is needed before progressing.**

- Mike S would like to see the project go ahead if possible
- Action 2: Marilyn suggests Steve and Jane O'Malley need to discuss Shire of Murrays position in this potential project as Jo has received minimal feedback after talking with the Shire.
- Action 3: Jo/Jesse to write up clear scope of works to demonstrate to Shire of Murray what the project entails and how they can be involved. Jo to meet with the Shire of Murray and find out more about the work they are doing to streamline the approvals and permissions processes.
- Steve explains current situation with Mandurah Volunteer Rescue Group and DBCA
 - Volunteer group did not gain approval from DBCA to install monitoring cameras within their reserves along the Serpentine River as DBCA would like to have potential ownership of cameras
 - The Volunteer Groups application does not fit Alcoa Foundation criteria/deliverables and is more a citizen science/community engagement project
 - Rather than ask the Volunteer Group to resubmit their application, Steve suggests PHCC should directly liaise with DBCA through a targeted approach (SC members agree)
- Mike S asks for feedback on the CEG process and if the sub-committee was helpful with providing appropriate feedback
 - Jo explains the process worked well with sub-committee members and discusses how PHCC is having a CEG review as there is a substantial amount of feedback from PHCC staff and landholders on this programs process
- Jo provides update on River Action Plan explaining how Urbaqua have been engaged to carry out this and be finished by 30 June 2019. This will be a Partnership Agreement with the following benefits:
 - PHCC officer/volunteer training (desktop & field)
 - Alcoa graduate training (desktop & field)
- Jo provides update on River Health Assessments
 - Will engage Murdoch University to carry out these assessments in Spring 2019 and Autumn 2020 across five sites
 - Working closely with Hotham-Williams team (also carrying out river health assessments through Newmont funding) to ensure consistency across both regions
 - Steve explains the South West Index of River Condition (SWIRC) reporting tool will be produced for each sampling site
 - Marilyn queries about the intellectual property of this data from SWIRC which Steve confirms it will be shared
 - Rick suggests involvement from community members whilst conducting river health assessments

9. Estuary Grants (PDC)

- Steve provides overall explanation of Estuary Grants
- Steve and Jo explain that *Component 2: Stock Enhancement of Black Bream in the Murray River* is under way
 - Visited John Tonkin College along with Alan Cottingham (coordinator of project) and students to see setting up of equipment to enable growth of algae and Rotifers (microscopic aquatic invertebrates) as these will be food sources for the Bream juveniles
 - Jo explains algae and Rotifers are also being produced at Murdoch University to provide assistance to John Tonkin College if required
- Steve and Jo provide update on *Component 3: Harvey River Restoration – Implementation of Demonstration Reach Project*
 - HRRT in progress of providing work plan and evidence of works conducted to Jo and Steve
- Steve and Jo provide update on *Component 1: Fish Friendly Farms*

- Progressing with discussions being held with AusFish Unlimited and RecFish West
- Steve explains the Minister for Regional Development WA has enquired about future media opportunities
 - Breeding of Black Bream (Component 2) media opportunity with Murdoch University and John Tonkin College students

10. Other Business (purchasing of equipment)

- Nil

11. Actions Summary from 12 March 2019 Meeting

No.	DETAILS	RESP.	COMPLETE
1	Jo to circulate Measurable Outcomes table (page 2 of June – December 2018 report)	Jo Garvey	Completed
2	Steve and Jane O'Malley to discuss Shire of Murray's position on Lower Serpentine River Habitat Enhancement project idea (adapted from Cull CEG Application) – it was decided to not go ahead with this project	Steve Fisher	Completed
3	Project scope of works to be completed for Lower Serpentine River Habitat Enhancement project and Fish Friendly Farms idea to clearly state what the project entails and which stakeholders need to be targeted i.e. Shire of Murray and Jo to meet with the shire and find out more about the work they are doing to streamline the approvals and permissions processes. – it was decided to not go ahead with this project.	Jo Garvey	Completed

12. Next Meeting:

The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for 10 September 2019 9am. Meeting(s) may be scheduled in the interim depending on need.

The meeting closed at 10.30am

Chairman: 

Date: 28/11/19