

AGRICULTURE STEERING COMMITTEE



Agenda

Meeting to be held on 5th March 2020

9.30am | PHCC Shed, 58 Sutton Street MANDURAH

Invitees

Board Members

- Andy Gulliver (AG) (Chairperson)
- Marilyn Gray
- Paddi Creevey
- Rob Summers
- Darralyn Ebsary

Staff

- Andrew Del Marco (AD) Program Manager, Land Conservation
- Melanie Durack (MD) Program Manager, Hotham-Williams
- Paula Pownall (PP) Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator

Mel Durack and Darralyn Ebsary will be phoning into the meeting from Boddington.

START	Resp	ITEM
9.30am	AG	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome and apologies 2. Declarations of Interest 3. Confirmation of minutes from last meeting (Attachment 1, separately bound)
9.40am	PP and ADM	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Greening Farms (GF) Project Update <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Summary of how we are tracking– MERIT and WoPL b) 2019/20 budget tracking (Attachment 2) c) On-ground projects/ CEG projects d) Field days and other events e) Establishment of monitoring regime. <p>Project Officers will discuss the above items (5a to 5f). SC comment on the remaining 2019/20 project activities (5c to 5e) is welcomed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> f) Greening Farms 2020/21 budget <p>The Program Manager has developed a draft 2020/21 GF budget before he leaves in early April. Andrew Del Marco has reviewed both the 2019/20 and 2020/21 budgets for RLP Greening Farms, and at this stage proposes a similar budget for 2020/21 as was approved for 2019/20 (Attachment 3). One of the major considerations of maintaining the GF operating budget at 2019/20 levels is that the GF budget is the only major agricultural project that PHCC currently delivers to provide funds that can be directly allocated to farmers, and agricultural events and activities (e.g. field days, trials and demonstrations).</p> <p>This would result in a 2020/21 FTE budget of \$65,800 and operating budget of \$147,900, including a Community Environment Grants (CEG) budget of \$130,000 (as per last year). The budget is yet to be reviewed and approved by the CEO and Board, in consideration of all PHCC budgets for 2020/21 and RLP Years 4 and 5.</p> <p>SC review and in-principle support of a draft 2020/21 budget is sought.</p>

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

START	Resp	ITEM
9.55am	PP and ML	<p>5. Events</p> <p>a) 2020-2021 Draft Sustainable Agriculture Events Calendar</p> <p>A draft events calendar has been developed by Paula Pownall and Megan LeRoy to help plan and deliver events linked to Agricultural projects including Greening Farms and uPtake (Fertilising the Farm and Smartfarms). The calendar is a dynamic planner, and is subject to change. (Attachment 4 – to be provided at or before the meeting on 5/3/2020.</p> <p>SC comment on the proposed events, and any other options, and endorsement is sought on the proposed Events calendar.</p> <p>a) Upcoming events</p> <p>5 March -Pigs, Pests and Biosecurity – Cuballing (PHCC)</p> <p>11 – 13 March 2020Talkin Soil Health Conference (PHCC sponsor)</p> <p>27 March -Accu-Spread Demonstration Day, Meelon (PHCC Sponsor)</p> <p>Late April -UWA Future Farm Field Day - Pingelly</p> <p>For SC noting</p>
10.05am	PP	<p>6. Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator update (RALF)</p> <p>a) Table draft RALF 2019/20 Workplan</p> <p>b) Planning for delivery of RALF services for 2020 while Paula Pownall undertakes the Nuffield Scholarship is in progress.</p> <p>For SC noting</p>
10.15am	PP	<p>7. Proposed SJFFA Food and Farm Fest Sponsorship</p> <p>The Serpentine-Jarrahdale Food and Farm alliance have requested PHCC support for their annual Food and Farm Fest, to be held on 3 May 2020. Similar to last year, it is proposed to provide \$2800 to SJFFA towards advertising and promotions. This sponsorship provides strong exposure of the PHCC and National Landcare Program brands. The allocation is within GF budget.</p> <p>That the SC endorse PHCC sponsorship of the SJFFA Food and Farm Fest to the value of \$2800, via a funding agreement approved by the CEO.</p>
10.20am	ML	<p>8. uPtake Project (Encompassing PHCC contracts to deliver REI Fertilising the Farm and the DWER Smartfarms project.</p> <p>As part of the REI Fertilising the Farm project, a successful farmer workshop was held on 18 February in Waroona, attended by most of the 24 farmers involved in the 2019/2020 soil testing program. Farmers were presented with their soil testing results and Whole Farm Nutrient Mapping.</p> <p>Funding for the REI Fertilising the Farm project ends in June 2020, and no decision has been made by the State Government on continuing the program. DWER has stated that a REI II funding proposal has been put to Government, and PHCC has provided support for this proposal at every opportunity.</p> <p>In the event that REI Fertilising the Farm is funded, the PHCC should seek to influence the project design before finalising any contracts. An important consideration is that REI II Fertilising the Farm should be broadened to include support to farmers who may wish to reduce inorganic inputs, and begin to adopt regenerative agriculture approaches. A practical implication of this would be to broaden the list of Fertcare certified advisors linked to the program to include those who have expertise in regenerative farming techniques.</p>

START	Resp	ITEM
		<p>In the event that REI is not funded, it is important that the 2019/20 farmers receive a follow-up post workshop survey to assess how they have used the information contained in their Soil Testing and Whole Farm Nutrient Mapping reports. This will complete the dataset for the four years of the Fertilising the Farm program. The CEO will be asked by the Program Manager to support these follow-up surveys which usually occur in September to allow time for farmers to make any changes to fertiliser practices.</p> <p>As part of the uPtake (Smartfarms) project, five (5) trail sites were established in the Peel-Harvey Catchment in 2019, and another two (2) sites may be established in 2020. Rob Summers has advised that trials are progressing well, and we look forward to seeing how the results can be used by PHCC and local farmers to improve profitability and reduce nutrient loss.</p> <p>PHCC is part of a Working Group to develop and promote Grazing Best Management Practices. Paula Pownall attended the first WG meeting, and another is planned for March. The BMPs project is due to be completed by June 2020.</p> <p>That SC notes the above report, and provides any feedback and comment.</p>
10.25	AD	<p>9. Peel-Harvey Catchment 2020 Soil Health Champion</p> <p>Following a period of advertising over the past 5 weeks, a process was undertaken to select a Soil Health Champion for our Catchment. On Friday 28 February, a panel of Andy Gulliver, Andrew Del Marco, Mel Durack and Paula Pownall unanimously recommended that Shaun Wittwer, farmer in the Hotham-Williams Catchment, be awarded the title.</p> <p>The SC is asked to endorse the above selection of Shaun Wittwer as the Peel-Harvey Catchment 2020 Soil Health Champion.</p>
10.30am	AD	<p>10. Peel Hub of Southern Dirt</p> <p>PHCC has been working cooperatively with Southern Dirt since the concept of a Peel Hub of Southern Dirt was first proposed in late 2018.</p> <p>The Peel Hub has now been established and has 34 members and growing. Recently, Southern Dirt (SD) Inc was awarded \$65,000 through the Regional Economic Development (RED) Grants for a Peel Hub 24-month project. Through the Peel Growers Hub, SD is to provide networking activities and deliver three pilot projects looking at opportunities within the premium beef supply chain, the future food conference and a protected cropping pilot – to support farmers to maintain and build profitable farm businesses in the Peel region. PHCC is supporting this project through a \$10,000 direct contribution and 10 days of officer (RALF) time, in return for holding events and other activities that contribute to Greening Farm outcomes. The \$10,000 direct contribution will be within GF budget, and may be spread over 2 or 3 financial years, subject to availability.</p> <p>A process to develop a Memorandum of Understanding between PHCC and SD to confirm the details of the agreement is to commence shortly, and require the CEO's approval. As part of the SD Peel Hub project, a Future of Food conference will be held on 27 February in Mandurah, and Paula Pownall as PHCC RALF will be part of the organising committee.</p> <p>That the SC notes the preparation of a Memorandum of Understanding between PHCC and Southern Dirt Inc as part of Southern Dirt's Peel Hub RED Grant project and the delivery of PHCC Greening Farms Project Services.</p>

START	Resp	ITEM
10.40am	AD	<p>11. Regenerative agriculture news</p> <p>There is lots happening in the regenerative agriculture space in WA, and momentum continues to grow. Over the past 12 months PHCC has been getting involved in growing interest in regenerative agriculture through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) RALF support to the SJFFA Compost trials project, a State NRM project. See some of the results here: 2) Partner to the SWCC Regenerative Agriculture Statewide Survey, a State NRM funded project CSGL18102. Andrew Del Marco attended a recent workshop to review the results of the survey and the draft report. The final report will be released by SWCC with recommendations for future research needs. A Summary of survey results for Peel-Harvey Catchment respondents and other regional NRM's is included as Attachment 5 (separately bound, not for wider distribution). 3) Contributions towards the 2020 Talkin' Soil Health conference, 11 -13 March, York. Sponsorship of \$2000 <p>The above is for SC noting</p>
10.45	AD	<p>12. Sustainable Agriculture Overview for the Peel-Harvey Catchment</p> <p>The preparation of a Sustainable Agriculture Overview for the Peel-Harvey Catchment is a Key Achievement Planned under Goal 6 of the 2019-2026 PHCC Strategic Directions. The Program Manager aims to have a robust first draft of this document prepared before he leaves in April.</p> <p>A preliminary draft of the Agriculture Overview will be provided at the meeting of 5/3/2020 for discussion and the SC's guidance.</p> <p>The Program Manager will present the draft Overview for SC discussion.</p>
10.25am	Chair-person	<p>13. Items for next agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a Biosecurity Strategy for the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council (Strategic Directions)
10.30am		Close of Meeting

Attachment 1: Minutes from previous meeting of the Agriculture Steering Committee, held 12.30 pm Tuesday 29th October 2019, Boddington Community Resource Centre

Separately bound

Attachment 2: Greening Farms 2019/20 budget tracking

Greening Farms 2019/20	Operating \$ 2019/20		Available
Communication materials - number of materials	\$2,400.00	nil	2400
Community engagement - Number of one-on-one technical advice interactions	\$3,000.00	LFW 2,000	\$1,000.00
Community/stakeholder engagement - number of field days	\$6,000.00	nil	
Community/stakeholder engagement - number of on-ground works	\$65,000.00	\$7,855.90	\$7,855.90
Establishing and maintaining agreements - number of agreements	\$65,000.00	\$8,015.91	\$8,015.91
Establishing and maintaining monitoring regimes	\$6,000.00	?	
Farm management survey - number of surveys	\$0.00	nil	
Negotiating with the Community, Landholders, Farmers, Traditional Owner groups, Agriculture, Industrial groups etc. - Number of Groups	\$1,000.00	nil	
Project planning and delivery of documents as required for the delivery of the Project Services and monitoring - Number of documents	\$0.00	nil	
	\$148,400.00	Total	\$19,271.81

GF 2019/20 Funds semi committed			
SJFFA Food and Farm Fest- Advertising	\$2,800.00		
Mel 1080 Workshop (5 farmers, 1 Paula 6*80)	\$480.00		
Mel 1080 Baits	\$520.00		
Peel Hub Southern Dirt	\$5,000.00		
Property planning workshop	\$3,000.00		
Signs (50 CEG, 50 Biosecurity)	\$2,178.00		
Soil Champion - Talkin'Soil Health Conference 11 - 13 March	\$1,500		
Total	\$15,478.00		\$15,478.00
Total (unallocated as at 1/3/2020)			\$3,793.81

Attachment 3: Proposed budget for RLP Greening Farms budget (Year 3: 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021)

Delivery and invoicing Period 2019 to 2020	Year 2: 2019-20				Year 3: 2020-21			
	Qty	Total \$ (ex GST)	FTE \$	Operating \$	Qty	Total \$ (ex GST)	Proposed FTE \$	Proposed Operating \$
Communication materials - number of materials	12	\$11,400.00	\$9,000.00	\$2,400.00	13	\$12,350.00	\$9,000.00	\$3,350.00
Community engagement - Number of one-on-one technical advice interactions	10	\$4,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$3,000.00	9	\$4,050.00	\$2,500.00	\$1,550.00
Community/stakeholder engagement - number of field days	3	\$9,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$6,000.00	3	\$9,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$6,000.00
Community/stakeholder engagement - number of on-ground works	10	\$65,000.00	\$0.00	\$65,000.00	10	\$65,000.00	\$0.00	\$65,000.00
Establishing and maintaining agreements - number of agreements	10	\$65,000.00	\$0.00	\$65,000.00	10	\$65,000.00	\$0.00	\$65,000.00
Establishing and maintaining monitoring regimes	1	\$12,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	1	\$12,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
Farm management survey - number of surveys	4	\$4,800.00	\$4,800.00	\$0.00	4	\$4,800.00	\$4,800.00	\$0.00
Negotiating with the Community, Landholders, Farmers, Traditional Owner groups, Agriculture, Industrial groups etc. - Number of Groups	1	\$3,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$1,000.00	1	\$3,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$1,000.00
Project planning and delivery of documents as required for the delivery of the Project Services and monitoring - Number of documents	4	\$38,000.00	\$38,000.00	\$0.00	4	\$38,000.00	\$38,000.00	\$0.00
								\$0.00
TOTAL		\$213,200.00	\$64,800.00	\$148,400.00		\$213,700	\$65,800	\$147,900

Attachment 4: Draft 2020-2021 Draft Sustainable Agriculture Events Calendar – to be provided at or before the meeting on 5/3/2020

Attachment 5: Regenerative Agriculture Statewide Survey -Summary of survey results (separately bound, not for wider distribution)