

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

Held on 28 November 2019  
at PHCC Shed  
58 Sutton Street Mandurah WA 6210



Bob Pond opened the meeting at 2:30pm

1. Welcome

In Attendance:

Johanne Garvey  
Steve Fisher  
Jesse Rowley  
Mike Griffiths  
Marilyn Gray  
Howard Mitchell  
Bob Pond (Chair)

2. Apologies:

Rob Summers  
Rick James  
Mark Cugley

### 3. Declarations of Interest

- Bob Pond
  - Part of the Harvey River Restoration Taskforce Board
- Mark Cugley (sent via email 28/11/2019)
  - "I am not at the meeting, but as reflected in the agenda, you may wish to note that the DBCA has received funding through Alcoa Foundation (for the installation of surveillance cameras along the Serpentine River) and agreed to a workplan with the PHCC to direct some of its RAMSAR NLP2 funding on Lake McLarty Nature Reserve, land vested with and managed by the DBCA. I have been removed from the PHCC processes that have led to it agreeing to this funding and work plan."

### 4. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 12 March 2019

***The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2019 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	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) – <b>it was decided to not go ahead with this project</b>	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. – <b>it was decided to not go ahead with this project.</b>	Jo Garvey	Completed

### 6. Alcoa Foundation

- Jo provided an update on the project stating funds for the next stage have recently been received
- Jo and Steve commented that a meeting was held with Suellen in regards to the next round of funding (after current project comes to an end in December 2020) and how Suellen is encouraging PHCC to apply
  - The funding application must be completed by July 2020
- Jo provided an update on latest events
- Jesse provided an update on Community Environment Grants
- Jesse provided an update on vegetation monitoring conducted in late October/early November
  - Stated that the data recorded from Hymus Swamp and Lowlands Nature Reserve has been shared with Mark Cugley at the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) (both of these reserves are managed by the Department)
  - Howard asked if the data goes into a database
    - **Action 1:** Jesse to follow-up with Mark Cugley if the data goes into the DBCA database
- Jo provided update on River Action Plan and river health assessments
- Jo discussed Karl Bilya project stating that this has been set back due to pending approvals and as the Alcoa Foundation project ends in December 2020, time is running out to order seedlings etc.

- The Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) own the site south of the Peel Main Drain-Serpentine River confluence where the River Action Plan has identified this as a priority site to undertake restoration work
- Jo has obtained a support letter from Mark Cugley for this project as DBCA manage this land
- Jo has had discussion with DMIRS and DBCA to gain formal approval so that works can begin however, approval has not yet been gained
- The committee suggested to talk to Mark Cugley and state that due to DBCA having managing rights over the land, and that the project is proposing land management practices such as revegetation and weed control, the DBCA support letter should be the approval to begin works
- **Action 2:** Jo to discuss project with Mark Cugley and receive formal approval in writing in order for on-ground works to begin
- Jo stated that if this project does not go ahead, discussions are currently being held with the Richardson family to undertake restoration works within the private property along Hymus Drain (as identified through the River Action Plan)
  - The committee were supportive of this
- Jo provided an update on the remaining on-ground projects including Water Hyacinth, Dung Beetle Breeding Program, Dolphin Surveillance Cameras and the Bindjareb Noongar Water Perspectives Plan (supporting the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation)
- The committee were pleased with how the project is progressing

#### 7. Estuary Grants

- Jo provided an update on the project budgets
- Steve discussed his recent report to the Peel Development Commission (PDC) and stated that PDC are pleased with how the project is progressing
- Jo and Steve provided updates on each of the projects
- Jo and Steve discuss how through the Stock Enhancement of Black Bream project, Murdoch University has requested a Variation to the Agreement as they originally underestimated the overall project costs
  - Jo required endorsement from the committee to allocate an extra \$50,000 in total (\$10,000 to John Tonkin College for aquaculture technician support; remaining \$40,000 to Murdoch University)
  - The committee successfully endorsed funding an additional \$50,000 to the Stock Enhancement of Black Bream project
- The committee advised to avoid private jetty areas when scoping sites to install artificial habitat for fish (Fish Friendly Farms project) as the approval process is extremely difficult
- The committee were pleased with how the project is progressing

#### 8. Partnership Funding: Shire of Murray

- Jo provided an update and breakdown of works for this project
- The committee were pleased to hear that the first two years of this funding will be allocated to the Pinjarra Massacre Site (\$10,000 in total) as this site has received no funding for management practices since the ending of the Rivers 2 Ramsar project in 2017 and is identified as a priority area through the Murray River Action Plan

#### 9. Ramsar On-grounds

- Mike provided an update of on-ground works currently being undertaken and what is planned for the next financial year
- Bob and Marilyn suggested for Mike to speak to Mel Durack in regards to control methods of the highly invasive spiny rush *Juncus acutus* as Mel has experience in this field of work

- **Action 3:** Mike to seek advice from Mel Durack on how to correctly undertake weed control of *Juncus acutus*
- Mike discussed that a meeting was held with Tom Lerner recently to identify priority areas for weed control
  - From the meeting, Meeyip Island was identified for Watsonia control
  - Jo stated that weed control was undertaken through the Rivers 2 Ramsar project on these islands and that there may be information available in past project folders on which islands would be best to target
  - The committee suggests to look at residential areas for weed control
  - Steve explained the Targeted Work Agreements arrangement within the Ramsar project which the committee endorses
  - Steve suggested for Mike to discuss weed control on the Shire of Murray Delta Islands with Kim Wilson
    - **Action 4:** Mike to seek advice from Kim Wilson on priority areas for weed control on Delta Islands

#### 10. Other Business

- Jo seeking advice from committee on the purchasing of river health assessment equipment as DWER has offered PHCC a river health assessment trailer
  - The committee endorsed this request

#### 11. Actions Summary from 28 November 2019 Meeting

No.	DETAILS	RESP.	COMPLETE
1	Follow-up with Mark Cugley to check if NVIS data goes into the DBCA database. <b>Jesse sent through 2019 NVIS reports for Lowlands Reserve and Hymus Swamp Reserve to DBCA. Awaiting confirmation if this data is uploaded into DBCA database.</b>	Jesse Rowley	In progress
2	Discuss Karl Bilya project approvals with Mark Cugley and receive formal approval in writing <b>Support letter received from DBCA and emailed approval from DMIRS and DBCA.</b>	Jo Garvey	Completed
3	Seek advice from Mel Durack on how to correctly undertake weed control of <i>Juncus acutus</i> <b>Mel sent Mike a pamphlet covering chemical treatment of <i>Juncus acutus</i>, followed up with some results of treatment at Tunbridge Gully: Had good results with 2% Roundup Bioactive, though most plants had regrowth after first treatment, takes several years to control established plants. For Preston Beach, prepare for follow-up for as long as possible.</b>	Mike Griffiths	Completed
4	Seek advice from Kim Wilson on priority areas for weed control on Delta Islands <b>Mike spoke to Kim after Steering Committee meeting (and again more recently); Kim didn't have strong thoughts either way, acknowledged work already done on Jeegarnyeejip Island, pointed out importance of working from best quality bushland to worst, referred to Jo Garvey for more knowledge of weed control work on the islands.(Mike has consulted Jo).</b>	Mike Griffiths	Completed

#### 12. Next Meeting:

The next Steering Committee meeting to be confirmed. Meeting(s) may be scheduled in the interim depending on need.

The meeting closed at 4:41pm

Chairman: MR. L.

Date: 24/9/20

