

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



Held on 24 September 2020
at PHCC Shed
58 Sutton Street Mandurah WA 6210

Bob Pond opened the meeting at 10.00am

1. Welcome

In Attendance:

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

2. Declarations of Interest

- Nil

3. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 12 March 2019

The Minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2019, 22 April 2020 (out of session) and 1 July 2020 (out of session) are confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

Accepted and signed by Chair

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Summary of actions from previous meetings:

No.	DETAILS	RESP.	COMPLETE
1	Follow-up with Mark Cugley to check if NVIS data goes into the DBCA database. 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.	Jesse Rowley	In progress
2	Discuss Karl Bilya project approvals with Mark Cugley and receive formal approval in writing Support letter received from DBCA and emailed approval from DMIRS and DBCA.	Jo Garvey	Completed
3	Seek advice from Mel Durack on how to correctly undertake weed control of <i>Juncus acutus</i> Mel sent Mike a pamphlet covering chemical treatment of Juncus acutus, 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.	Mike Griffiths	Completed
4	Seek advice from Kim Wilson on priority areas for weed control on Delta Islands 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).	Mike Griffiths	Completed

1. Ramsar On-grounds

- Access control works undertaken to protect 55.5ha of bushland and foreshore through installing fencing at Lake McLarty
- Feral animal control deliverables reached through engaging feral animal control contractor Eddie Juras
 - More than 200ha protected
 - Removed pigs (main target), foxes and rabbits within Ramsar boundary
 - No cats sighted during works
- A total of 117ha of weeds controlled
 - Six Landowner Works Agreements (LWAs) used to help control weeds from neighbouring properties
 - Priority weeds including woody weeds and grasses
 - Follow-up cottonbush control will be undertaken at Myalup and will be labelled as 'phase 2' (25ha of new area covered)
 - 30 ha of spiny rush (*Juncus acutus*) sprayed and approximately 170 ha mapped at Lake Preston.

- Weed mapping undertaken at Lake Mealup – limited budget but consultants (Focused Vison Consulting) went out of their way to deliver excellent mapping results
 - Mike prepared series of maps from digital data supplied, shared with the Lake Mealup Preservation Society
- Revegetation works completed in seven areas (19 individual sites within the seven areas)
 - Over 36,000 stems planted over 30ha
 - Tubestock and biodegradable tree guards utilised
 - 1km of fencing installed to encourage natural regeneration of native species at Lot 68 (Lake McLarty; DBCA) and Hexham Reserve (Lake Clifton-Herron; City of Mandurah)
 - Natural Areas engaged to undertake all revegetation works including planting and guarding
 - Rick commended Natural Areas and commented they have been a pleasure to work with
 - Planting was completed by early August
 - Mitch asked if the revegetation works took place at sites where weed control was undertaken
 - Rick explained the revegetation works did not take place at the weed control sites as these particular sites were areas of past revegetation projects undertaken by various groups including the Lake Clifton-Herron Residents Association
 - Mitch states in areas where weed control has been undertaken, it is important to replace weed species with native flora
 - Some revegetation works taken place were in partnership with other PHCC projects including the Black Cockatoo Recovery, Restoring the Serpentine River and Banksia projects
- Mike discussed planned works for the next three years and explained that a lot of this will be controlling weeds and working collaboratively with local and state government departments and local community groups
 - This will involve a strategic approach by using best management practises and identifying high priority environmental weeds
- Mark Cugley commended the Ramsar on-grounds team for working closely with the Mandurah DBCA team on DBCA land. The local staff have thoroughly enjoyed working with PHCC
- Bob comments on summary table of project outputs stating the totals column does not equal to the values listed throughout the table
 - **Action 1:** Mike to update this table and circulate to steering committee members via email.

2. Estuary Grants

- Jo, Jesse and Steve provided updates on all Estuary Grants projects including:
 - Stock Enhancement of Black Bream, Fish Friendly Farms, Restoring the Harvey River and River Health Assessments
- An explanation was provided to the committee as to why the agreement with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to support their Shellfish Gardening Program is currently on hold (\$30,000 from the Fish Friendly Farms budget)
 - The agreement is on hold as it is not certain the reef will be installed in the estuary by the end of the Estuary Grants program (September 2021)
 - **Action 2:** Provide update and come back to the committee to endorse another approach if this agreement falls through.

3. Alcoa Foundation

- Jo and Jesse provided update on the Restoring the Serpentine River project
- Advice and guidance on the Concept Plans (developed from the River Action Plan) was requested

- Committee in agreement to test the market and to be strategic with timeframes as deliverables for the Restoring the Serpentine River project are to be finalised by December 2020
- Mitch suggested another consultancy company to obtain a third quote from if required
- Marilyn commented that there is no issue in rewarding Urbaqua to undertake the Concept Plans as they understand what is required from PHCC and conduct the works well
- **Action 3:** Once quotes have been assessed, send recommendations through to committee to endorse as an out of session
- The committee endorsed the River Action Plan with the following comment:
 - Marilyn: cannot distinguish colours utilised in the landuse maps. The colour coding is not clear.

4. Other Business

- Committee commended the Rivercare Team for being awarded the next three years of funding from Alcoa Foundation (\$600,000 US; 2020 – 2023) for the Healing Bilya project.

5. Actions Summary from 24 September 2020 Meeting

No.	DETAILS	RESP.	COMPLETE
1	Update Ramsar on-grounds deliverables table and circulate to steering committee members via email	Mike Griffiths	
2	Provide update and come back to committee if agreement with TNC falls through to allow another approach to be endorsed	Jo Garvey & Jesse Rowley	
3	Send Concept Plan recommendations to steering committee for endorsement	Jo Garvey	

6. 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 11:55am

Chairman:

Date: