## MINUTES OF PHCC GENERAL MEETING

Held on Thursday 21 October 2021 At Sunbreakers Restaurant Function Room. 110 Mandurah Terrace, MANDURAH WA 6210



The Chair opened the meeting at 9.10am

#### G.1/10/21Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair opened the meeting at 9.10 am, acknowledging the Noongar people as Traditional Custodians of the land and paying her respect to all Elders past and present and emerging.

#### G.2/10/21 Attendance

Present:

Caroline Knight

Darralyn Ebsary Marilyn Gray

**Bob Pond** 

Sue Fyfe Andy Gulliver **David Prattent** 

Claire Reid **Robert Harris** 

**Rob Summers** 

Nicholas Dufty

Chair

**Deputy Chair** Treasurer

**Executive Committee (DWER)** 

Community Member **Community Member** Community Member (9:25)

**Community Member** 

Local Government Member (Inland)

**DPIRD** 

DPLH (Observer)

In Attendance:

Jane O'Malley

Mel Durack Steve Fisher

Karen Henderson

**Deborah Chard** 

Karen Bettink Mick Davis

Corrine Duncan

Jesse Rowley

**Kristy Gregory** 

Mike Griffiths

Janine Neeling

Bec Mckenzie

**Christine Townsend** 

Nicole Ramsay

Chief Executive Officer

Operations Manager, Land Conservation and Agriculture

Operations Manager, Science and Waterways

Chief Finance Officer

Manager Corporate Services & Executive Support (Minutes)

Program Manager, Land Conservation Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator

Co-ordinator, Land Conservation

Healthy Waterways Officer (9:30 - 10:32)

PHCC Healthy Estuaries Officer (9:30 – 10:32)

Co-ordinator, River Restoration Hotham-Williams (9:30 - 10:32) Farmers for Fauna Co-ordinator (9:30 - 10:32)

Wetlands Restoration Officer (9:30 - 10:32)

Administration Officer

Administration Officer (minutes)

**Invited Guests:** 

Glenn Shaw

Heritage Projects, ILUA, DPLH (9:48 - 10:32)

Apologies:

Paddi Creevey OAM

**Howard Mitchell** Mark Cugley

Suzanne Brown **Andrew Ward Brad Cardilini** 

Secretary

Community Member

**DBCA** 

Water Corporation (Observer) PDC (Proxy Adrian Parker)

Local Government Member (Coastal)

# G.3/10/21 Declarations of Interest

Claire Reid (Community Member) declared a conflict of interest with regard to her employment at South32.

# G.4/10/21 Confirmation of Minutes of General Meeting held on 12 August 2021

**Moved: Darralyn Ebsary** 

**Seconded: Bob Pond** 

That the Minutes of the General meeting held on 12 August 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

### **CARRIED**

# G.5/10/21 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

| Minute No    | Update   |
|--------------|--|
| G.7/8/21 g)  | That a Working Group comprising of Howard Mitchell, Andy Gulliver, Bob Pond and Steve Fisher       |
|              | explore options and consider how best to capture visual monitoring of the current wet event        |
|              | across the catchment. CEO to have delegated authority to consider PHCC contribution from           |
|              | 'Partnership funding' up to the value of \$10K. Action item in progress – to remain open           |
| G.8/08/21    | That the Board endorses a contribution of \$10,000 from the Partnership budget, towards the        |
|              | design and move of PHCC and others (Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group and Harvey River                 |
|              | Restoration Taskforce) from the Waroona Landcare Centre to the old Ag Building in Waroona.         |
|              | This action is complete.   |
| G.10/08/21   | Howard Mitchell, Marilyn Gray, Nicholas Dufty and Bob Pond to form a working group to discuss      |
|              | how the Board can support an initiative that provides protection to the Peel Inlet, a regionally   |
|              | significant landscape, through planning policy at local and state level. The working group to      |
|              | report back to the Board on next steps. Action item to remain open in progress                     |
| G.7/6/21 b)  | Mark Cugley to follow up and provide a response to question of what assurances can be provided     |
|              | that there will not be a reoccurrence of the burn activity in Perup, noting the risk and potential |
|              | impact to the numbat population if something similar were to occur in Dryandra. In progress,       |
|              | meeting currently being scheduled with Greg Durell, Regional Manager Wheatbelt Region.             |
| G.7/6/21 h)  | Jane O'Malley to work with PHCC staff to explore workshop opportunities to gain a greater          |
|              | understanding of opportunities for Peel-Harvey landowners in respect to carbon offsets,            |
|              | including looking at Greencollar and what services they provide that may be of interest. PHCC      |
|              | liasing with stakeholders. This action item to be removed and managed via Strategic directions.    |
| G.12/4/21 c) | CEO to liaise with Malcolm Robb regarding his attendance at the June 2021 Board Meeting to         |
|              | present on the Peel-Harvey Estuary Plan and WQIP This action item is in progress, the Ops team     |
|              | are meeting with Malcom and will schedule presentation when WQIP is ready. To be removed           |
|              | from action items.   |
| G.6/8/20 e)  | CEO to look into having an appropriate state government representative present to the              |
|              | December 2020 Board meeting on the proposed streamlining of approvals. This action has been        |
|              | completed through discussion and information in respect to Environment online.                     |

## G.6/10/21 Correspondence

Correspondence was posted weekly on the Members' page of the website, with emails to members advising that new correspondence had been uploaded. The Correspondence Register was tabled at the meeting.

Moved: Darralyn Ebsary

Seconded: Marilyn Gray

That Correspondence In and Correspondence Out be accepted.

#### **CARRIED**

# G.7/10/21 Agency and Member Updates

#### a) Rob Summers, DPIRD

### **HEWA - Healthy Estuaries WA**

**Soil sampling:** The soil sampling program in the HEWA project has selected the landholders who will be taking part in sampling this year and participating farms have been digitised. 2 webinars have taken place (22 and 23/9/21) which introduces the basics of the "Do It Yourself" soil sampling program including short introductory videos on aspects of soil sampling and data capture. A follow up field day program will be in each catchment from 3/11/21 to 10/11/21 so that landholders can have hands-on training with the equipment in the field.

**Surveys:** Farmers who are taking part in soil sampling have been surveyed before and after their involvement to determine the changes in practices around the soil sampling. Training the surveyors from each of the catchment groups took place in Manjimup to introduce changes in the sampling and differences in the database on the iPads.

#### uPtake trials

To recap the purpose of the trials the uPtake project is working with a range of stakeholders to review the soil testing guideline information and improve understanding, credibility and collaboration of the basic information that is required to make a fertiliser recommendation from a soil test.

The uPtake project was developed as a part of the Regional Estuaries Initiative (REI) that identified a barrier to uptake of fertiliser testing was the understanding and credibility of the information that was used. Farmers and fertiliser companies were considered the main targets for collaboration and communication.

Field days have taken place to show landholders the results of this growth from the trials this year. The rainfall was so heavy this year that the phosphorus fertiliser which was applied had washed away and even an application of 40 kg P (equivalent to more than 400 kg of superphosphate) had washed away and only the plots which had nitrogen, potassium and phosphorus applied were growing well. The sandy soil showed its worst side by allowing all of the P to wash away.

### Crash course in nutrients

The DPIRD staff who are involved in industry development supporting intensive animal industries were at a training course in Busselton delivered by the nutrient management staff. The training course may be extended to a wider audience who are managing land use changes to be held in November in Albany. The course covers the issues of intensive agriculture and the impacts of repeated applications of phosphorus on the capacity of the soil to retain phosphorus.

### **Publications**

Weaver, D., Summers, R. (2021) Phosphorus status and saturation in soils that drain into the Peel Inlet and Harvey Estuary of Western Australia. Soil Research. Open access and downloadable from: <a href="https://www.publish.csiro.au/SR/pdf/SR20259">https://www.publish.csiro.au/SR/pdf/SR20259</a>

Publications in review or in press below. These will be publicly available and downloadable. The link will be provided when published.

Weaver D, Summers R, Rogers D and Richards P (2021) 'Assessment of soil sampling equipment for guiding fertiliser decisions', Resource management technical report 423, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australian Government.

Summers, R. N. Weaver, D. M. (in review). Phosphorus retention of a nutrient retentive filter in a wetland beaten by a simple pond. Submitted to Water (September 2021)

# b) Mark Cugley, DBCA

#### **Entangled Dolphin Calf**

On 28 September, Dolphin Watch Volunteers reported an entangled dolphin calf, the dolphin calf appeared to be tethered to the bottom of the estuary as a result of a fishing line entanglement around its tail. After attempting to free itself from the entanglement by thrashing around, the dolphin calf was able to dislodge the entanglement that was tethering it. The calf and its mother not were not sighted after it broke free and it was unclear if the calf managed to dislodge all or only some of the entanglement or if any significant injuries had occurred as a result. DBCA staff assisted by DPIRD and DoT staff and vessels joined Dolphin Watch Volunteers to search for mother and calf using a grid search technique, however these efforts proved unsuccessful. The dolphin calf was resighted by Dolphin Watch Volunteers on the afternoon of 6 October and it appeared the dolphin's tail remained entangled. DBCA staff joined Dolphin Watch Volunteers the following day in effort to relocate the calf and attempt to remove the entanglement, unfortunately the calf could not be relocated. It has not been sighted since although sadly its mother has been resighted on her own.

#### Fairy Tern breeding area on Boundary Island

The trial of a safe breeding area for Fairy Terns by fencing off a 50m x 130m area on the southern part of the Boundary Island is now in place, after the areas was fenced by DBCA in November 2020 with the support of volunteers of BirdLife Australia, PHCC and the WA Fairy Tern Network. Fox control has been undertaken earlier this month, with two foxes being removed. The WA Fairy Tern Network has deployed decoy Fairy Terns and signage advising any public that go to Boundary Island of the trial is in place. Red-capped plovers appear to be breeding within the fenced area and lots of Fairy Terns have been seen exhibiting courtship behaviour. So it is looking promising.

### Lake Mealup TAG and Lake McLarty TAG meetings

The Lake Mealup Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is meeting on 20 October 2021. The Lake McLarty TAG is meeting on 16 October 2021. DBCA greatly appreciates the knowledge and expertise of all stakeholders that are represented on these TAGs and their important work in assisting the DBCA to manage these areas with other land manages.

### **Replacement of Goegrup Lake Nature Reserve boardwalk**

Work to replace the ageing timber boardwalk in Goegrup Lake Nature Reserve is due to begin later in October 2021. There has been some delay in securing the required materials.

### c) Bob Pond, DWER

### **Dredging Licenses**

Dredging at the mouths of the Serpentine and Murray Rivers is complete with dredge spoil disposed in the Peel Inlet. Dredging of Mary Street Lagoon channel entrance complete with spoil disposed of offshore i.e. into the sea.

Processing a reclamation licence application by The Nature Conservancy to enable them to build their Blue Mussel Reefs at sites in the Peel Inlet and Harvey Estuary.

### **Stream Flow**

A water quality monitoring station will be re-established in the Lower Murray River. Essentially an instruments measuring and logging dissolved oxygen, salinity and pH will be deployed on a floating buoy to provide a continuous stream of water quality data. Previously the monitoring station made measurements in the top 0.5 m of the water column. The new monitoring station will also make measurements near the bottom of the water column providing information that might help us explain or predict fish kills.

#### d) Suzanne Brown – Water Corporation

Streamflows into dams have almost peaked, at 124.2 GL to date. Compare to previous years (as at October):

2020 - 21 GL

2019 - 41.3 GL

2018 - 131.4 GL

2017 - 95.3 GL

2016 - 44.7 GL

(Post 1975 average October inflow is 163.8, average peak is 175.9).

Link to the data: https://www.watercorporation.com.au/Our-water/Rainfall-and-dams/Streamflow

### e) Nicholas Dufty, DPLH (Planning)

There is not a lot of movement on proposals to report on. There is no update on the Point Grey which is sitting with minister's office. Movement in relation to the application may indicate that the applicants are reconsidering their proposal.

Settlers Road House development application submitted through the new Significant Development Application Unit (SDAU). The new unit and process will streamline the assessment process for large developments.

#### f) Andy Gulliver - Community Member

Congratulations and thank you to staff for fantastic events over the last two weekends. Great to see so many new faces and to be reaching a much wider audience.

### g) Claire Reid – Community Member

South32 is working to release information on its proposed expansion for public review. Once this is available Claire will be happy to provide an update for the board.

### h) Robert Harris - Community Member

The upper catchment has recorded higher rainfall which will have an impact on road infrastructure, salinity and weed growth. This may lead to increased nitrogen leaching into the water ways due to increased use. There is an expected price rise of UAN and Urea.

The areas are noting an increase in prices and low supplies of fuel and steel. There are also continued delays with deliveries and shipments.

### i) Sue Fyfe - Community Member

The Alcoa Holyoake refinery environmental review has been delayed.

Dwellingup has been awarded Western Australia's Top Small Tourism Town, continuing to the Nationals next week. Awards such as these can be beneficial in supporting our work to safe guard the environment.

### G.8/10/21 Presentation – Glenn Shaw, A/Manager, Heritage Projects, ILUA, DPLH

Glenn Shaw, provided an update on the South West Native Title Settlement, the implementation phase, agency/organisation commitments and responsibilities. He discussed ways in which PHCC can be proactive in this space.

### G.9/10/21 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer spoke to her report as provided with the agenda.

Moved: David Prattent

Seconded: Andy Gulliver

- 1. That the Treasurer's Report be endorsed as presented; and
- 2. That the following recommendations be endorsed as per the Treasurer's report:
  - a. The 2021-2022 PHCC Support and Employment Budgets be approved
  - b. The draft Minutes of the Finance & Audit Steering Committee be received
  - c. Karen Bettink, Program Manager Land Conservation, be added to the PHCC Credit Card Facility with a monthly limit capped at \$2,000

#### CARRIED

### G.10/10/21 Presentation – David Prattent, PHCC Finance and Audit Steering Committee Member

David Prattent presented on 'Good governance - Financial responsibilities of the Board'.

### G.11/10/21 Chief Executive Officer's Report

The CEO report should be read in conjunction with the Operation Managers reports (attached with the Agenda), for a more detailed description of project/program progress and outcomes. The CEO's full report was provided with the Agenda, highlights included:

It is fabulous to have the new organisational structure in place, and all but one (1) position yet to fill. We have farewelled some, welcomed new team members and celebrated 10 year anniversaries for Pat and Thelma. It is a great relief to have the team in place and up and running. The reports from the Land Cons and Science and Waterways teams are exceptional – please read these to see the breadth of fabulous work being delivered by the team, under the direction of Mel and Steve, with support of the Corporate Services teams lead by Karen and Deb. A copy of the new organisational structure chart was sent through to all on 21 September and a copy is on the Members Page. I am looking forward to my 3 months leave (last day is November 12 and back on 14 February. While I am away there will be a selection of fabulous Acting CEOs (see Chair's report):

#### Staff - Movements, Professional Development and More

Goal 2 - Secure our Future (Workforce Plan)

#### Farewells and Recruitment:

- Program Manager, Healthy Waterways remains vacant and we are endeavouring to fill
- Program Manager, Land Conservation and Agriculture Karen Bettink promoted to this position, commenced 20
   September
- Rivercare Coordinator, HW Kristy Gregory commenced 13 September
  - Stage 1 Peel Waterways Institute Jennie Beeson has been appointed as the Waterways Research Officer and will commence this new role 4 October
- Rivercare Officer Beck Mackenzie is backfilling Jennie Beeson's role and commenced 11 October
- Soil Test Support Officer [October to February] Austin Lilly commenced this role 28 September.
- Kim Wilson has reduced hours to 3 x 5 hour days.

**Boddington CRC (PHCC Regional Office)** - The CRC Treasurer met with Deb and myself (via phone 14 October) and reinforced the CRC value the work PHCC do and we are negotiating an extension to ~September 2021 to enable us to consider all options appropriately.

**Staff Culture**, wellbeing and Team Building – We continue to review and determine appropriate steps to support the team. I have been undertaking a 1:1, "what's working and what's not" discussion which is being well received and feedback if excellent. This has triggered some modifications to operations and we will continue to work through to keep the good and tweak the not so good.

**Staff Bulletin** – a great idea from the team (commenced 15 October).

**GRID/Mapping** – We remain on a periodical arrangement for GRID while we work across the 7 Regions to determine the best way forward that will meet individual business needs but also enable whole of state reporting of our collective outputs (tell the story of what NRM Regions achieve across the state).

### New Funding Applications / Business Contracts (see also Program Manager Reports)

Goal 2 - Secure our Future (Business Model)

Goal 6 – Engage and enable individuals and communities (Partnerships)

The figure below provides a snapshot of our secured and "in progress" funding to 2025/26. A detailed table showing budget, funders and commencement dates will be provided at the meeting.

## PHCC Project Funding 2021-2027 Actual & Projected

| Project                            |            | 2021/22 |       |     | 2022/23 |      |      | 2023/24 |                 |       | 2024/25  |     |         | 2025/26 |     |                |     | 2026/27 |       |     |     |     |     |     |
|------------------------------------|------------|---------|-------|-----|---------|------|------|---------|-----------------|-------|----------|-----|---------|---------|-----|----------------|-----|---------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|                                    | SEP        | DEC     | MAR   | JUN | SEP     | DEC  | MAR  | JUN     | SEP             | DEC   | MAR      | NUL | SEP     | DEC     | MAR | JUN            | SEP | DEC     | MAR   | JUN | SEP | DEC | MAR | NUL |
| Core Services                      |            |         |       |     |         |      |      |         |                 |       |          |     |         |         |     |                |     |         |       | 1   |     |     |     |     |
| Ramsar Wetlands                    | i he       |         |       |     | W.      |      |      |         |                 |       |          |     |         |         |     |                |     |         |       |     |     |     |     |     |
| Banksia Woodlands                  |            |         |       | T.  |         |      |      |         |                 |       |          |     |         |         |     |                |     |         |       |     |     |     |     |     |
| Numbat Neighbourhood               |            |         |       |     |         |      |      |         |                 |       |          |     |         |         |     |                |     |         |       |     |     |     |     |     |
| Greening Farms                     |            |         |       |     |         |      |      | 10/10   |                 |       | i.       |     |         |         |     |                |     |         |       |     |     |     |     |     |
| Black Cockatoo                     |            |         |       |     |         |      |      |         |                 |       |          |     |         |         |     |                |     |         |       |     |     |     |     |     |
| Healthy Estuaries                  |            |         | 939   |     |         | 29   | Sid. |         |                 |       |          |     |         |         |     |                |     |         |       |     |     |     | -   |     |
| Estuary Grants                     |            |         |       |     |         |      |      |         |                 |       |          |     |         |         |     |                |     |         |       |     |     |     |     |     |
| Healing Bilya                      | The second |         |       | 8 4 |         |      |      |         |                 |       |          |     |         |         |     |                |     |         | 2     |     | 1   |     |     |     |
| HW Warlang Boodja                  |            |         | 7     |     |         |      | 110  |         |                 |       | 35       |     |         |         |     |                |     |         |       |     |     |     |     |     |
| Hotham-Williams Rivers             | R          |         |       |     |         |      |      | - 1     | 1               | 1     |          |     | 2.4     |         |     |                |     |         |       |     |     |     |     |     |
| Peel Water Research Infrastructure |            |         | Evin. |     |         |      | No.  |         | The contract of |       |          | N   | institu |         |     |                |     |         |       |     |     |     |     |     |
| Saving Lake McLarty                | 1          |         |       |     |         |      |      |         |                 |       |          |     |         |         |     |                |     |         |       |     |     |     |     |     |
| Feral Cat Working Group            |            |         |       |     |         |      |      |         |                 |       |          |     |         |         |     |                |     |         |       |     |     |     |     |     |
| Peel Main Drain Monitoring         |            |         |       |     |         |      |      |         |                 |       |          |     |         |         |     |                |     |         |       |     |     |     | _   | _   |
| Peer Main Drain Monitoring         |            |         |       |     |         |      |      |         | Mari I          |       | <u> </u> |     |         |         |     |                |     |         |       |     |     |     |     |     |
| Lake Clifton Stewardship           |            |         |       |     |         |      |      |         |                 |       |          |     |         |         |     | Rese           |     |         |       |     |     |     |     |     |
| Hotham Williams 4LG MOU            |            |         |       |     |         |      |      |         |                 |       |          |     |         |         |     | REAL PROPERTY. |     |         |       |     |     |     |     |     |
| Science Integration (1FTE)         |            | 1-1     |       |     |         |      |      |         |                 | Wine. |          |     | I THE   |         | 20  |                | SN  |         | 18,14 |     |     |     |     |     |
| Landcare Support                   |            |         |       |     |         |      |      |         |                 |       |          |     |         |         |     | -              |     |         |       |     |     |     |     |     |
| Smartfarms                         |            |         |       |     |         |      |      |         |                 |       |          |     |         |         |     |                |     |         |       |     |     |     |     |     |
| Partnership - Shire of Murray      |            |         |       | MV. |         | 44.5 |      | 1-4     | TEST.           | 18    | PIGE     |     |         |         |     | _              |     |         |       |     |     |     |     |     |

a. Science Advisor – Continued funding (\$120,000 + City of Mandurah support)

We have submitted a funding proposal for a further 4 years funding for this role, with support of the PDC. We have sought support from the City of Mandurah and it is hoped that this will be presented to Council for their consideration before the end of the Calendar year (4 years support).

### b. Healthy Estuaries WA

We are meeting with DWER representatives on 27 October to discuss proposed variations to our Healthy Estuaries WA Agreement. This funding is from the \$5 million DWER secured for implementation of the Peel-Harvey Estuary Protection Plan. The Ag Steering Committee and Executive Group have assisted in reviewing a request from DWER to support trails of Iron Man Gypsum as part of the variation.

c. Lake Clifton Stewardship - MOU – City of Mandurah (\$50,000 x 5 years)
We are working with the City of Mandurah to endeavour to get an extension of our MOU with them (2017-2022) for \$50,000 p.a. for a further 5 years. It is hoped that this will be presented to Council for their consideration before the end of the Calendar year.

### Goal 6 – Engage and enable individuals and communities (Build Community Capacity)

### a. State NRM Community Engagement Grants

Awaiting announcement of successful applicants.

### b. Community Engagement (Ramsar)

Please see the Community Engagement Sections of the Healthy Waterways Operations Manager and Land Conservation Operations Manager – of particular note was our fabulous Wetland Weekender.

### **Projects (Refer also Program Manager Reports)**

Goal 4 – Facilitate Collaborative Adaptive Management

Goal 5 – Deliver quality environmental outcomes

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.

### 1. National Landcare Program - Core Services

- a. Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator Please refer Land Conservation & Ag PM Report.
- b. Communications We are meeting obligations for communications. A summary was provided with the agenda:

### c. Noongar Participation

**Procurement / Employment / Skills and Capability building** – We continue to work alongside our Noongar community to strengthen procurement opportunities, and build capacity.

**Procurement/Capacity** - Thelma continues to support the Winjan Ranger team and is actively working with our team to identify opportunities for employment.

### 2. Airport Offsets - Banksia and Wetlands

I am meeting (online) with representatives of the airport to discuss potential offset opportunities around protection and restoration of Banksia woodlands, Red Tailed Cockies and freshwater wetlands on 22 October.

### 3. Regional Estuaries Initiative - Peel Main Drain

Construction is complete and we are awaiting Operating Strategy and License Agreement. Peter Muirden will talk through the project at the site meeting scheduled for after the meeting.

#### Goal 3 - Influence key decision makers for better catchment governance

(refer also to Chair's report detailing strategic meetings)

### SAPPR and PHEMC Update - Suspension of SAPPR (No update)

**Native Vegetation Policy** - We have made a submission on the State's Native Vegetation Policy (thank you to Corrine Duncan and Karen Bettink), advising that we do not support the Policy in its current form (please refer correspondence).

**Minister for Environment (State) -** We are working with Robyn Clarke to provide a half day tour of the catchment with Amber Jade Sanderson (State Minister for Environment).

**EPA Chairman, Matthew Tonts – 6 September** Steve Fisher and I had a productive meeting with Matthew Tonts. Matthew has asked to meet again, particularly to discuss offsets and Native Veg Policy. We have invited him to visit and hope that he will take us up on this offer soon. Note email received 13.9.21:

### Other highlights and project updates

Work Health Safety - There are no significant issues to report.

Moved: Marilyn Gray

Seconded: Sue Fyfe

That the CEO's Report be endorsed as presented.

### CARRIED

### G.12/10/21 Chairman's Report

The Chair spoke to her report as provided with the agenda, setting out details of meetings and events she had attended. Welcome to Kambarang the time of transition as we move to the warmer season. Traditionally it's a time to move closer to the wetlands to feast on its rich resources and to share stories.

### Meetings

The last two months have been a little quieter than usual in terms of meetings with both Jane & I taking leave, however we have met with Andrew Hastie given the looming Federal election. Discussion focussed on long-term funding needs to implement significant landscape scale environmental improvements across our catchment. We discussed the Federal Government tender process and the significant strain that the delivery processes places on our organisation and its own staff and requested his support as we rapidly move towards June 2023 and the end of the current funding round.

In February RDA is facilitating a Zoom meeting with candidates and sitting members of Federal Parliament which will give us the opportunity to continue discussion of our election requests.

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#### News

We have secured funding in the interim for our Science Advisor position for the 2021/2022 period and will work with the PDC to progress to the next steps to secure funding for a further four years as a State Budget Priority Initiative. I'd like to acknowledge David Templeman for his continued support in this space.

Our fabulous team delivered a hugely successful Wetlands Weekender Festival over the 8-10th of October. It was a fantastic weekend from the Flyway Dinner where we connected with international guest speakers from Alaska, Mongolia, and the Philippines right through to the Wonders of the Wetlands Coodanup Foreshore event. Community turnout was impressive (see Steve's report) but importantly there were many many new faces out and about exploring and learning about our wonderful waterways. Our staff did an amazing job showcasing PHCC professionalism and our vision of people working together for a healthy environment. A big thank you to Steve, Charlie, Jesse, Julie, Jenni Beeson, Grace (our volunteer) and the whole team who pulled together this fabulous weekend, noting lots of the team volunteered to help out across the weekend.

We have again received an unqualified audit so a big shout out to Karen and Pat, and the whole team for maintaining such good governance across our operations.

CEO on 3 months leave. The Executive Group has approved 3 months leave for our CEO, who will be heading to Adelaide for a long awaited cuppa with her Mum. While she is gone we have a fabulous selection of Acting CEO's:

- 15 November to 23 December (6 weeks) Melanie Durack
- 24 December to 21 January (4 weeks) Charlie Jones
- 24 January to 11 February (3 weeks) Steve Fisher

A big thank you to Mel, Charlie and Steve for agreeing to be CEO over this time. We wish our CEO a fabulous break, her last day will be 12 November and she will be back on Valentine's Day – just in time for the February Strategic meeting.

It is with interest that we watch our Federal Government pivoting around the Climate Change debate and the realisation that Climate Change poses both financial and physical impact risks. While for those of us involved in productive landscapes with diverse, healthy resilient ecosystems this comes as no surprise. We can only hope that international pressure ahead of the Glasgow COP26 summit results in a meaningful climate policy for our country

Moved: Rob Summers Seconded: Darralyn Ebsary

That the Chairman's Report be endorsed as presented.

#### **CARRIED**

### G.13/10/21 Confirmation of next meeting date

The next meeting is a General meeting scheduled for Thursday 9 December (venue to be confirmed), which will be followed by our end of year event.

The meeting closed at 11.55 am

| Chair: | Signed on next page |
|--------|---------------------|
|        |                     |
| Date:  |                     |

Nil actions arising from this General Board meeting.

Summary of actions from General Board meeting held on Thursday 12 August 2021:

| Minute No.  | DETAILS   | RESP.  | ACTION      |
|-------------|---|--|-------------|
| G.7/8/21 g) | That a Working Group comprising Howard Mitchell, Andy Gulliver, Bob Pond and Steve Fisher explore options and consider how best to capture visual monitoring of the current wet event across the catchment. CEO to have delegated authority to consider PHCC contribution from 'Partnership funding'  | Nominated<br>Board and PHCC<br>staff members | In progress |
| G.10/08/21  | up to the value of \$10K.  Howard Mitchell, Marilyn Gray, Nicholas Dufty and Bob Pond to form a working group to discuss how the Board can support an initiative that provides protection to the Peel Inlet, a regionally significant landscape, through planning policy at local and state level. The working group to report back to the Board on next steps. | Nominated<br>Board Members                   | In progress |

Summary of actions from General Board meeting held on Thursday 17 June 2021:

| Minute No.  | DETAILS  | RESP.       | ACTION  |
|-------------|--|-------------|---|
| G.7/6/21 b) | Mark to follow up and provide a response to question of what assurances can be provided that there will not be a reoccurrence of the burn activity in Perup, noting the risk and potential impact to the numbat population if something similar were to occur in Dryandra. | Mark Cugley | In progress – topic to be<br>discussed at meeting between<br>Jane O'Malley and Greg<br>Durell, Regional Manager<br>Wheatbelt Region |

9.12.21