

PEEL-HARVEY CATCHMENT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2007

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council held at the Peel Waterways Centre, Mandurah on Thursday 18th October 2007 at 9am.

Attendance

Present:	Jan Star	Chairman
	Leon Brouwer	
	Don Glenister	
	Neil Guise	
	Andy Gulliver	
	Garry Heady	
	Peter Hick	
	Shane Kelliher	
	Denyse Needham	
	Ian Wight-Pickin	
	Bob Pond	
	Maria Wauchope	
	Maxine Whitely	
Damien Postma	Executive Officer	
In Attendance:	Tracy Cook	Minute-taker
	Jodee Lysaght	
	Sarah Molloy	
	Jesse Steele	
	Lara Suitor	
Kim Wilson		

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Marilyn Gray, Colleen Yates, Dennis Veitch and Tony Hiscock.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

On the motion of Bob Pond / Andy Gulliver, the minutes of the 2006 Annual General Meeting held on 19th October 2006 having been distributed were taken as read and confirmed.

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that 2006/07 had been a year of growth which would continue to produce results for some time. The partnerships of the PHCC had grown and developed and recognition of the organization had increased. While projects were proceeding well – in fact producing exciting results, the reduced level of capacity (staffing) had created stresses especially as the capacity needs of the organization were actually increasing. Funding for the PHCC was secured until mid-2008 at this stage and funding beyond this time was currently being negotiated between the Australian and Western Australian Governments. Even though it would be reassuring to know that the NHT program would continue seamlessly, it is also now recognized that there was a need for more funding than that which the PHCC will be able to access through NHT alone.

One of the big initiatives growing from current partnerships is the PHCC's involvement in the emerging "Governance Model". Arising from discussions with the EPA and WAPC Chairmen, the model had been developed by the DoW, PDC and PHCC officers and would go to Cabinet shortly as a proposed government response to the Water Quality Improvement Plan. The Governance Model calls for a representative of local government and this had spurred work by the LG's on developing a Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (VROC). The prime outcome of the Coastal Catchments Initiative, the WQIP, had been released by the EPA for comment. Its implementation would require significant funding and submissions for this have been made to Western Australian and Australian Governments. The PHCC had extended its MoU with the EPA and have a mutually beneficial relationship with them with the current Chairman acknowledging that the Peel-Harvey was one area where (sub) regional delivery is working well.

Through the Peel Regional Leaders Forum the PHCC had developed closer relations with the Peel local governments culminating in our facilitating funding applications for a Climate Change Adaptation Risk Management project on their behalf and a specific Water Cycle project for the Mundijong development in Serpentine-Jarrahdale. The Labor Party had recently made a 2007 election commitment to these Initiatives. Water Sensitive Urban Design projects with individual local governments following on the Water Campaign work have helped develop this relationship. The publication of the PDC's work on WSUD Technical Guidelines and Model Local Planning Policy had been very well received by local governments and developers and had been a great help. The PHCC were handling the sales of the document for the PDC. The PHCC were also very fortunate to host a visit by the Lake Macquarie Catchment Coordinator, Jeff Jansson, through the generosity of the Lake Macquarie City Council GM, Brian Bell. Jeff has had a lot of experience with WSUD and proved very helpful.

Another area of growth had been in relationships with land developers; the most obvious manifestation of a lot of work by members and officers was an invitation to attend a design forum on Point Grey. Keralup (Amarillo), Preston Beach and Nambellup would continue to be other major foci. Balancing this there had also

been success in the protection of Threatened Species in submissions on proposals considered under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. Land development continues to be a major issue in natural resource management for the catchment. It was proving very resource intensive and an area where the PHCC could get very little assistance from the South West Catchments Council so that efforts had to be limited – and therefore strategic.

It was with sorrow that the Chairman noted the death of the Nyungar respected Elder, Joe Walley, who helped to develop the PHCC's relations with the Bilya group. These had progressed with some outcomes during the year being the Goegerup Lake Action Plan, the Indigenous Cultural Heritage Model and the introduction to sites around the estuary arranged by Greening WA and Alcoa. The PHCC's collective knowledge and understanding was growing, helped also by some good work being done by Bill Bennell of SWCC.

The organization had spent a lot of time on the Main Roads Southern Gateway Alliance with disappointing results but the building of the highway had focused attention on the land use planning implications and had produced the Eastern Estuary Environmental Assessment study. There had also been a lot of other studies commissioned by MRWA which will add to our body of knowledge.

The other sustainability effort, Peel 2020, had also progressed, albeit slowly. The best hope was the incorporation of Peel 2020 and the PHCC's work on a Biosphere proposal which has slowed because of the work on the ECD and Management Plan for the Ramsar area. This aspect was progressing very well with a great increase in general awareness and the imminent signing of a MoU with the Department of Environment and Conservation. The Auditor-General's report on management of Ramsar sites no doubt helped expedite action.

The formation of the Department of Water had strengthened an already good partnership. There had been some major policy development on drainage/water management which fitted well with PHCC priorities and efforts. This along with the Water Law Reform, State and regional Water Plans and the highlighting of the "Loss of Floodplain Connectivity" as an Emerging Issue in the State of Environment Report had created a fertile ground for raising the ecosystem services function of wetlands and the need for their restitution (Murray River is one of their examples). Underpinning this would be our comprehensive report on Drainage (prepared by Andrew Del Marco) which was due for release soon.

It was worth noting that there is also a section on the Peel-Harvey in the Australian State of Environment Report. It was timely that our brochure on the PHCC had been printed as it helped raise the organizations' profile. The PHCC's partnership with Greening Australia was continuing to grow with the Murray being one of the two areas in WA for their national Alcoa River Recovery Project. The PHCC had also been given access to a technical group set up to help the Swan River Trust. The PHCC had also hosted a major seminar on the use of compost in NRM with

two speakers from the NSW government who were significantly advanced in this area.

The PHCC's relationship with SWCC had also grown as the two organizations faced up to differences in our roles, and conflicts, actual and potentially within these. The PHCC had struggled to get acceptance by their Executive of a "federation model" where the sub-regions are partners, not just subordinates. In the beginning the PHCC had had to fight for recognition of sub-regional issues, now the PHCC pressed for recognition of the quantum of those issues. There had now appeared to have been some recognition that there are significant differences between the PHCC and the other sub-regions but no extra funding support had resulted from this recognition – as yet. In the meantime the PHCC had been fully supportive of the Regional Delivery Model when it came under attack from the state agencies.

Climate Change had emerged fully into the public arena – and Peter Hick had helped locally with his report and presentations. It was appearing to validate the effort put into oil mallees and this effort would continue to increase – across the state. In addition to the PHCC's proposal to help local governments with adaptation/risk management, Climate Change was going to be an area for further attention in 2007/08, particularly in the area of biodiversity.

In concluding her report the Chairman noted that – there were people behind all this effort, the board has new agency representatives in Maria Wauchope(DEC) and Leon Brouwer(DoW); and the centre had new staff in Amanda Willmott, Catherine Johnston (Ribbons of Blue) and Thelma Crook (Greening) into the Peel Waterways Centre. There was a new Rivercare officer in Lara Sutor, a new Coordinator at the SJ Landcare Centre, Jodee Lysaght, and a new NRMO for Williams/Narrogin in Natalie Thomas. Kim Wilson was spending some time assisting Damien Postma, our Executive Officer. Damien had coped magnificently with the extra load caused by the decrease in resources and the Chairman passed on her sincere thanks to him for his forbearance - and considerable achievements. The Chairman thanked all involved for their efforts and wished Murray Love all the best in his new endeavours, his loss would be felt in NRM but his skills were well needed at the SGA.

The Chairman's report was accepted on the motion of Maxine Whitely / Peter Hick.

4. Presentation of Financial Statements

Ian Wight-Pickin advised that regrettably the auditor had not finished the audit but this should be completed within the next two weeks. Thus on the motion of Ian Wight Pickin / Andy Gulliver it was resolved that consideration of the 2007/07 Financial Statements be to the November meeting.

5. Election of Office Bearers

The Chairman vacated the Chair and the Executive Officer called for nominations for the position of Chairman. Jan Star was nominated as Chairman on the motion of Ian Wight-Pickin / Bob Pond and was elected unopposed. Jan accepted the position of Chairman.

Andy Gulliver was nominated for the position of Deputy Chairman on the motion of Maxine Whitely / Bob Pond and was elected unopposed. Andy accepted the position of Deputy Chairman.

Ian Wight-Pickin was nominated for the position of Treasurer on the motion of Peter Hick / Bob Pond and was elected unopposed.

Ian Wight-Pickin was nominated for the position of Secretary and on the motion of Peter Hick / Don Glenister was elected unopposed. Ian accepted the positions of Treasurer and Secretary.

Jan Star resumed the Chair.

6. Election of Executive Committee Members

The proposed membership of the Executive Committee, and Finance and Audit Committee was discussed. The current convention is:

- The Executive Committee shall consist of the Office Bearers of the PHCC (being the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) and one additional member of the full Council and that this committee shall be chaired by the PHCC Chairman,
- The Audit and Finance Committee shall consist of the Deputy Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and one additional member of the full council of the PHCC and that this committee shall be chaired by the PHCC Treasurer.

As the positions of Secretary and Treasurer were combined it was proposed that an additional member of the PHCC board (two in total) should reside on the Executive and Audit and Finance Committees to ensure a diversity of opinion and sufficient numbers for a quorum.

The Chairman called for nominations for PHCC board members to the Executive Committee.

Don Glenister was nominated for the position of Executive Committee Member on the motion of Andy Gulliver / Neil Guise and was elected unopposed. Don Glenister accepted the position.

Bob Pond was nominated for the position of Executive Committee Member on the motion of Peter Hick / Neil Guise and was elected unopposed. Bob Pond accepted the position.

As a result, the Executive Committee of the PHCC for the following year would consist of Ms Jan Star (Chair), Andy Gulliver, Ian Wight-Pickin, Don Glenister and Bob Pond.

It was unanimously resolved that in accordance with accepted convention of the PHCC, the above people shall be exclusively authorised as signatories to the PHCC bank accounts.

Nominations were called for PHCC board members to the Finance and Audit Committee in addition to the Secretary/Treasurer (Ian Wight-Pickin) and the Deputy Chairman (Andy Gulliver). None were forthcoming so this matter was deferred to the next meeting.

Nominations were also called for PHCC board members to the Communications Committee in addition to the Chair (Andy Gulliver). On the motion of Neil Guise / Leon Brouwer: Garry Heady, Bob Pond and Don Glenister were elected unopposed.

During her continued leave of absence it was agreed to replace Marilyn Gray on the Project Steering Committees as follows:

Ian Wight-Pickin will stand on the P-H Rivercare Action Committee; and Shane Kelliher will stand on the Hotham Williams Murray River Salinity Recovery Project Committee.

7. Appointment of an Auditor

On the motion of Maxine Whitely / Ian Wight-Pickin it was resolved to reappoint AMD Chartered Accountants as auditor for the 2007/08 financial year.

8. Review of Agency Members

After significant discussion regarding the Western Australian Government Agency representatives required on the board of the PHCC it was noted on the motion of Don Glenister / Peter Hick that the agencies be represented as follows:

- Department of Environment and Conservation: Ms Maria Wauchope;
- Department of Water: Mr Leon Brouwer;
- Peel Waterways Centre: Mr Bob Pond;
- Department of Agriculture and Food: Mr Neil Guise, proxy to Rob Summers; and
- Peel Development Commission: Ms Colleen Yates.

On the motion of Don Glenister / Peter Hick it was resolved that the PHCC should again write to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DPI) requesting an appropriate representative on the PHCC Board. It was commented that the request should be targeted and focus specifically on strategic land use planning, possibly someone from the Southern Metro Peel (Andrew Montgomery) as this is very relevant to PHCC priorities.

9. Close

The Chairman closed the business of the Annual General Meeting at 9.45am.

10. Next Annual General Meeting

The next Annual General meeting of the PHCC would be held in accordance with clause 12.1 of the Constitution.

Chairman

Date