

PEEL-HARVEY CATCHMENT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2008

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council held at the Peel Waterways Centre, Mandurah on Thursday 16th October 2008 at 9am.

Attendance

Present:

Jan Star AM	Chairman
Leon Brouwer	
Don Glenister	
Marilyn Gray	
Garry Heady	
Peter Hick	
Tony Hiscock	
Shane Kelliher	
Cr Denyse Needham	
Bob Pond	
Cr Dennis Veitch	
Maxine Whitely	
Colleen Yates	
Damien Postma	Executive Officer

In Attendance:

Alex Hams	
Jodee Lysaght (part)	
Tyron Miley	
Nick Samson	
Marie Short	
Jesse Steele	
Jane Townsend	
Amanda Willmott	
Kim Wilson	
Tracy Cook	Minute-taker

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Neil Guise and Andy Gulliver.

2. Acknowledgements

The Chairman informed the board that, as a result of his new position in the Dept of Premier and Cabinet, Ian Wight-Pickin had formally resigned as a community member and Treasure/Secretary of the PHCC. The board were also informed that Jesse Steele had tendered his resignation, effective from the 31st of October, from

his position as Drainage/Research officer with the PHCC to take on a role as an Environmental Officer with Newmont Boddington Gold Mine. It was universally agreed that both Ian and Jesse had made significant contributions to the organisation and they were wished well in their new endeavours.

Nick Samson, the new NRMO at Williams replacing Natalie Lees, was welcomed to the meeting.

It was also noted that Natalie Lees has been offered the position of Rivercare Officer (replacing Shane Kearney) at the City of Mandurah, starting 27th October.

3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

On the motion of Maxine Whitely / Peter Hick, the minutes of the 2007 Annual General Meeting held on 18th October 2007 having been distributed were taken as read and confirmed.

4. Chairman's Report

We've had a very interesting, if frustrating, year. Interesting in that a change of federal government has opened up new funding opportunities, and potential partners, frustrating in that their commitment to the theory of the Regional Delivery model is not strong and all the strategic work may be lost. Frustrating in that a change of state government may mean the hard work that went into the proposed Governance Model will have to be partly restarted but interesting in that there is increased emphasis on regionalism. It has also meant losing Ian Wight-Pickin as a Council member as he has become Chief of Staff to the Deputy Premier, Kim Hames. Kim has been a good supporter as one of our MPs and regularly attends our Annual Forum. So at least someone in Cabinet knows we exist.

SWCC has a new Chairman in David Gardner who knows the government scene well. He is supportive of sub-regions as the necessary arena for activity and is progressing a review of the roles and responsibilities within the SWCC federated structure. This has had added impetus from the new Caring for Our Country (CfoC) federal funding model, which has meant the sub-regions can apply independently, it also means that the State doesn't have to be a party to the continued Commonwealth funding for regional groups. There is state money committed which presumably can be used by the agencies to leverage further federal funding. While the WQIP is still a draft it has formed the basis for an excellent proposal for state funding from DoW, which also gives us a role. It is also the basis for further CfoC funding proposals from us. One of the frustrations is not knowing yet how to meld the state and federal processes.

The completion of the ECD and draft Ramsar Management Plan has been a major achievement and lines up well with the federal government's Outcomes for the next five years. We have one proposal submitted and SWCC funding would also cover some work. Further negotiation with SWCC may be required if our submission is

successful. The awareness of Ramsar has increased significantly, partly through good work from our staff, partly by increased application of the EPBC Act – and good work from staff, and partly through increasing insistence from community groups such as PPG and Fragyle.

Allied to this has been a growing emphasis on wetlands and the palusplain and their role in the ecosystem. Andrew Del Marco has completed the Drainage Reform Plan for us and DPI has a draft Strategic Framework for Southern Metro-Peel which acknowledges the lack of information on the palusplain and groundwater systems and calls for a moratorium on development there for now. The proposal to develop Keralup is a practical challenge to this work, and to the WQIP. It is also an area we wish to focus on in our developing partnership with Greening WA. Because of the involvement of Alcoa and their partnership with them in their River Recovery project but also from our perspective, because of the presence of wetland chains, we are starting with the Alcoa lands and the eastern estuary area (and URS have completed their study “State of Play” which is timely). Greening are looking for a large landscape scale project similar in scale to the Gondwana Link (to which they hosted a visit) so this has a great potential. For us it is a great vision to look at enhancing/re-establishing a wetland system in the palusplain using drainage modification, and other restoration activities. Andy has started to show the way in wetland re-creation, and both DEC and DoW are also involved in this area. DAFWA have increased their attention on land-use planning, small landholders and the food production potential of the coastal plain (with PDC helping with a Farmer’s Market), as well as BMPs for WQIP objectives, so interesting synergies are developing.

With support from our local governments the Commonwealth is funding us to work with them on Climate Change Adaptation. In general our work with our local governments is increasing, with two big Water Sensitive Design projects in Murray, a proposed one in Waroona and assistance to Serpentine-Jarrahdale to obtain federal funding for a water cycle management study for Mundijong urban development. Our local governments are doing some great implementation work with the Water Campaign and results are starting to show.

A new partnership starting to develop is with Murdoch University including the West Australian Marine Science Institute (WAMSI) which just happens to include senior scientists who did a lot of early work on the P-H system. We and the PWC/DoW are supporting a grant application which is aiming eventually at a post-doctoral fellow with research students working on the P-H Estaurine System. This has an obvious precursor relationship to the proposed Peel Waterways Institute but no one is mentioning the PWI at present. We are also helping PDC, Greening and DOW continue the Cultural Landscapes project with the three main Nyungar families. As our work on wetlands grows this is an important partnership as the wetlands were integral to Aboriginal seasonal movement and gatherings.

With our attention focused on projects many relationships and activities have not been able to be pursued as vigorously as usual, but we have made progress in partnerships and influence and our actual achievements as projects conclude are excellent. We have expended over \$2.3m in the Hotham Williams, Groundworks, Rivercare, Dryandra, HRRT, Ramsar and more, and our Landcare Centres have been involved and also added to this. Noteworthy is that more than \$2.05m of this was direct project expenditure. It has been a monumental effort by all. We are well placed on sound foundations to have big dreams and I think now is the time to be bold, to pursue proper governance and funding for the Peel-Harvey, to establish more autonomy, to insist that improved water quality has to be a result of any development and to aim for a functioning wetland ecosystem.

Among other things.

Thank you to Council members for your contributions and support – and to all staff, Kim, Amanda, Alex and Jesse and everyone out in the field – and of course thank you to Damien for his magnificent efforts in coping with everyone's demands and so ably managing our achievements.

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

5. Presentation of Financial Statements (Audit statement deferred as not yet available from AMD)

The Executive Officer (in the absence of the Treasurer) re-presented the June 2008 Activity Statement representing the PHCC Financial Statement for 2007/08. It was explained that the 2007/08 was still being undertaken by AMD and the results of this audit would be presented to members as soon as completed. On the motion of Dennis Veitch / Colleen Yates the 2007/08 Financial Statements were accepted.

6. Election of Office Bearers

The Chairman vacated the Chair, Jesse Steele took the Chair and called for nominations for the position of Chairman. Jan Star was nominated as Chairman on the motion of Dennis Veitch / Maxine Whitely and was elected unopposed. Jan Star accepted the position as Chairman of the PHCC.

Andy Gulliver was nominated for the position of Deputy Chairman on the motion of Peter Hick / Don Glenister and was elected unopposed. Andy, in anticipation of being nominated but knowing he would be absent, had discussed with the Executive Officer his willingness to accept the position of Deputy Chairman, although only if no other member had expressed any interest. Andy had stressed the need to consider adequate succession planning and with his current work commitments, his likely inability to commit to the position of Chairman in the near future. These matters were noted by members and Andy Gulliver was elected as Deputy Chairman.

Marilyn Gray was nominated for the position of Treasurer on the motion of Don Glenister / Bob Pond and was elected unopposed. Marilyn accepted the position of Treasurer.

Peter Hick was nominated for the position of Secretary and on the motion of Marilyn Gray / Colleen Yates and was elected unopposed. Peter accepted the position of Secretary.

Jan Star resumed the Chair.

7. 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.

The Chairman called for nominations for PHCC board members to the Executive Committee: Bob Pond was nominated on the motion of Maxine Whitely / Peter Hick and accepted the position on the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee of the PHCC for the following year would consist of Jan Star (Chair), Andy Gulliver, Marilyn Gray, Peter Hick 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 Treasurer (Marilyn Gray) and the Deputy Chairman (Andy Gulliver). Tony Hiscock was nominated on the motion of Marilyn Gray / Denyse Needham and accepted.

Nominations were also called for PHCC board members to the Communications Committee in addition to the Chair (Andy Gulliver). Neil Guise was nominated on the motion of Tony Hiscock / Bob Pond and Colleen Yates was nominated on the motion of Colleen Yates / Denyse Needham.

Representation by members on the project steering committees was discussed, and updated register of appointments to project steering committees would be distributed.

8. Appointment of an Auditor

The Executive Officer reported that he had obtained a list of recommended auditors from DOCEP and will be contacting relevant parties in the Perth Metropolitan Area located south of river (as there appears to be very few locally) to obtain quotations and availability.

The Executive Officer recommended the board endorse the continuation of AMD as the Auditor for PHCC project audits for the current active projects (for the sake of continuity) and for the PHCC organizational audit until such time as the matter is considered by the Audit & Finance Committee.

On the motion of Maxine Whitely / Marilyn Gray it was resolved to reappoint AMD Chartered Accountants as auditor for the 2007/08 financial year for all current project audits and for the PHCC organisational audit until such time as the matter was considered by the Audit & Finance Committee.

9. Review of Agency Members

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

- Department of Environment and Conservation: Mr Richard Williams;
- Department of Water: Mr Leon Brouwer;
- Peel Waterways Centre: Mr Bob Pond;
- Department of Agriculture and Food: Mr Neil Guise;
- Peel Development Commission: Ms Colleen Yates; and
- Department for Planning and Infrastructure: Mr Dave Arkwright.

Dave Arkwright will be invited by formal letter to represent the DPI.

10. Close

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

11. Next Annual General Meeting

The next Annual General meeting of the PHCC would be held in accordance with clause 12.1 of the Constitution, unless otherwise advise to be held on Thursday the 19th October 2009.

Chairman

Date