



GSBC NRM Special Committee Meeting # 52 Minutes

Devils Corner
Wednesday 21st September 2016, 10:30am.

1.0 PRESENT

Present: David Tucker (Chair), Terry Higgs (Catchments to Coast Coordinator), Cynthia Maxwell-Smith (GSBC Sustainability Officer), Nicky Meeson (GSBC Biodiversity Officer), Amanda Brooks (GSBC Weed Officer), Rosie Jackson (GSBC NRM Administration), Councillor Bertrand Cadart, Jane Wing (Orford Community Group), Diana Nunn (Coles Bay), Gary Stoward (Dolphin Sands Ratepayers Assoc.), Ben Flear (Brown Brothers Devils Corner Vineyard), Lyndel Wilson (NRM South), Derek Madsen (*Banwell*).

Guests: Jill Jones (Department State Growth), Dave Richardson (Road Network Supervisor/Customer Service Officer, State Roads Division, Department of State Growth), Matt Davis (Department State Growth).

2.0 APOLOGIES

Mel Kelly (GSBC Manager Natural Resources), Kate Hibbert (Department of Defence), Alan Morgan (Coles Bay), Kath Hitchcock (PWS Triabunna Field Centre), Cassie Melrose (MelShell Oysters), Judy Broadstock (Bicheno).

The Chair welcomed Amanda and the guests from the Department of State Growth, and thanked Ben for providing the meeting venue.

3.0 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Confirmation of previous minutes from GSB NRM Committee meeting no. 51.

Moved: Jane Wing. *Seconded:* Ben Fleer. *Carried unanimously.*

4.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING.

Circulate the Tassal PowerPoint presentation to Committee members via email, for their information. Done.

Circulate the new TOR to Committee members via email. Done.

Present to the Committee at the next meeting regarding illegal rubbish dumping research and reports published by the EPA in NSW. Cynthia will be presenting at today's meeting.

Invite the northern and southern Stornaway supervisors to attend a future Committee meeting to discuss hygiene, wash down and slashing. Department of State Growth staff are attending today's meeting.

Remove Bicheno GPT sign and store until a decision is made about the future of the GPT. The sign has been removed. Bicheno staff noted that the GPT is broken, and it does not currently capture anything, it all washes out to sea. Terry and Cynthia to look into the award winning GPT installed at Glenorchy.

Invite a representative from CLS to attend a future Committee meeting to discuss Bagot Point and Crown Land in general. An invitation has been sent. Hopefully a CLS representative will be able to attend a future meeting. Mel to follow up.

Follow up again with the new Chair of the ECPPA regarding ECPPA representation on the Committee. Mel has followed up with an email. No reply received to date.

Follow up with CLS regarding a site visit to Rice Pebble Beach Crown Land Reserve to inspect the ongoing illegal vegetation clearing. In process.

Follow up with Regulatory Services Manager regarding the emptying of the Coles Bay slipway drain. In process.

Invite the General Manager to the next NRMC meeting to discuss the proposed dam on the Brushy Plains Rivulet for additional supply of water to the south of the municipality. In process.

5.0 COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE

- 19/6/2016 Letter to GSBC GM, regarding erosion and sedimentation from Solis
No reply received to date.
- 21/6/2016 Letter to GSBC GM, regarding native vegetation clearing in public reserves in Orford and Triabunna.
No reply received to date.

Given that native vegetation clearing in public reserves in Orford and Triabunna has occurred again in recent weeks, David agreed to follow up with another letter to the GM.

Terry noted that internal, informal discussions have been had with the Works Manager about how to address these concerns. A meeting will be held soon with all the key people attending, and Terry is working with the Works Manager to facilitate some in house training for Parks and Gardens staff.

Bertrand offered to talk to the GM about the concerns raised by the Committee.

6.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE

Nil further.

7.0 GUEST SPEAKERS, DEPARTMENT STATE GROWTH; HYGIENE, WASH DOWN & SLASHING PERTAINING TO STATE GROWTH MANAGED ROADS/ROADSIDES

Jill Jones, Matt Davis and Dave Richardson from the Department of State Growth.

Jill reported that the new weed plan and strategy is nearly finalised. Current priorities include eradication of grasses such as African lovegrass and Texan and Chilean needle grass.

DSG are currently working with Stornaway to get more weed contractors on their books. The ongoing collaboration with GSBC has been very successful. However, there will be less funding this year than in previous years.

Matt noted that they have a limited budget, and they have to prioritise funding across the state while taking into account the willingness of each Council to support the weed control activities. DSG would like to use the collaboration with GSB as a model.

In regards to hygiene, signage will be installed in the next two months. A procedure statement will then need to be written, GSB is welcome to have input into this statement.

Dave noted that because hygiene/wash down is self-regulated, they will continue to ask contractors about their practices, as well as continuing to educate contractors about good hygiene/wash down practices and why it is so important. Hygiene/wash down is written into contracts. DSG advise contractors that they will find out if wash down is not being done, because they know people are watching the contractors.

In regards to the north of the municipality, Dave is happy to work with GSBC in regards to slashing direction (ie. North to South, East to West).

Lyndel noted that NRM South works with Biosecurity Tasmania and other members of the Biosecurity Network to plan biosecurity initiatives. This includes working with contractors.

Jill noted that DSG will also be rolling out signage for priority weed sites, to indicate to contractors that roadside activities are limited in these areas.

Nicky asked if GSBC could be notified when the slashers are coming. Jill advised that she can let us know.

Dave noted that he is open to suggestions about practice change. But safety remains the priority.

Lunch 12:15pm – 12:45pm

8.0 PRESENTATION FROM SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER REGARDING ILLEGAL RUBBISH DUMPING RESEARCH & REPORTS PUBLISHED BY THE EPA IN NSW.

The report explored the motivations of dumpers and found there were four main reasons people dumped rubbish: convenience, unwillingness to pay, uncaring attitude and the existence of networks through businesses etc.

There are environmental, social and financial costs associated with rubbish dumping.

Dumpers knew that it was illegal, but thought it was acceptable. They did not understand why dumping garden waste was a problem. People know that it is unlikely that they will be fined, fines are a mild deterrent.

The report identified that there was a need to spell out the impacts of dumping, because people 'just don't get it'. Cultural and social norms play a role.

Cynthia will supply Rosie with the link to the report, for Rosie to circulate to the Committee.

The Committee then had a discussion about the difficulties with getting a prosecution for dumping rubbish. Cynthia noted that if we could just get one prosecution in GSB, this would go a long way towards getting publicity and deterring others.

Bertrand noted there is also a problem with informal unofficial "tips" on private land, where private land owners charge less than the official WTS.

Dave suggested that if this is a problem, it should be reported to the EPA.

The Chair thanked Jill, Dave and Matt for attending the meeting. They departed at 1:30pm.

9.0 ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

David advised that he had just received via email a response to his letter to the GSBC GM, regarding native vegetation clearing in public reserves in Orford and Triabunna.

David read out the letter of response from the GM which acknowledged that there was an issue regarding a common understanding about how Council Reserves should be managed. The letter indicated that Council would be organising a meeting to discuss a way forward and that discussions have commenced on progressing training opportunities for Council's Parks and Garden staff.

David noted that this was a positive outcome.

10.0 CATCHMENTS TO COAST REPORT

Terry provided the Committee with a Catchments to Coast update:

- The construction of steps to the old quarry in Orford has been completed
- 16/17 approved NRM South projects; Moulting Lagoon on-ground works, World Wetlands Day event, Coles Bay threatened species signs and community celebrations, Zone A weed control on Bicheno Crown Land, Shorebird project, Habitat trees project, and promotion and protection of *Callitris Oblonga*
- Installation of Whale Trail signs currently underway.

Lyndel advised that the CEO of NRM South is working with other agencies to collate some funding to try and address the issue of illegal collection of firewood. He recently went to Canberra to seek Federal support too. Initial steps would include the implementation of a shelved plan from some years ago. NRM South have also met with the TFGA about the issue of illegal firewood collection. The TFGA have received lots of reports from farmers this year about illegal wood hooking and associated theft and rubbish dumping etc.

Rosie noted PWS recently arranged for a shorebird activities day to be held at Orford, Triabunna and Swansea Primary Schools in partnership with BirdLife Australia. We assisted PWS and BirdLife Australia with these activities. We have also installed the new shorebird interpretation sign on the northern side of the Meredith River mouth.

Diana asked if it would be possible to revisit the idea of constructing a path for the students from the Swansea Primary School oval to the beach. Rosie noted that this idea has been discussed for some years now, and it is not Council land, rather it is two parcels of Crown Land. A grant application was written in the past, but it was

unsuccessful. There are a number of challenges that would need to be overcome to pursue the idea, however, if the School/DoE can provide the necessary information, we can look at trying to assist with progressing this idea together again.

11.0 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

Cynthia provided the Committee with a sustainability report.

The Tasmanian Tidy Towns Awards were recently held at the EastCoaster Resort. A number of individuals and community groups from GSB received awards. The Australian Tidy Towns Awards will be held in Triabunna in 2017.

The Freycinet National Park Centenary Celebrations were held on 27 and 28 August. GSBC NRM participated on both days with a 'Zero Waste Picnic in the Parks' display. This supports the PWS policy of Leave No Trace.

Cynthia presented to the GSB Youth Council on the concept of 'Zero Waste'.

Cynthia discussed GSBC's recent participation in the Smart Fleets Project, and the contribution that vehicle emissions make to green house gases in Tasmania. Bertrand asked Cynthia if she could find out more information about the break down of Tasmania's green house gas emissions.

12.0 TREASURER'S REPORT

Mel was unable to send through a Treasurer's Report as Council's financial system was offline.

14.0 OTHER BUSINESS

Committee round table

Amanda: update on NRM South funded project with PWS at Orford Primary School. The project is progressing well and the development of the signage for the natural values interpretative walk around Orford is underway.

Rosie: well done to Amanda and Kath Hitchcock who have spent a considerable amount of their own time in applying for and delivering the project at Orford Primary School.

Lyndel: could Orford Primary School send through some photos and information to NRM South about what they have done so far with this project.

David: a working bee is needed at the Gordon St unmade road reserve walking track in Swansea as Aurora or Transend have recently been in the area again and have not cleaned up the debris from their vegetation trimming. David and Terry are going to organise a working bee to clean up the mess, and then contact Aurora or Transend and ask them to remove the debris in the future.

It would be good to look at extending walking trails in Swansea along the unmade road reserves to create a circuit walk now that the weed control has occurred on these reserves.

Cynthia: we could ask Healthy Together if they would be able to assist with this proposal.

Amanda: could the Committee write a letter to CLS to ask them about a follow up spray on these reserves? Amanda will have a look at the unmade road reserves and provide a quote on follow up weed control.

Lyndel: the pastoral workshop held in Swansea recently was well received with 25 farmers attending from the Sorell, Tasman and GSB areas. NRM South will be holding an Aboriginal values and fire management workshop in Sorell on 4th October. The last NRM South Green Army team had their graduation ceremony

recently and all of the team wish to pursue jobs in the NRM field! The South East Regional Shorebird Alliance is in the running for a National Landcare Award.

Bertrand: based on what the DSG representatives said earlier, GSB NRM are performing well and achieving good things at the moment.

David: agreed we have achieved a lot, but we need to keep the momentum going.

Diana: the Committee needs to bear in mind that David will be resigning as Chair at the end of 2017, and that we need to find someone to fill the position of Chair.

Gary: On October 2nd the TFS will be holding a “Bushfire Ready Pop-up Café Information Session” at Dolphin Sands from 10 am to 1pm at Dolphin Sands Road at the carpark with the water tank near the corner of Cambria Drive. While this is primarily for Dolphin Sands and surrounding residents/property owners, all are welcome to come along.

Gary: could the CLS “camping prohibited” sign please be installed before summer at the problematic easement at Dolphin Sands. Terry noted that he has received the sign from CLS, to install on their behalf.

Derek: a private land owner asked Derek to ask the Committee if there is any assistance available in the form of chemicals for private land owners to control gorse, like there was in the past? Is there a spray unit available for hire?

Terry: the current federal government has decreased NRM/Landcare budgets and grant/project funding. It is a different situation now to how it was in decades past. However, opportunities for small grants for some weed control do occur sometimes, if land owners would like assistance they can contact Terry. But also bear in mind that gorse is a Zone B weed in GSB. Council has a spray unit that is available for hire. Operators need to have a current DPIPW accreditated chemical use ticket. The spray unit is cheap to hire, and is often hired out by private land owners, so you need to book in advance. Contact Terry to book the unit.

Amanda: in regards to the contract to undertake DSG roadside weed control, this financial years budget will be very tight. It doesn't include traffic control at Paradise or Cherry Tree Hill. The plan for these two sites is to “piggy back” on Stornaway maintenance.

Amanda: this Saturday 24th September the Friends of Rocky Hills are holding another serrated tussock working bee.

Derek: the serrated tussock is very evident in the Little Swanport area following the wet weather. Land owners need to keep on top of their serrated tussock.

Rosie: we received an email from Senior Constable Leighton Riggall to advise that he is moving on to a position in marine and rescue. Leighton thanked us for working with him on several cross-agency issues/projects and reflected on the success we have had. Our sincere thanks to Leighton for all his help over the past 2.5 years, and we wish him all the best for his position in marine and rescue. We will follow up with Senior Sergeant Pearce as to who the Committee can liaise with after Leighton's departure.

Next meeting:

Coles Bay

Meeting closed: 2:45pm.

Thank you Ben for your hospitality and for providing the meeting venue.

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: Coles Bay, 10:30am, Wednesday 9th November 2016.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Look into the award winning GPT installed at Glenorchy. Who: Cynthia/Terry.
2. Invite a representative from CLS to attend a future Committee meeting to discuss Bagot Point and Crown Land in general. Who: Mel.
3. Follow up with Regulatory Services Manager regarding the emptying of the Coles Bay slipway drain. Who: Mel.
4. Follow up with GSBC GM about the letter regarding erosion and sedimentation from Solis. Who: David.
5. Supply link to NSW EPA Report on Illegal Rubbish Dumping, for circulation to the Committee. Who: Cynthia/Rosie.
6. Find out more information about what contributes to Tasmania's greenhouse gas emissions. Who: Cynthia.
7. Facilitate a working bee at the Gordon St Reserve (Swansea) to remove the debris that Aurora or Transend left behind. Who: Terry/David.
8. Site visit and quote to CLS to undertake follow up weed control on Swansea's unmade road reserves. Who: Mel/Amanda.
9. Install CLS 'camping prohibited' sign at Dolphin Sands easement. Who: Terry.
10. Having received notice that our Tasmania Police Committee representative is moving to a new position, follow up with Senior Sergeant Pearce as to who the Committee should liaise with into the future. Who: Rosie.

Signed by the Chair

Date: 9/11/16

