



NRM

Glamorgan Spring Bay
Natural Resource Management

GSBC NRM Special Committee Meeting # 58 Minutes

Triabunna Recreation Room
Wednesday 14th February 2018, 10:30am.

1.0 PRESENT

David Tucker (Chair), Mel Kelly (GSBC Manager Natural Resources), Cynthia Maxwell-Smith (GSBC Sustainability Officer), Terry Higgs (Catchments to Coast Coordinator), Nicky Meeson (GSBC Biodiversity Officer), Rosie Jackson (GSBC NRM Administration), Deputy Mayor Cheryl Arnol, Kath Hitchcock (PWS Triabunna Field Centre), Annie Browning (ECPPA), Gary Stoward (Dolphin Sands), Alan Morgan (Coles Bay), Tim Stephens (Tassal), Hayden Dyke (Oyster Bay Oysters), Rose Jarvis (Bicheno), Leigh Castle (Fisherman), Amanda Brooks (GSBC Weeds Officer), Derek Madsen (*Banwell*).

The Chair welcomed new members Tim, Hayden, and Leigh to the Committee and invited them to introduce themselves.

Guests: Scott Williams (Tasmanian Irrigation), Jarrah Vercoe (Biosecurity Tasmania).

2.0 APOLOGIES

Judy Broadstock (Bicheno), Jane Wing (Orford Community Group), Keith Davis (NRM South), Diana Nunn (Coles Bay), Steve Heggie (PWS Freycinet).

3.0 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Following Chair Bertrand Cadart's resignation from Council due to serious illness, David as Vice Chair acted as Chair for the November Committee meeting. A letter was sent to Bertrand from the Committee and David read out Bertrand's response.

As per the Committee's Terms of Reference, an election for the position of Chair is held at the first meeting each year.

David vacated the Chair. Mel called for nominations for the position of Chair.

David nominated Cheryl for the position of Chair. Rose seconded the nomination. Passed unanimously.

Alan nominated David for the position of Vice Chair. Gary seconded the nomination. Passed unanimously.

Cheryl took the Chair.

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Confirmation of previous minutes from GSB NRM Committee meeting no. 57:

Moved: David *Seconded:* Derek *Carried unanimously.*

5.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Send a thank you letter to Bertrand Cadart: Done.

Invite DPIPWE's Nasella Project Officer to attend a future Committee meeting: Done, attending today as a guest speaker.

Write a letter to the GM and PWS requesting an update on the Coles Bay slipway: Mel advised that this was not required as Steve Heggie was able to progress the audit report. However, there are still some outstanding actions that Mel will follow up with Steve and relevant Council officers.

Contact DPIPWE, TasWater and Tasmanian Irrigation regarding a meeting about Swansea water and the Swan River, and attending a Committee meeting: Mel advised that a Tasmanian Irrigation staff member is attending today. Held off on getting in touch with DPIPWE and TasWater in light of NRM South advising Mel that they have funding for a 'high level' water quality modelling project for the Swan Apsley Catchment. This project will feed into NRM South's National Landcare Program phase 2 project planning should their tender be successful.

Write a letter to the DPIPWE and DSG Secretaries, with CC's to the GM of PWS and other relevant agencies, from the GSBC Mayor, GM and NRM Committee requesting an update regarding the illegal firewood harvesting and destruction of swift parrot habitat from the Crown Land west of Buckland: Mel read out the letter she has drafted. If any Committee member would like input into the letter please let Mel know. There was discussion about whom to send this letter to and who ought to receive CC's. Cheryl suggested that she, David and Mel meet to decide who the recipients should be. All present agreed this was the best way forward.

6.0 COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE

Outgoing:

As mentioned earlier, a letter has been sent to Bertrand Cadart.

Incoming:

Thank you card from Bertrand Cadart.

Email from Keith Davis advising that he will be leaving NRM South at the end of February.

Email from Keith Davis requesting that the Committee provide a partnership letter of support for NRM South's tender bid to the Australian Government's National Landcare Program phase 2. Rosie read out the email.

All present agreed to send a letter of support for NRM South's tender bid.

Tim offered to follow up on funding opportunities from a marine perspective and report back at the next meeting.

7.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE

Nil further.

8.0 GUEST SPEAKER FROM TASMANIAN IRRIGATION

The Chair welcomed Scott Williams, Swan Valley Scheme Operator, Tasmanian Irrigation (TI) to the meeting.

The projector could not be used due to a power failure. Scott passed around hard copies of his presentation – copy available on request.

Scott advised that there is 2000ML of entitlements and 16 irrigators. Each irrigator with TI has a water meter. A flow of 103 ML/d is required before TI can pump. Currently there is 640ML in storage, including water for TasWater. Water quality monitoring is undertaken at 16 sites. Quarterly sampling goes to the laboratory. The first irrigation season will be 18-19 after the dam is filled.

In regards to biosecurity TI are required to meet Walnuts Australia biosecurity standards when they enter their property. Floating offtake reduces potential for any seeds in the dam to be spread around the scheme. Screens in outlets also allow for any material in pipes to be caught before it exits outlet valves, allowing organic matter to be collected if it presents an issue.

Amanda spoke about the work Council had done with the TI contractors (Total Eden) in regards to biosecurity practices and awareness raising, serrated tussock and the spray of the pipeline footprint pre-construction. Amanda asked about the requirements for TI to follow up monitoring and spraying. Scott advised that he was not familiar with this and that he will look into it.

Mel noted that the TI scheme sets the bar for water management, it is a well planned, managed and monitored scheme that is good for the area. The future Prosser irrigation scheme was discussed and agreed that it should also be of the same standard if Council ends up being responsible for managing it.

David noted that the real impact on the Swan River is not what TI take. It's the other takes that aren't metered or monitored.

All present agreed that it was important to follow up again with DPIPWWE about this. If any Committee members want to have input into the correspondence to DPIPWWE please send it to Mel by Friday 23/2/18.

Cynthia noted that water use is a shared responsibility, it is not only about the agricultural sector, domestic users also have a role to play.

9.0 GUEST SPEAKER FROM BIOSECURITY TASMANIA

The Chair welcomed Jarrah Vercoe, Coordinator Established Pests and Weeds Program, Biosecurity Operations Branch, Biosecurity Tasmania, DPIPWWE to the meeting.

Jarrah displayed some samples of grasses to help demonstrate the difference between native grasses and serrated tussock. He also provided some tips on identification. Jarrah explained why serrated tussock is one of Australia's worst agricultural weeds. One of the key reasons is due to the lack of nutritional value and is capable of reducing pasture productivity by up to 95%. If stock graze pastures containing only serrated tussock, the leaves can form indigestible balls in the stomach, causing a loss of condition and eventual death. Wool growers should be particularly vigilant.

Jarrah noted that the GSB municipality is prime area and conditions for serrated tussock and that GSBC do more than any other Council to support landholders to control it which is why it is not disastrous here yet however we must remain vigilant. Serrated tussock is drought resistant and can seed twice per summer.

In Tasmania new serrated tussock sites are often related to lack of/inadequate machinery hygiene practices and development, particularly in subdivisions on former grazing land.

Chilean needle grass is also taking off in Tasmania and there has been a recent discovery of a large population in the south of the state.

Awareness raising is important and a key focus for Biosecurity Tasmania.

Amanda explained to Jarrah the need to do a follow up check of the TI pipeline now construction is complete. Jarrah said he would be happy to help Scott do a check of the pipeline. Scott said he would like to invite Jarrah to a future TI meeting.

Hayden and Derek both described their many years of costly, time consuming serrated tussock control on their properties.

Nicky suggested that a map indicating serrated tussock areas could be placed in the next edition of SeaSpeak. Mel agreed this would be a good idea.

The Chair thanked Scott and Jarrah for coming to the meeting.

Lunch 12:45pm – 1:15pm.

Scott and Jarrah both departed at lunch.

10.0 CATCHMENTS TO COAST REPORT

Terry provided a Catchments to Coast update:

- Team have attended the Bicheno market, Swansea Australia Day and Orford Australia Day events as part of community engagement activities.
- Rosie attended a meeting at NRM South regarding final stages of National Landcare Program 1 and preliminary expectations for National Landcare Program 2.
- Activities for this year's Moulting Lagoon project are underway including weed control (primarily gorse) on public and private land and a revegetation trial.
- Temporary shorebird fencing and signage has been installed at Spring Beach as required. Some has also been installed at the Meredith River mouth between Swansea and Dolphin Sands, even though this is Crown Land.
- Additional permanent fencing and sign has been installed at the Orford Bird Sanctuary.
- The Denison Beach Shorebird Project mail out has been completed and results will be used to inform the development of a local area action plan.
- Working on a replacement shorebird interpretation sign for one of the Cambria Drive beach accesses.
- Terry and Amanda are planning weed control works as part of the *Callitris oblonga* project.
- Will be talking to the Bicheno Men's Shed about making some penguin boxes.
- NRM South funded component of Bicheno priority weed control on Crown Land is complete, seeking a co-contribution from CLS.
- Looking at options for Clean Up Australia Day.

11.0 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

Cynthia provided a sustainability update:

- The Home Energy Bulk Buy project is in its final month. After it is complete we'll get a report on how many households in GSB participated. More information is available on Council's website.
- New recycling initiatives for batteries, oral care and beauty care products are progressing well.
- The Works Manager is in the process of negotiating a new arrangement for the recycling of e-waste.
- The tip shop feasibility study is nearing completion.
- Working on a solution to the cardboard recycling issue with JJ Richards.
- The Cities, Power, Partnership climate change project continues. Suggested Pledges have been drafted and will be submitted to Council at the next meeting.
- Recycling is all good and well but consumers have to buy the recycled products too.

Tim noted that Envorinex collect a variety of materials from Tassal for recycling.

Mel mentioned a paper Council had received from some research we participated in that indicated most marine debris is in fact domestic rubbish that has come from the land. Tim agreed that this was their experience from many of the clean up events that they participate in. Tim also advised that Tassal works with BirdLife Tasmania in regards to shorebirds and staff don't go on the beach during the breeding season.

Hayden advised that the Little Swanport marine farmers have for many years had an annual clean up event and at the same time undertake rice grass control. He also reported that in their clean up activities their findings are similar to those of Tim's, most of the rubbish they find is domestic, not from aquaculture activities. But he is interested in participating in a bigger picture marine debris project. It was agreed to look at the options for organising a larger marine clean up event.

12.0 TREASURER'S REPORT

Mel distributed copies of and spoke to the treasurers report.

13.0 GSBC NRM DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mel emailed the November, December and January NRM Department reports to Council to the Committee prior to the meeting.

Cheryl noted that as a Councillor she likes that the NRM reports to Council each month are directly linked to the strategic plan.

Mel provided an update on the working group that has formed as an outcome of the Orford/Triabunna Coastal Hazards Project funded by DPAC's Climate Change Office. The report is on the Council website. TasWater, DSG, PWS, DPAC, MAST and Council have formed a coastal hazards working group which has broadened their objectives to consider municipal wide coastal hazards.

14.0 OTHER BUSINESS

Seaweed proposal: The Mayor was contacted by someone who has a proposal to address the Swansea "seaweed problem". Mel has spoken to the proponent and invited him to talk to the Committee in the future. Mel will forward the information to the Committee.

Committee round table:

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council Natural Resource Management Committee Minutes

David: at our last meeting we had a discussion about progressing the proposals for follow up weed control and walking track development on unmade road reserves in Swansea. David requested that this be added as an action item in the minutes of this meeting.

David: asked if he could present on briar rose at the next Committee meeting? Nicky will provide David with relevant GPS records for his presentation.

Tim: will liaise with Mel to organise a tour of Tassal's Okehampton Bay site.

Alan: the draft Freycinet Peninsula Master Plan is due to be released soon for public comment. Has Council's NRM Department been consulted?

Mel advised that she and Nicky have met with the consultants and had input into the process. Mel suggested that we invite the PWS Project Manager to a Committee meeting as the same PWS Officer is the Project Manager for the new Maria Island Plan. When the draft Freycinet Peninsula Master Plan is released Mel will forward to the Committee.

Cheryl noted that Council has raised concerns with DPAC about some existing infrastructure not coping with the volume of tourists visiting GSB currently, and that planning for increased tourist numbers is required.

Cheryl thanked new Committee members, continuing members for their commitment to the Committee, David for all his years as Chair and agreeing to be Vice Chair, and NRM staff.

Derek thanked David for all his work as Chair over many years.

Meeting closed at 2:30pm.

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting Location: Swansea

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday 9th May 2018

ACTION ITEMS

1. Finalise the letter regarding illegal firewood harvesting and destruction of threatened species habitat and determine who it needs to be sent to. Who: Cheryl, David and Mel.
2. Provide a partnership letter of support for NRM South's tender bid to the Australian Government's NLP2. Who: Mel.
3. Contact DPIPW and TasWater regarding a meeting about Swansea water and the Swan River, and attending a Committee meeting. Who: Mel.
4. Prepare a map depicting serrated tussock areas in GSB for the next edition of SeaSpeak. Who: Nicky.
5. Forward information to the Committee about the Swansea seaweed proposal. Who: Mel.
6. With input from interested Committee members, put together a proposal to CLS for follow up weed control and walking track development on unmade road reserves in Swansea. Who: Mel and interested Committee members.
7. Present at next meeting on briar rose. Who: David (Nicky to provide David with GPS records).
8. Invite the Freycinet Peninsula and Maria Island Master Plan Project Manager to speak to the Committee. Who: Mel.



Signed by the Chair

Date: 9/5/18