



NRM

Glamorgan Spring Bay
Natural Resource Management

GSBC NRM Committee Meeting # 59 Minutes

Swansea Town Hall
Wednesday 9th May 2018, 10:30am.

1.0 PRESENT

Deputy Mayor Cheryl Arnol (Chair), David Tucker (Vice 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 Officer), Annie Browning (ECPPA), Tim Stephens (Tassal), Hayden Dyke (Oyster Bay Oysters), Rose Jarvis (Bicheno), Ben Fler (Devils Corner Vineyard), Judy Broadstock (Bicheno), Diana Nunn (Coles Bay), Kate Hibbert (Department of Defence), David White (Sustainable Timbers Tasmania), Jane Wing (Orford Community Group), Alan Morgan (Coles Bay), Derek Madsen (*Banwell*), Alena Hrasky (PWS Freycinet).

Guests: Constable Marita Osborn and 1/C Constable Craig Vermey (Tasmania Police).

2.0 APOLOGIES

Mayor Michael Kent, Donald Coventry (NRM South), Kath Hitchcock (PWS Triabunna Field Centre), Gary Stoward (Dolphin Sands).

3.0 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Confirmation of previous minutes from GSB NRM Committee meeting no. 58:

Moved: David Tucker *Seconded:* Hayden Dyke *Carried unanimously.*

4.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Finalise the letter regarding illegal firewood harvesting and destruction of threatened species habitat and determine who it needs to be sent to: Mel spoke to the letter that was sent, passed a copy round and advised who it was sent to and who received CC's. Some recipients have responded acknowledging receipt of the correspondence. After formal responses are received it may be timely to raise the matter with LGAT. David W advised that Tasmania Police are currently undertaking an operation in a regional area of Tasmania targeting illegal firewood collection and other associated illegal activities.

Provide a partnership letter of support for NRM South's tender bid to the Australian Government's NLP2: Done.

Contact DPIPWE and TasWater regarding a meeting about Swansea water and the Swan River, and attending a Committee meeting: Mel will do this before the next Committee meeting.

Prepare a map depicting serrated tussock areas in GSB for the next edition of SeaSpeak: Done. Copies of the latest edition of SeaSpeak were given to all present.

Forward information to the Committee about the Swansea seaweed proposal: Done. The proponent would like to present at the next meeting. Tim advised that Tassal are currently doing some seaweed trials and he could ask one of the relevant staff members to attend a future Committee meeting as a guest speaker.

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: Mel advised that our key contact at CLS has left the organisation. Mel is trying to arrange a meeting with CLS about this and will keep the Committee updated on progress. David T advised that he recently attended the launch of the Swansea Destination Action Plan (DAP) and that these walking tracks would complement the DAP. Mel advised that the Bicheno DAP has prioritised upgrades/extensions to walking tracks.

Present at next meeting on briar rose: David is presenting today.

Invite the Freycinet Peninsula and Maria Island Master Plan Project Manager to speak to the Committee: Mel has contacted the Project Manager and she is planning to come to the November meeting.

5.0 COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE

Outgoing:

- Letter of support for the Friends of Freycinet grant application for a proposal to establish a lookout structure at Friendly Beaches.
- Letter of support for NRM South's tender bid to the Australian Government's NLP 2.
- Letter regarding illegal harvesting of firewood to the Premier Will Hodgman, The Hon Elise Archer MP, The Hon Guy Barnett MP, The Hon Sarah Courtney MP, The Hon Michael Ferguson MP, The Hon Peter Gutwein MP, with CC's to The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, Dr Sally Box Threatened Species Commissioner, Steve Whiteley CEO Sustainable Timbers Tasmania, Dr Peter Volker Chief FPO Forest Practices Authority and Donald Coventry CEO NRM South.

Incoming:

- Letter from the Premier's office acknowledging receipt of/thanking the Chair for the letter regarding illegal firewood harvesting.
- Letter from The Hon Elise Archer MP's office thanking the Chair for the letter regarding illegal firewood harvesting and advising that the Hon Guy Barnett MP will be responding as the appropriate Minister.
- Letter from The Hon Peter Gutwein MP's office acknowledging receipt of/thanking the Chair for the letter regarding illegal firewood harvesting and advising that it was with the Minister for consideration.
- Email from Gary Stoward and Cherry Andrews (President Dolphin Sands Ratepayers Association) RE membership of the NRMC. Please note that this was raised under other business.

6.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE

Nil further.

7.0 DAVID TUCKER: PRESENTATION ON BRIAR ROSE

David T gave a presentation to the Committee on briar rose which included information about the plants features, current status, propagation, threat, spread, current infestations, issues, control options and actions needed.

The Committee discussed David T's recommendation that a case be presented to DPIPWE to classify briar rose as a Declared Weed under the *Weed Management Act 1999*. All agreed that this ought to be pursued. Staff to work in consultation with David T to put together a case to recommend to DPIPWE that briar rose be classified as a Declared Weed. This will include a recommendation that briar rose be classified as Zone A in Glamorgan Spring Bay. Nicky suggested that while we are doing this for briar rose, we consider any other weeds that we would like to nominate for consideration for classification under the Act. Mel advised that staff will compile a draft recommendation to bring to the next Committee meeting.

The Committee discussed David T's recommendation that community education and awareness raising actions be undertaken in regards to briar rose. All present agreed that this would be useful while the aforementioned process is being worked on.

8.0 CATCHMENTS TO COAST REPORT

Terry provided an update on Catchments to Coast activities:

- Plant ID signs have been installed in the Rita and Doris Reserve, Coles Bay
- Plants at the Moulting Lagoon revegetation trial site are growing well, the fence is withstanding stock and the saltmarsh fencing has been completed
- Attended the Little Penguin workshop at the Coast to Coast Conference recently
- Provided materials to the Bicheno Men's Shed for construction of penguin boxes
- DPIPWE's monitoring of the Bicheno foreshore found a high number of roaming cats in penguin habitat
- Two water tanks for fire fighting purposes have been installed at Dolphin Sands as part of a grant project
- Weed control works undertaken at Milton as part of the *Callitris oblonga* project
- Attended Biosecurity Network meeting and suggested that the fruit fly response team liaise with local government to expand communications channels
- Wombat mange treatment ongoing as cases arise
- Undertook a trial on a Council Reserve at Orford burning leaf litter

Alan asked if cat registration was going to be considered in light of DPIPWE's findings of the roaming cats in penguin habitat at Bicheno. Mel advised that the position for the Southern Cat Coordinator has been filled and they will be commencing work shortly. Possible changes to the *Cat Control Act* is something they will be looking at as part of their role. The State and local governments need to work together in regards to cats as local government does not have the capacity or ability to take sole responsibility. Council also need a policy before

any trapping etc can commence. Cheryl noted that the cat management debate has been ongoing in local government for many years.

9.0 GSBC NRM DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mel advised that she attended the second meeting of the Australian Conservation Dog Network held at the Melbourne Zoo recently and would be happy to present at a future Committee meeting about the serrated tussock detection dog project.

Marita Osborn and Craig Vermey (Tasmania Police) joined the meeting at 11:45am.

10.0 BUSH WATCH WITH TASMANIA POLICE

The Chair welcomed Craig and Marita.

Craig provided a Bush Watch update: Tasmania Police Officers are aware that illegal wood hooking is increasing again as winter approaches and are undertaking targeted patrols to known areas of illegal activities. During the Easter period a few burglaries occurred at remote properties. The new posts installed at Bagot Point are working well and Officers undertake frequent patrols to the area. There has been a substantial increase in the number of people defecating in public reserves which has coincided with the increase in tourist numbers.

Cheryl advised that Council has raised the issue with the State Government about inadequate infrastructure, particularly toilets, to cope with the increase in visitor numbers. Council is seeking support for additional infrastructure to service the number of visitors that are now visiting Glamorgan Spring Bay. David T noted that at the launch of the Swansea DAP, toilet facilities were a focus of discussion.

Marita advised that in her relatively new role with State Community Policing she has been making contact with Bush Watch and Neighbourhood Watch groups across Tasmania. She is at the meeting today to listen and determine how best to help and support the Committee and local Officers with Bush Watch.

Cheryl noted that illegal firewood collection has been a major Bush Watch issue for us in recent years. Mel and Cheryl provided some background information about the issue.

David W noted that physical barriers such as rocks are not particularly effective. Enforcement not necessarily the answer either but a multi-faceted approach is required. Mel handed around the flyers recently produced by NRM South for firewood consumers.

Marita noted that Tasmania Police have vast geographical areas to patrol.

David T noted that the downturn of the forest industry has created a void meaning that the 'eyes and ears' that used to be in the bush are no longer present in many areas.

Alena noted that PWS have some problems with illegal firewood collection but their legislation is much better equipped to deal with it.

Marita will look into the possibility and benefits of the Committee joining the Neighbourhood Watch network and then contact Mel with information.

Lunch 12:35pm – 1:05pm

11.0 MARINE DEBRIS & PLASTIC POLLUTION

Cynthia spoke to a proposal regarding marine debris and plastic pollution: to have a future Committee meeting dedicated to the issue of marine debris with relevant guest speakers, to consider the formation of a marine debris working group and potentially form a collaborative venture with relevant stakeholders/partners to try to address the issue. Marine debris and plastic pollution is a topical issue and now is the time to act, as has been done in other regions in Tasmania. ECRTO should be approached to be involved as increasing visitor numbers is contributing to the issue. All present agreed to Cynthia's proposal.

David T asked if China's recent policy changes regarding processing recycling have effected kerbside recycling in GSB? Cynthia advised that recycling in GSB has not been effected by China's policy change, it is 'business as usual' for us.

12.0 PRESENTATION & UPDATE ON COMMUNITIES & COASTAL HAZARDS PROJECT (TRIABUNNA & ORFORD)

Mel spoke to her presentation: Communities and Coastal Hazards, Tasmanian Coastal Adaptation Decision Pathways, Local Area Plan 2016: Orford and Triabunna.

Mel outlined key objectives, roles and responsibilities, adaptation pathways, conclusions, further investigations required, outcomes and 'where to from here'.

13.0 GSBC NRM DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mel spoke to the remainder of the GSBC NRM Department reports to Council:

Department of State Growth have funded boundary protection weed control works for our municipality from our municipal boundary at Lake Leake through to Campbell Town.

Mel and Nicky continue to be involved in the statewide planning scheme natural assets code.

14.0 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

Cynthia provided a sustainability report:

- Undertaking a new project looking at energy use in GSB
- Investigating funding for Council's to establish electric vehicle charging stations
- Provided feedback to the organisers of the bulk buy project about how it didn't work particularly well for people in GSB
- Cities Power Partnerships project is ongoing and Council has recently submitted pledges
- Tip shop feasibility study has been completed and provided to Councillors
- Cardboard recycling is an ongoing issue. Works Manager and Cynthia have been trying to progress this for a long time. Now investigating other options to find a possible solution.
- Virtual Reality Science Stories Roadshow project is being planned thanks to funding from 2018 Inspiring Australia (Tas) Science Engagement Event Grants
- TerraCycle project is still being rolled out

15.0 TREASURER'S REPORT

Mel distributed and spoke to the Treasurer's Report.

16.0 OTHER BUSINESS

Committee round table:

Alan: how can tourism infrastructure, the tourist experience and tourism impacts on the environment be addressed? Cheryl noted that David T raised this at the Swansea DAP launch and discussions about these issues need to continue with the State Government. Alan noted that there are a number of election promises relevant to these issues.

Rose: could the scope of the Committee's water discussion be expanded to include Bicheno? Mel advised that she will try to add this to brief. Mel suggested that the next Committee meeting focus on water if representatives

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from DPIPWE and TasWater are available, and the following meeting focus on marine debris. All present agreed with this suggestion.

Judy: the Earth and Ocean Network (EON), now has a kids branch – KEON. The children have been undertaking clean up activities along the Bicheno foreshore.

Judy and Derek departed at 2:30pm.

Hayden: currently undertaking another rice grass survey in Little Swanport, there used to be funding for rice grass control activities but there hasn't been any funding available in recent times. Hayden asked about the linkages between rice grass and the GSB Weed Management Plan? Nicky asked if Hayden could send her the details of the rice grass populations in the Little Swanport area. Hayden advised that they have partnered with Triabunna District School again this year to run another aquaculture project with the students.

David T: DPIPWE have recently re-released the rabbit calici virus on the east coast. In regards to the Cambria Estate proposal, supportive but concerned about water availability.

Cheryl: proposal to review the Committee's Terms of Reference. All present agreed to a review. The Chair and staff will review out of session and circulate to the Committee via email for feedback. Once this has been done the reviewed Terms of Reference will go to Council for endorsement.

Meeting closed at 2:45pm.

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting Location: Bicheno Memorial Hall - TBC

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday 8th August 2018

ACTION ITEMS

1. Contact DPIPWE and TasWater regarding a meeting about Swansea water, the Swan River, and other northern rivers and attending a Committee meeting. Who: Mel.
2. Follow up with CLS regarding follow up weed control and walking track development on unmade road reserves in Swansea. Who: Mel and interested Committee members.
3. Compile a draft recommendation to DPIPWE regarding the declaration of briar rose and possibly other weeds under the *Weed Management Act 1999* to bring to the next Committee meeting. Who: Nicky and Mel in consultation with David T and other NRM weed staff.
4. Undertake community education/awareness raising activities in regards to briar rose. Who: Rosie in consultation with David T.
5. Form a marine debris and plastic pollution working group to draft objectives and action plan. Who: Cynthia.
6. Review the Terms of Reference and circulate proposed changes to the Committee for feedback via email. Who: Cheryl, Mel, Cynthia, Nicky and Rosie.

Signed by the Chair



Date: 5/9/2018