



Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group

General Meeting Minutes

April 24th 2008
10:00 a.m.
YYCMG Office, Perenjori

1. Open General Meeting (10.20am)

1.1. Attendance

Lizzie Butler, Max Hudson, Stacey Hudson, Barrye Thompson, Wally Barnes, Jan MacPherson, Ian Fordyce

1.2. Apologies

Jo Ashworth, Dene Solomon, Stan Scott, Robert Nixon, Mark Reynolds, Keith Camac, Peter Syme

2. Minutes of previous General Meeting, held 28th February 2008

2.1. Amendments

2.2. Matters Arising

Jan moved that true and accurate account and that there were no amendments or matters arising. Seconded Lizzie, accepted

2.3. Sign previous minutes if true and correct record

Wally Barnes has signed in his capacity as vice chairman, in the absence of Peter Syme

3. Executive Reports

3.1. Correspondence (SH)

3.1.1. Correspondence In - tabled

3.1.2. Correspondence Out - tabled

No matters arising

Moved that this was a true record of correspondence, Jan, seconded by Wally, Carried

3.2. Funding and Finance (SH)

3.2.1. Financial report

As of today

YY have GST payable of \$92,259, however it is not payable yet as we have not received the funds it relates to.

NRMO – There are two payments outstanding

We are waiting for NACC and Envirofunds to invoice YY for unused funds from completed projects

Drainage works: There is currently \$8000 in this account, we are owed \$69,000 but we currently owe contractors more than is available

We have not received money for wages since November, \$108,000 outstanding

Oil mallee project has been extended until Sept 08, to allow planting and finalising reports.

Barrye will talk to the Shire of Perenjori to resolve problems of why invoices have not been paid (at the moment Shire of PJ hold funds not the Regional Council)

Barrye is not a signatory yet, hope to sort this ASAP. The current situation is not satisfactory and needs resolving
Query raised why DoW haven't been invoiced for monitoring.

YYCMG have taken over Kalannie LCDC funds, in the interim of Kalannie winding up and YY LCDC forming.

There is still NRMO money owing to NACC, Katherine was unaware of this, but she has said that NACC will invoice Yarra Yarra for this before June 08

Our funds have increased from two months ago, due to Dene and Ian's outside work, Red River, Golder and DoW

NRMO positions have been extended until the end of Dec 08

Accounts receivable: NACC \$220,270, YYCRC \$910,419, Red River \$18,590, DoW \$8,984, Golder \$5,709.

Amount owing to NACC for NRMO's – 1/10/2003 to 30/09/2005 \$23,582

Stacey moved to accept that this is a true and accurate record of the financial report, Jan seconded, carried

In the near future, it's possible that LCDC accounts and potentially lots of drain maintenance accounts will come under the management of YYCMG (or YYCRC). We need to think about how we should manage this and a decision will be needed at some point in the future.

3.2.2. NRMO position;

Lizzie Butler was the successful applicant. Commenced 24th March

Employment committee needed to decide about rate for Lizzie – Discussion with Liz Easton re salary, correspondence for this tabled.

Recommend that all NRMO's have a performance review every 12 months

Jan moved we endorse employment committees decision, seconded Wally, carried

3.2.3. Ripper on Max's ute

Used for marking out drainage lines, which allows us to be more involved

Item was discussed and decided that YYCMG won't pay for it. No action taken

3.2.4. Motor vehicle drivers declarations – all staff need to complete new forms

Forms handed out to all YY drivers, please return to Stacey ASAP

3.2.5. New asset purchases: Desk for Max's home office \$166, new projector screen \$275 for Kalannie office.

Jan moves that we purchase a projector screen and whiteboard for PJ office

Barrye recommends that we look into interactive whiteboards.

Jan moved that purchases are endorsed, seconded Wally, carried.

4. Reports (copies of all reports kept in Perenjori & Kalannie offices)

4.1. NRMO report (LB)

4.2. Drilling report (MH)

Wally queried whether it is an actual legal requirement for two people to operate the drill rig. As far as we were aware, this is in the health & safety guidelines. Aside from this, it

would always be a preference to have two people operating it. We will follow this up at the next meeting. Safety switches need fitting to the rig – this needs doing ASAP.

4.3. Yarra Yarra Regional Drainage Program (MH)

Fencing: The drill rig has been adapted to include a post hole digger. This allows us to put strainers in, speeds up the process, important as we're getting short of time to complete the fencing, and there's a risk of losing the funding secured for this (needs completing by 30th June)

Broombush project: Max met with Georgie Troup, have marked out suitable sites and we have received a letter stating that we will receive 127,000 seedlings, at 4c a seedling

Hendy Cowan 2 day visit: He is very interested in what we're doing re drain management and governance. The YY drainage project is gaining momentum, as a pilot scheme.

Trip to Hyden and Dumbleyung: as part of the Wheatbelt Catchment Alliance role, providing landholders there with info on what we're doing here.

Kim Chance suggested a workshop – attended by Max, Stan Scott, David Hartley, Andrew Watson, Barbara Morrell, Paul Davies, Chris King, Robert Nixon, and Alan Bradley. Max has since received a letter outlining the outcomes of the workshop, one of them being that Andrew Watson will prepare a briefing note outlining what needs to be changed in the Soil and Land Conservation Act to make it easier to collect service fees. Max and Barry will then have an opportunity to take this to Kim Chance.

Regional Drainage Project

Currently looking to get funds to carry on with the pilot project after June 08. The Fed govt want a report on how we've used the money received so far and we are working on this at the moment.

Clearing permits – waiting for Burakin, difficulties of getting John Holland Rail on site to do works – 14 months so far.

Mongers 16 – have an interim clearing permit, problem with patch of remnant bush – They want a fence to keep out reptiles/small animals; we're still discussing this with them Jibberding finished, problem with the length of the drain we have been invoiced for. Have to do a report to NACC saying exactly what's been done.

Attended YYCRC CEO assessment

Tenders for Burakin and Mongers 16 – Kevin Lyon has been successful in all tenders.

John Stephens Lease – going backwards and forwards to solicitors

JS wants to include a clause that if YY can't meet the commitment, then individual YY members will be responsible. He is concerned that lease area may be left in an unacceptable state

Morawa – LCDC, meeting

Wally: thinks that the YY LCDC will be passed but there is still a feeling that people would like to see more details and information about the proposal (in written form) - please send copy to Morawa, including aims and goals of the new LCDC.

There are issues with how many members will make up the committee and how many will be needed to form a quorum.

Xantippe will be finished today. Work will start in Mongers 16 today or Monday

The boundaries of YY and NACC don't match; this is an issue to look at with RC CEO and NACC

4.4. Monitoring report (IF) (attached)

DoW paying for an aquatic biota survey (funding is available until the end of June) – see report for details

4.5. Oil Mallee update (JA) – read out in Jo’s absence

Suggested that we send an email to the mailing list to see if anyone knows of a suitable truck. Pickering was suggested?

4.6. Kalannie office report (JA/LB) – (attached with NRMO report)

4.7. Policy report (LB) – nothing new to report

4.8. YYCRC report (BT) (attached)

Barrye appointed CEO last Monday

Currently in limbo and in need of a lot more info from the Regional Council, including old meeting minutes. Barrye is looking at where the RC will go and its relationship to YYCMG and a YY LCDC, if formed. Meeting with Andrew Watson to discuss how rates would be set etc...

One potential difficulty is that there is no legal obligation of the LCDC to pass money (i.e. maintenance funds) onto the RC

Covenants vs. Easements – covenants have been deemed unsuitable

Is an easement needed? It would allow access, but could this be done through a simple agreement with the landholder? The key issue is that if the landholder changes, there must be no transference. To set up an easement is likely to cost between \$5-10,000 per drain minimum, but Dene still needs to carry out the initial surveying work.

There are currently 3 separate groups (including the LCDC). Having one organisation (i.e. the YYCRC) should increase efficiency with communication, administration etc... The YYCMG would most likely become an advisory committee to the YYCRC. It would have no power/authority in its own right. This should make it easier to apply for funding because it is a local govt group.

One organisation should make things more efficient, with communication and administration.

Drainage, there is a lack of scientific evidence re deep drainage, so it is very important to continue monitoring.

We need to look at what the govt policy is and will be so we can tailor what we do, to fit with their criteria.

In the event that YYCMG no longer exists in its current role, there will be variations to contracts.

The YYCMG need to decide whether to absolve responsibility to the RC. If so, it will require a formal letter to be sent out to all members, and we will need a specific meeting to discuss this.

This letter has to come from YYCMG (before next YYCRC meeting if possible, 13th May). If we are going to do this, it would make sense to be in place for July 1st.

YYCMG could reform as YY Enterprises, they would not be under obligation to pay the RC (same as the LCDC) – because they are separate entities

4.8.1. Outcome of YYCMG requests to the YYCRC

4.8.1.1. Are we able to set up a preferred list of contractors for digging drains?

4.8.1.2. New CEO – will their role cover staff management, and are they obliged to attend the YYCMG general meetings? – These points were not addressed but were on the agenda, should I leave them in or not?

4.8.2. CEO update – see above

5. General Business

5.1. NACC / Regional Council – an update on getting the money for capital works and wages (MH)

Action needed - Make a decision regarding how we want to resolve this issue.

Barrye is going to talk to Stan and Domenica (PJ Shire) following this meeting, re where the money is, and who has invoiced for what to date.

5.2. Mongers 16 Clearing Permit update

Action needed - Must decide what action if any to take regarding inconsistencies from DEC when applying for clearing permits. It has been suggested that we write to Kerrin Macnamara.

5.3. Burakin Clearing permit update – see above

5.4. LCDC update – see above

5.5. Proposal for a Yarra Yarra Surface Water Management Plan (MH)

We already have some data from previous work carried out by Peter Taylor (Dene looking into this). Want to get the Shires involved. The most important thing is this project could potentially involve all landholders in the catchment.

5.6. Kalannie Landcare Building Lease

Postponed, no info

5.7. Website Update (in previous report)

6. Business without Notice

6.1. Grey areas within MOU's - roads and clearance between the fence – space for a vehicle

We'll do road crossings, but farmers should be responsible if they want other crossings – Max moves that YYCMG's drainage policy includes crossings and that YY pays for this, up to 5m on all boundaries - and culverts and surface water control be included in the project cost

Jan moves, seconded Wally, carried unanimously

6.2. Latest thinking from Federal Govt

- They are looking for partnerships, particularly with landowners
- They are unlikely to fund engineering works
- They are looking for "best land practice"

We don't know what position the State government will take as of yet

7. Close Meeting

7.1. Agenda items for next meeting

7.2. Next meeting is at Kalannie, June 26th 2008, 10.00am

7.3. Close Meeting (1.00pm)

I certify that this copy of the Minutes is a true and correct record of the meeting held on 24th April 2008.

Signed: _____

Chair of YYCMG

Date: _____

Please see website for copies of all previous minutes
www.yarrayarracatchment.asn.au
