



Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group

General Meeting Minutes

June 25th 2009
2.00 pm
YYCMG Office Kalannie

1. Open General Meeting (Approx 2.00pm)

1.1. Attendance

Richard Lee, Dene Solomon, Janette MacPherson, Stacey Hudson, Barrye Thompson, Ian Fordyce, Max Hudson, Keith Carter, Lizzie King, Jo Ashworth

1.2. Apologies

Peter Syme, Keith Camac, Robert Nixon

Chair for this meeting is Keith Carter

2. Minutes of previous General Meeting, held 23rd April 2009

2.1. Amendments

None

2.2. Matters Arising

None

Moved Max Hudson, seconded Lizzie King that the minutes of the YYCMG meeting held on the 23rd April 2009 be adopted as a true and correct record

Carried 9/0

2.3. Sign previous minutes if true and correct record (Chairperson)

Minutes from 23rd April 2009 signed by Keith Carter

3. Executive Reports

3.1. Correspondence (SH)

3.1.1. Correspondence In – tabled

- DEC re MU16 clearing permit, DEC were happy with the suggestions put forward by YYCMG to comply with the clearing permit conditions
- MYOB, updating payroll software
- Michael Whyte & Co to merge with Pullinger Readhead Lucas to form Allion Legal. as of 1st July, no changes to staff, but email addresses will change.

3.1.2. Correspondence Out – none

3.2. Funding and Finance (SH)

3.2.1. Financial Report – tabled (YYCMG & YYCRC)

YYCMG:

- Accounts receivable are mainly the drain fees, Stacey chasing up

- YYCRC owe YYCMG \$10,102 for reimbursement of ute lease payments that are still in YYCMG's name and some other sundry expenses.
- Oil mallee project, has spent a lot of its funds in the last couple of months (update later from JA)
- Total uncommitted funds of \$30,816
- YYCMG to put \$3000 of the uncommitted funds into the Enterprise a/c – this didn't happen because we paid for the Stephen's lease legal fees out of the cheque account instead.

YYCRC:

- Accounts receivable, outstanding payment from NACC of \$34,100 for the Merkanooka drain. This should be in the current cheque run.
- Department of Water (Dow) invoiced last week for \$4,803. There are still enough funds in this project to put the weir in as first discussed.
- YYCRC have received money from NACC to cover costs of NRM's up until the end of September

BT: State NRM funding of \$30million has been announced. This funding will all be distributed by 6 ministers, with advice from the NRM council – the majority of the NRM council representatives are anti-drainage

Moved Stacey Hudson, seconded Janette MacPherson that the financial statements for the YYCMG and the YYCRC be received

Carried 9/0

4. Reports

4.1. YYCRC CEO report (Barrye Thompson) – tabled (see attached)

Outcomes of the YYCRC meeting

- The YYCRC voted on the recommendation for the YYCRC to become a licensed drainage authority, carried 4/2
- Participating councils voted that for the interim period for 2009/2010 financial year will be required to contribute a sum of \$150,000 to fund the YYCRC, carried 4/2
- Next meeting is Tuesday 14th July, Dallwallinu
- Meeting with Minister of Water, he is in full support for the theory and practice of deep drainage, but has little funding available
- YYCRC may have to cease the monitoring and data collection
- First lease agreement is being sent out imminently and we will be able to see what the landholders think of it soon.

Discussion of the \$150,000 interim funding:

Was there money left over from local governance?

Legal expenses were not budgeted for, and will be a significant cost – at least \$20,000

YYCRC will possibly only need \$100,000, but now have approval for \$150,000. When the initial budgeting was undertaken it was difficult to know what would be left at the end of this financial year, so the actual final budget could be very different. If we receive money in the

next few months from grant applications/NACC/State funding, then the money will be refunded to the Shires.

The Shires must give notice of a financial year ahead if they want to pull out, but they can withdraw this at a later notice if they wish

4.2. NRMO reports (DS & LK) – tabled (see attached)

- Broombush planting – Lottery west will let us know the last week of July whether we have been successful in applying for a grant to cover the costs of planting the 200,000 trees. Still have to organize site visits.

With the leftover DoW money we are planning to install a crump weir at Burakin

Barrye is having a meeting with NACC, indications that there will be training organised for learning how to complete the work plans

4.3. Max Hudson report

- The Wheatbelt Catchment Authority (WCA) has been talking with Hendy Cowan regarding the \$30million State NRM funding. HC thinks WCA should start lobbying for some of this money. The Yarra Yarra monitoring project is aligned with the WCA
- The successful Royalties for Regions projects will be announced next week, if WCA are successful there will be money available to YYCRC to fund a skeleton staff to continue the monitoring program, so will reassess following this announcement.
- Interested in amalgamating our Regional Council with others in the Avon to make it more robust. The problem with YYCRC is that there is not enough drainage to warrant such a top heavy organization.
- Stephens lease agreement: John Stephens is now happy to sign it, considering the costs to get to this stage we will have to get some real use out of this lease now.
- Tree planting – already covered
- Have resolved problems in Merkanooka by putting in an additional spur drain on one property, at an additional cost of \$14,000
- Would like Jo to be able to help out at the future WCA meetings as part of her time budgeted for monitoring.

BT has heard from Bill Currans that there may be an additional \$100,000 for monitoring. At the moment, there is \$70K, which is enough to employ everybody fully until the end of September. If we do get additional funds from NACC, contracts will be extended further. We want to be in a position to be able to fully fund the monitoring for the next 12 months.

Richard Lee – It has always been made clear that the cost of spur drains rests with the landowner so how come one farmer has had his paid for?

MH – this was a one-off situation, due to position of the drain being altered because of rock, and a lack of consultation with the landowner. The landholder was very

unhappy with the situation and resulted in negotiations leading to an additional spur drain being put in.

4.4. Oil mallee update (JA)

- After no progress for several months going through NACC, asked BT to contact Barbara Morell regarding the project purchasing the assets. Have had to prove they had been bought 9 months ago, this has all been resolved, and the project now owns the equipment. Thanks to Barrye for pushing this through.
- Now have a truck with a hook lift on it. The trailer is getting licensed; the bin is being built in Dalwallwinu. Hope to have everything going within the next week or so.
- Governor visiting on the 23rd July – want to see the still and the harvester working
- Kalannie distillers will have to find the money to fix the boiler

4.5. Groundwater movements: which drains have been successful in lowering the water table (IF)

Fairly good evidence that the groundwater is being lowered in the Southern drains: Jibberding, Xantippe, Burakin and Mongers 55

Mongers 16 looks a bit doubtful

In the Northern drains, (Canna Gutha, Merkanooka and Bowgada) there is no sign that the groundwater is being lowered at all.

This is probably not surprising as the valley systems are full of water. However – there is a very rapid response to rain events.

The drains have not been in long enough to allow a long term year on year comparison, but wherever measurements are taken after a large rain event, we have seen a sharp spike in the groundwater, which then falls away quite sharply

Why some of the drains are successful and some not, we don't know.

BT – what about changes in water quality?

We don't have enough information at this stage to answer this. A lot of rainwater seems to end up in the drains without going through the ground. This freshens the water up.

Keith Carter: - The Jibberding drain (put in by Jibberding LCDC) ran constantly for three and a half years since it was put in, the water in it is still fairly acidic. Observations of the effect of this drain is that it has made the ground more workable, which means better crop establishment and improved groundcover, which is very important.

There are photo points set up at Jibberding.

There is a lot of anecdotal evidence that they work but we need to have scientific evidence. This is why continuing the monitoring is so important. We should also keep in mind that there is evidence from the monitoring that some of the drains are not working.

RL – The hydrographs for the bores on his property show that the drain is working and this is scientific and objective data. In his own experience, actually observing the drains

during and after a rain event he has noticed that fresh water was seeping into the drains very quickly, and that there was no ponding on the surface. Although subjective, this is still relevant information.

KC – other things to look at are the rainfall in the northern area, been higher possibly?

IF – in terms of flow, the northern drains are flowing well, but effect on groundwater is hard to see

We need to test how successful they are with trials of crops/trees next to the drains.
Max is trying to get this going

It is still too early to see the real effects -

Moved Jan MacPherson, seconded Richard Lee that the reports from Barrye Thompson, Lizzie King, Dene Solomon, Jo Ashworth, Max Hudson and Ian Fordyce are received.

Carried 9/0

5. General Business

5.1. LCDC Progress (JA)

Little progress since the last meeting as Max is on the constitution committee and has been away. We need to write the constitution and get the constitution committee progressing.

We still need letters of support from the shires

5.2. Funding beyond June 30th 2009

- Covered above

5.3. Future of the YYCMG if no paid employees

Unknown at this time, we will see what happens with funding.

Discussed shifting our focus from drainage perhaps for 12months and look at what else we can do, including revegetation/surface water management etc...

It may be advantageous to align with what NACC is working towards

We need to raise interest in the group and get new people involved, to keep it going.

We need to work towards getting salinity back onto the funding agenda

Perhaps we can look at running our own incentive programs. BT to discuss with Bill Currans.

5.4. Update of broombush planting in 2009 and 2010

Covered above

5.5. There have been a number of requests from community members regarding the possibility of a community tree planter being purchased through the YYCMG, which would be available to hire for a nominal rate – discussion

Can we do it through NACC whereby we would pay lease agreements and eventually end up owning it?

Who would manage it?

It could fit within NRM roles

Recommended that we don't get a brand new one, that it should be something like a Chatfield, i.e. all in one, with a mounder

Dene to follow this up and get some quotes.

Moved Dene Solomon, seconded Richard Lee that we investigate looking for funding for a tree planter.

Carried 8/0

5.6. Purchase of display boards

We can do this through the NRM budget

Lizzie to follow up

6. Business without Notice

6.1. Quarterly meetings: Suggest 4 meetings a year, instead of 5

- We still want to fit in with the Regional Council
- If reports etc... can be sent out before the meetings with the agenda and previous minutes, it would make the meetings more efficient.

Notice of motion to go to the next AGM of the management group (October)

6.2. Letter of support – movies in motions (Kalannie telecentre)

All happy for letter of support to be sent. Lizzie to follow up.

7. Close Meeting (Approx 4.30 pm)

7.1. Agenda items for next meeting

7.2. Next meeting is at Perenjori, 27th August 2009, 2.30pm

7.3. Close Meeting

I certify that this copy of the Minutes is a true and correct record of the meeting held on 19th February 2009.

Signed: _____

Chair of YYCMG

Date: _____

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