



# Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group

## General Meeting

# MINUTES

August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006  
YYCMG Office Kalannie

---

Meeting Opened: 10.08am

**1. Present:** Dene Solomon, Lisa Pocock, Janet Macpherson, Stan Scott, Duncan Peter, Keith Camac, Bob Nixon, Les Hepworth, Chris King, Stacey Hudson, Ian Fordyce, Max Hudson, Jo Ashworth

Apologies: Keith Carter, Ian Stanley, Peter Syme

**2. Minutes of General Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2006:**

2.1 Strategic Reserve Submission

2.2 Review costings, 4.8 asking for further \$140,000 – not approved, need a variation on contract.

2.3 No Biodiversity officer for yy

2.4 Warranty will not cover Dene's ute

2.5 Bill approved Dene being paid out of NRMO money until Les Hepworth appointed as new NRMO

Moved as true and correct record.

Moved Janet Macpherson

Sec Max Hudson

Carried

**3. Funding and Finance**

Financial Report

Given by Stacey Hudson.

- There are \$40,000 uncommitted funds.
- \$23,000 NRMO money owing to NACC, from 1 Oct 03 – 30 Sept 04, still to hear if we need to give back.
- Purchased Dene's Laptop, Motorbike repayment, 2 printers, blinds in Kalannie office, Ian's desk.

Moved that Financial Report be accepted

Moved Stacey

Sec Lisa Pocock

Carried

## Utes

- Dene's ute - Ford BF Falcon RTV 2dr 4lt 5spd manual – \$717.93/month, 80,000 over 24 months
- Heppy's ute - Nissan Navara 4WD \$829.33/month, 80,000 over 24 months
- Fully maintained operating leases through Ford Leasing. Sourced through Jolly and Sons. We have a free ute from Jolly's while we wait for delivery
- Old ute – transport Perth, inspection, transport Perenjori, extra lease payments, mechanic at Perenjori, about \$8000 to be paid – Chris and Stacey will work out the source of this money, breakup between projects

## Variations

Asked for Paleo – 6 month, Subsurface – 6 month, Catchment rehab (mongers) – no extension done

Funds for staff

Any milestone not met will require a variation for each milestone

Digital Camera – requested by Kalannie Office \$450 Sony – funded out of enterprise account

Agreed

Les Hepworth new NRMO – welcome. Funding past 30 September? At Joint Steering Committee, still to go to Ministers office. We will assume that it will be done.

NRMOs are only level 2 to 4, Ian should have a pay rise but would take him to level 5 – no can do. Until policy changes can't do anything, unless we pay him a portion from another source. Or he ceases to be a NRMO and he becomes classified as a specialist scientist in another project. Idea is that the NRMOs become project officers – which isn't ideal – availability of skill set should be on hand to be utilized across all projects as required. Chris to bring up career path issues with NACC.

Limited Funds – hoping that approval goes through, whole project, not just extra \$60,000

Office position in Perenjori – 3 applicants, interviews completed. Offer from Alan Bradley to use NACC staff in Perenjori on a contract basis. Still don't have funding approved so hesitant to employ someone as yet. Use NACC offer for now, and wait until contracts signed etc. \$35,000 budgeted in project

Mongers 55 costings on target, working on final arrangements between farmers and YY. If there are any discrepancies then we may have to take extra funds out of Enterprise account. Good learning opportunity, have learnt a lot for future projects. Top farmer is going to have to pay whole amount, \$8,000 for extra surface water drainage, could we help out, say \$4,000, so that he pays a similar sum to other landholders. Very hesitant as it was originally budgeted for him to pay whole sum. This does lead on to the second stage of the project, he will benefit in the second half of the project. Agreed that he should pay full amount as in original budget.

Lotteries grant - \$1500 left – hot water system

\$1500 left from LCDs – have Kalannie office painted

Phone plans – Stacey investigate, Dene to buy a new phone

Envirofunds – Trees may not be planted, Stacey rang Envirofunds are able to extend – Duncan Peter can organize the extension – liaise with him in a couple of weeks.

#### 4. General Business

##### Bore Hole Maintenance

Heppy has been monitoring all over, new ones have been concreted – old ones may not be accurate due to state of them - \$3 per hole to maintain every hole – washed sand and rapid set on top. 765 put in, only 100 worth maintaining? Tidy all up, and then Ian could prioritise those that we should be recording. Gordon Reid funding? - simple and quick process, do a couple while we apply for funding. Discussion re checking every bore again for database – new project.

##### Satellite Dish

##### Aboriginal Heritage issues

Be aware of regions, make the effort to make contact – NACC indigenous officer, Dept of Environment, Dept of Aboriginal Affairs – Ian's task

##### Early monitoring results MU55 drain

Ian showed early results. Effects of timing of taking measurements and corresponding rainfall events. 25m from drain still seeing marked effect. 50m effect is more nominal, 100m same applies – no immediate effect, delayed, 200m slow dropping, but still within normal range, 400m definitely not within 6 weeks. Vegetation transects – control site and drained site.

Photo points along drain – 6 monthly intervals

Flume measuring flow

Radiometric results

##### Results of CRCLEME/Ag Dept soil survey

Survey done to see if rapid soil survey is meaningful enough – high quality data, still awaiting report, and still have to test if it is accurate.

##### Groundwater chemistry results from CSIRO, Land & Water

Update website – Project articles update direct to Lisa

Newsletter – Copy articles to newsletter 700 to landholders. Put in local rags, and invite people to submit email addresses.

##### Deferment for payment of drains by farmers

People have committed to complete drainage, some have up to \$30,000 to pay.

Can we make some representation to defer half of this cost till after next harvest?

Government would have to cover this cost until then. Max approach NACC, and Wilson Tuckey in asking for deferment. Mongers involves 3 farmers. Agreed.

Moved that Max approach all avenues with a view of allowing farmers in

Mongers to defer their contributions

Moved Keith Camac Sec Les Hepworth

Carried

Discussion on service fee/charges – SES payment

##### YY Regional Drainage Evaluation – GHD: cost benefit analysis

\$250,000 to do feasibility study no good?

BCA for Mongers was 0.86

BCA for whole catchment ACIL Tasman – max 2.04 (YY corridor steep slope no trees) worst 0.01(replanting every farm in catchment) Good document to aid in future funding applications.

YY negotiating with reps of Fed Govt to do valley floor investigations in Avon. We are happy for our guys to be going down there – so ensure that we will definitely be paid.

Agreed.

YY negotiating with Main Roads & Railways re crossings

Getting good access to people

Regional Local Government

Boundary matching up? Working agreement on boundaries. Favourable for funding from Dept local Government and regional development – setting up structures and making sure complies with local government. Wildflower regional local council – may be useful, reuse their material. Need to get Local Governments together again to kick things off. Don Burnside has sent draft letter for mapping request to DLI – who sends off? Shire or YYCMG - \$30,000 committed from Shires already – mapping request should come from Shire. Stumbling block has always been mapping. Identifying catchment basin so as acceptable – gazetted area – YY management area. Funds – assuming regional council goes ahead, all shires would submit \$30,000. Maybe Dept of Water?, sounds like they have committed funds to establishing wheatbelt drainage councils and management boards.

Aerial Photos – Perenjori and Morawa

New data set of ECW file in colour but huge 7GB each. May have to come up with something to allow farmers access on their computers – external hard drive

Safety equipment on drill rig

Builders of Drill Rig quoted \$8000, Wongan Steel \$3600 – spent \$6500 on drill rig since April out of the enterprise account.

Constitution for Wheatbelt Catchment Alliance

Max has written it and lodged it with DEP

Presentation at Northampton

Max presented to landholders and NACC who are experiencing issues with rising ground water which was well received.

Jo helping to do NOIs to drain

Leg work to take pressure off staff. Jo will collate data from Lisa, Dene and then Jo will write and get farmers to sign off etc. Kevin Lyon to help us mark the line, reasonably accurately month ahead, so that Max can do more accurate budgeting.

Investigating people who want to do drainage

Whilst doing workshops we keep finding more people who are interested. \$5M for 2 year, 150km drain per year. Some may not want to do it – make sure everyone gets a go.

Cropping Trials

To determine efficiency of drains. Crop transects, 200m from drain. Liebe?

Dept Ag – Lorinda Hunt – NACC project for remediation.

Mike Clarke

Saltland pastures and fencing – not doing anything with anyone involved with drainage, all filled up, another round in Autumn. Investigate interest while doing

NOIs. – YY next year, which is Autumn. – opportunity to get one side of drain fenced

Funding for \$5 Million

Max gave background of how he has come up with the \$5M. \$3M initial application to NACC and then \$2M to strategic reserve.

Moved that Max use whatever avenues possible to ascertain our position regarding funding.

Namely Tony Corey, Kelly Pierce, David Hartley & Bruce Mail

Moved Janet

Sec Keith Camac

Carried

Lisa's house in Kalannie

\$90/week retain lease on house, very handy for projects, drilling guys, oil mallee mulchers. Kevin Lyon has lent us furniture for house.

Moved that we endorse this action

Moved Janet

Sec Keith

Carried

## 5. Reports

NRMO Report – Les Hepworth

Subsurface drainage project – difficulties with Mutters site due to sloppy mud – ask for a variation and get Kevin Lyon to dig open drain, install slotted pipe and cover up. Finish Nivens. If money left, do Kim Simpson's.

Survey Report – Dene Solomon

Running about 1 Megalitre/day at present out of Mongers drain. Instruments seem unable to measure hyper saline water.

Database Manager Report – Lisa Pocock

Website problems with updating program, now sorted. Get reports to Lisa

Lisa started working from home, in Kalannie Mondays and Tuesdays, rest of time from home – 3 days one week, 2 days next

Catchman training 18<sup>th</sup> August for NRMOs – need to work out costings and add 40% - quote first, including travel .71c/km. Make sure all Lisa's time is included in quote. Make sure everyone has the current version and laptops with loaded.

Oil Mallee Report – Jo Ashworth

- Changed mulching contractor to Braddon Mulching out of Geraldton
- Harvester and distillation trials have commenced in Wongan Hills
- Would like to pursue funding possibilities for solid fuel burner on advice from TSG

Catchment Alliance Report – wait for constitution

Regional Council Report – already from Stan

Regional Drainage Report GHD project – final report needed.

Subsurface Drainage Report – Already from Les

## 6. Communications

Correspondence In

Insurance policy

Super

Correspondence Out

Shires – inform to budget for crossings  
Inward received and outward endorsed  
Mov Janet                      Sec Keith Camac

Carried

Meeting Closed:      2.52pm