

General Meeting 27th April 2006

Meeting Opened: 10.30

Present: Lisa Pocock, Janet Macpherson, Keith Camac, Max Hudson, Angela Stuart-Street, Stan Scott, Jennifer Bairstow, Liz Easton, Dene Solomon, Les Hepworth, Stacey Hudson, Chris King, Bev Logue arrived 11.30

Apologies: Ian Fodysce

2 Minutes of General Meeting held on 23rd February 2006

Moved: Stacey Hudson Sec: Janet Macpherson Carried

3. Funding and Finance

Presented by Stacey Hudson

Moved: Stacey Hudson Sec: Les Hepworth Carried

- Subsurface Drainage Amendment – have applied for a 6 month extension, Chris believes this has been unofficially approved
- Interest earned from project funds must be used for same program as intended, this is not an issue for YY as all our work is ICM program

4 General Business

4.1 Angela Stuart-Street – Drainage Benchmarking Project

- Communicate with landowners to determine, motivations, cost, anecdotal results of existing drains
- Collate soil, bore, transect, cropping data to determine best practice for future drainage
- Ensure data is made available to YY, and vice versa, and ensure no duplication of data collation.
- Will be working with Richard George
- Opportunistic transects will be completed at ~2, 5, 10 and 20 intervals from drain to determine accurate results. Being aware of difficulty of exact positioning of drains until bores are drilled etc vs transect locations

4.2 Bev Logue – Biodiesel

- Set up Midwest Farmers coop – currently calling for members
- Need Canola mill, an 8000tn mill has been sourced.
- Canola crushing not labour intensive
- Biodiesel is still more expensive than diesel, 95c/lt for canola
- Higher use, greater exposure to diesel
- One unit in 2 out for canola

- Oil mallees have a greater conversion than wheat, or canola, but not suitable for biodiesel because of acid profile, but you use carbon to be converted to ethanol
- Ag did mustard biodiesel trials
- Ag need people to jump on board for forestry biodiesel production
- Maybe revegetate with something which will give biodiesel, Kelor – 250mm rainfall \$10/tree, 1000 trees/ha, salt tolerant, 1000 – 2000lt/ha, producing in 6 months, will get 25tn/ha stock feed, 10tn/ha pod for self sustained fertilizer, expel oil from seed, which is harvested sim Olives
- Need a group approach
- Re: Canola value adding process, with meal, as feed or fertilizer, total benefit outweighs diesel
- Please investigate the possibility of planting trees which are useful
- Can run diesel engines on biodiesel, no mods are required, use straight canola oil.
- Mustard is being grown in Mullewa by Ag. In our region should yield 1tn/ha, yielding ~400lt/ha oil, sim canola
- 250lt/ha from Cape Lilacs – toxic to stock

4.3 Zone Meeting with Carnamah

- Lisa and Max are planning a workshop to ensure landowners are kept abreast.
- Shire has committed funds but no involvement in process
- Darling Creek have written to councilors to ask why no involvement
- Keep communicating as things change.
- Plan meeting after seeding

4.4 Reports on Workshops

- To determine status of NOI, very valuable
- Need to ensure NOI and Clearing permits are lodged ASAP, so that we are ready to commence as soon as funding comes through
- If Regional Organisation was in effect, they would have jurisdiction over NOI and Clearing permits, which would speed up process.

4.5 New NRMO

- One application received
- Max and Dene need to be on selection panel, even if only in advisory role
- Chris, and Stan will be on panel
- Need to be aware of all tasks, including some simple secretarial

4.6 Letter to Bill Currans re multi skilled staff

- Issues regarding are we requesting for assistance that should be included in current contract or is it additional to? This is in addition to the EEI project brief
- We have multiskilled staff, so rather than employ outside staff, we should be allocated additional funds, funds should not come from existing projects, as these jobs are in addition to project scope

4.7 Strategic Reserve Project

- Max has prepared project and submitted to Joint Steering Committee and NACC.
- asking for \$2,500,000 over two years still on negotiating table
- Senator Campbell wants YY to go ahead and apply our expertise to Avon
- Representatives from Senator Campbell's Office has said that if this is going to happen we will need extra staff, say \$200000-\$300000
- Perhaps we should be asking for \$1,000,000.

4.8 Review Costings

- We need additional people, fulltime staff in Perenjori in office, CEO in Perenjori, and one more in Kalannie. The finance committee has resolved that Max Should revise the Strategic Reserve submission and increase the funding application for staff by \$140,000 p.a. for two years

4.9 Funding for Zone Drainage allocations review

- Zone breakdown presented by Max
- Everyone gets an opportunity, drain to be extended in some cases to help landowners out, or service significant additional landowners. Trying to get best value for money
- Fencing allocation seems small, \$12000/km in first stage, vegetation and fencing will come in subsequent years.

4.10 Application for YYCMG to host Biodiversity Support Officer

- NACC position
- Isolation is big issue, support would be given if they are housed in YY office
- Application form is near completion
- Then need to find accommodation, housed by NACC, paid by NACC, YY would just be providing professional support
- YY will support application, Dene will finish off, liaising with Stacey and send to Chris to sign and send off. Cindy had requested letters of support from the shire CEOs.

4.11 Dene's Ute

- Broken down, head or turbo.
- Close to changeover, Dene has removed laser etc
- Dominico will investigate, should be under warranty
- Need to pay \$4000 for excess km, funding will come from various projects, which have all used at some point.
- Perenjori Shire will support purchase with their fleet discount. Get some quotes on 4WD and come back to group. Stacey liase with Domenic, to purchase 2 vehicles. 2 dr 4WD, Nissan, Toyota, Mitsubishi, Rodeo

5. Projects

Subsurface Drainage Project – project manager

- Cindy has resigned.
- Les Hepworth has been working on project, so he will take on management.
- Let Bill know that Dene is now to be paid out of NRMO money, as he is doing this job now that Cindy has resigned

6. Reports

NRMO's Report

- None tabled

Surveyor Report

- Dene has done all preliminary surveys in each of the Zones. Final surveys to establish drain locations have yet to be completed

Database Manager Report

- Easily emailed now, main database stays on Lisa's computer, and another file which is circulated for changes
- Logistics of transferring data between catchman users and yy
- Max will help Lisa, prioritise data base work
- Been doing NOI and Clearing permits
- Mallee Fowl Survey at Janet Macpherson's property, none found as expected.

Oil Mallee Report

- Tabled

Catchment Alliance Report

- In process of becoming incorporated
- They want to use YY model, can we help them set up the model, and pay us
- Max did presentation to NEWROC (North Eastern Wheatbelt Organisation of Councils)
- Through the efforts of Wheatbelt alliance, the potential for increased funding for all wheatbelt regions is now a possibility
- Max has setup preliminary zones for them, WA Channel Management Group.

Regional Council Report

- Report still waiting with Minister.
- North Midlands VROC is ready to be signed of by Minister, so hopefully ours is in the queue.
- Boundary definitions, use cadastral boundaries of Shires maybe.
- CEI?, Don Burnside (URS) has been commissioned to progress the process from his Perth Office
- We want to write to Dept Environment to express displeasure of extensive and delayed process regarding approval of NOI and Clearing permits

Subsurface Drainage Report

- Queries re stage of completion of catchments

Regional Drainage Report

- Max showed where drains are planned, extended some to service greater number of people, greater value for money, or benefit, after consultation with landowners
- Need a better arrangement for cost sharing re Merkanooka drain
- Perhaps Federal and State Governments should fully fund drains and farmers pay a levy of say \$250 per km over 20 years
- 169 km of drainage has been allocated to the Zones for the next two financial years.

7 Communications

Correspondence In

- Outgoing late payment notifications, response
- John Holley – GPS equipment, transferred to YYCMG
- Cindy Walker Resignation letter

7.2 Correspondence Out

- To Bankwest cancelling wage payments for Cindy Walker

Moved: Max Hudson Sec: Wally Barnes Carried

Meeting Closed: 1.00pm