



Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group

General Meeting

October 22nd, 2009

2.30 pm

YYCMG Office Perenjori

1. Open General Meeting (Approx 3.20pm)

1.1. Attendance

Laurie Butler, Barrye Thompson, Peter Syme, Keith Carter, Dene Solomon, Stacey Hudson, Max Hudson, Lizzie King, Jill Wilson (left at 4.00pm), Chris King (arrived at 3.55pm)

1.2. Apologies

Jo Ashworth, Ian Fordyce, Keith Camac, Jan MacPherson

2. Minutes of previous General Meeting, held 3rd September 2009

2.1. Amendments - none

2.2. **Matters Arising** – Hydrosmart, Kel Baldock is not doing the work as such, he is working in an advisory capacity but Dene and Max are making the decisions

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

Moved Dene Solomon, 2nd Stacey Hudson that the minutes of the meeting held 3rd September 2009 be confirmed as a true and accurate record

Carried 8/0

3. Special notice

3.1. Jill Wilson, representing NEFF, for an open discussion regarding improving links between YYCMG and NEFF

Jill has already spoken with Perenjori farmers at a meeting held earlier today. Jill is working as a consultant for NEFF and has written project applications for NEFF. NEFF formed as an umbrella organization and includes Rural Financial Counselling Service (FRCS). They are looking at getting on-ground works in the NEFF region. The meeting with PJ farmers was held separately as it is not relevant for the whole Yarra Yarra region, but likely that YY may be involved to an extent with the Perenjori group. The projects will be mainly cropping, perennial pastures and risk management around climate change.

The Research & Development plan tabled.

There are synergies between NEFF and YYCMG and the potential for working together, but Jill does not want to speak for NEFF as she is a part time consultant for them, not a FTE.

There will be a field day in Feb/March to look at some perennial pastures with some people coming from CSIRO.

Dene & Lizzie will use opportunities when meeting with farmers to talk to them about the group, if they want to be involved and what ideas they have etc... and this should not conflict with the NRM roles.

3.2. Jill newly elected to the NACC board

Jill is happy to hear opinions on anything relevant to take to NACC.

Personally would like NACC to be more transparent, have improved links with the community.

Max expressed concerns that NACC are moving away from the sub-regional groups. The NACC board have previously stated that they want staff to remain with the sub-regional groups, however be aware that final decisions do not rest with the board.

4. Executive Reports

4.1. Correspondence (SH)

4.1.1. Correspondence In – tabled

- Dept of Transport re transporting dangerous goods, not applicable to YYCMG
- Formby's Lawyers advising address for Garcia's
- Fugro Spatial Solutions P/L
- Dalwallinu Shire asking us to update our details
- Dept of Treasury & Finance re banking information
- Allion Legal – cheque in payment for invoice no. 00000468
- Reliance Petroleum re new BP card

Letter regarding transporting?, Letter with address for Garcia's, and letter from Dalwallinu Shire with an update of their details

4.1.2. Correspondence Out – tabled

- Letter to Reliance Petroleum re Ian's fuel card.
- Letter to NMAC, re the audit.
- Letter to Lotterywest

4.2. Funding and Finance (SH)

Financial Reports tabled

4.2.1. YYCMG – As of Tuesday 20th October

- Keith Carter's envirofund needs following up re discrepancy of the amount
- YYCMG submitted the successful tender to the YYCRC for the monitoring project, YYCMG received \$134,300 and have spent \$6000 so far on wages
- Second year invoices have been sent out for drainage fees, there are still some outstanding from last year.
- Oil mallee project finished ,the truck has been sold and this money plus leftover funds will be returned to NACC (\$3,023)
- YYCRC reimbursed YYCMG \$1,131 for Lizzie's ute lease payment, ute has now been transferred to the YYCRC

4.2.2. YYCRC – As of Tuesday 20th October

- Lizzie's ute has now been transferred to YYCRC for 8 months (until end of June 2010)
- Have spoken to Jason Lette about the DoW funds. There are still funds remaining for this project. Once we get the invoices we can invoice DOW

for the remaining funds. No date has been given for using these funds but the sooner the better as the work needs finishing off.

- Received \$20,000 from DEC (Dept of Environment & Conservation) for the revegetation project.
- Drainage, salaries, oil mallee and NRMO audit paperwork has been dropped off at the accountants.

Moved Lizzie King, 2nd Max Hudson that the financial statements for the YYCMG and the YYCRC be received

Carried 8/0

5. Reports

5.1. YYCRC CEO report (Barrye Thompson) – tabled

Barrye is trying to reduce his hours to stay within the budget and is taking leave from Monday 2nd to Friday 6th November, so the agenda for the next Regional Council meeting will be sent out one week early.

State ministers have released another \$14.5 million, including \$500,000 for salinity, but it appears very likely that these funds have already been allocated to state Agencies.

Attended a meeting with Tony Burke, asking if funds could be found for monitoring staff, but at this stage there is no funding available through State or Federal Governments.

5.2. NRMO reports (DS & LK) – tabled

5.2.1. Submitted a CFOC, Community Action Grant today for further revegetation works. Frustration with lack of technical support going forward with NACC, due to lack of government funding, advised to try and speak to Mary Colreavy, or other back benchers

5.2.2. Working on the drainage publication, an updated version of the progress report, including all the monitoring data and the final budgets and on-ground works details.

5.2.3. Dene tabled pictures of the flume design for the crump at Burakin, still debating whether to use concrete or stainless steel. Max has organised a quote from Dally concrete, which is much cheaper than expected, which may allow for further work to be completed. Kel Baldock has been very reluctant to make the decisions.

5.2.4. Lease agreements, currently all completed apart from the last stages of Merkanooka, the process is being held up waiting for a decision on the method of lodging with Landgate, but Barrye is sorting this out.

5.3. Project Manager report (MH)

5.3.1. Working on the final report on the finished drainage (102 km in total). From Ian's report there is good information that the drains from Latham south are working, plus good anecdotal evidence (photographic, crops growing well up to the drains). Very pleased with preliminary results.

5.3.2. Fencing is all finished with exception of some repair work on one section of the fence.

- 5.3.3. We will get on with some trials within the lease area and working with Morawa Farm Improvement Group (MFIG) to do this, if they carry out the work then they will get a share of any profit from it.
- 5.3.4. Working with Wheatbelt Catchment Alliance (WCA) to get some funding to have a consultant draw up a professional proposal document for the project. This was requested by Brendan Grylls and he will then take it to the Minister for Water. The WCA are looking for \$5million which will include \$2million for the Yarra Yarra to carry on with works and monitoring. It will cost around \$37,500 to pay for the proposal and Max is currently canvassing for these funds
- 5.3.5. Ian's ute is in the process of being fixed which will take about 3-4 weeks. We need to hire something for him to use.

Moved Keith Carter, 2nd Lizzie King that we look into hire options for a ute for Ian

Carried

- 5.3.6. Broombush plantings all went smoothly. Recently attended a brushwood industry development meeting with the Moore Catchment Council and Helen Job. The meeting was to talk about setting up a co-operative for manufacturing brushwood panels in the region. They have somebody lined up to harvest it and are looking at buying a packer (co-operative). Max is now on the steering committee for the group. Some people have brush ready to harvest already but we are at least 4 years away, so we may not want to put any money into this yet. It does sound like this could be a very viable industry and the figures look promising.
- 5.3.7. Russel Speed is about to release his report on transect data (Chris King)
- 5.3.8. An evaluation audit will be done on the whole regional drainage project by Andrew Huffer, within the near future. This will be less formal than a financial audit, and will entail looking at the on-ground works and the monitoring data principally

Moved Keith Carter, 2nd Chris King that reports from Barrye Thompson, Lizzie King, Dene Solomon and Max Hudson be received.

Carried 8/0

6. General Business

- 6.1. *LCDC Progress – Jo Ashworth not present to give an update but there has been no progress since the last meeting*
- 6.2. *Caring for Our Country – Community Action Grants – covered above*

7. Business without Notice

7.1. Laurie Butler, Carbon Trading

Is there potential for the YYCMG or the YYCRC to become a carbon trading broker working between the farmers and big companies, and also as a broker for emitters (if agriculture is

included in the CPRS). It would provide jobs and a source of revenue for the region. Response from Chris King – The Perenjori shire and Gindalbie are in the process of doing something but the YY may be able to be involved. Is there anything in the constitution regarding revenue that would affect YYCMG or YYCRC doing this? (follow up)
The regional council is quite strictly limited to water so probably the YYCMG would be the group to get involved. May be prudent to be in a position to take advantage of carbon trading and keep an eye on things.

7.2. Surface Water Management Plan

Max would like to send maps out to farmers asking them to mark where there have been problems in the past 20 year from surface water (eg fences being washed out) to identify the main problem areas. If all agreed would like to go ahead with this.

7.3. Funding request from the WCA to YYCMG

Would the YYCMG be able to donate money towards the WCA to fund a consultant to write up a report for Brendan Grylls (as detailed above).

Discussion:

Max will confirm with Brendon Grylls that if we get this money together and write the report that he will actually take it to cabinet and also ask for an indication if it is worthwhile going ahead. Some scepticism that BG was just using a delaying tactic was expressed.

We don't want to throw money away so keep the amount small, but somebody has to start the support to encourage others to be involved. Max has a quote for the work of \$37,500

Max will also be asking the Shires, amongst other groups.

Moved Keith Carter, 2nd Max Hudson that YYCMG put up \$3,000 towards the cost of a professional report being prepared, subject to the full amount being raised and that there is a good possibility of it getting somewhere.

Carried 4/1

7.4. Meeting with Dalwallinu shire next Tuesday (27th October)

The meeting is regarding concern about the lack of support for the regional council.

Max is putting together a presentation with options of ways to limit the costs. Questions to answer:

- Why are we doing anything?
- Why does it need a regional council to manage it when an LCDC would do it?
- Why use the regional council model?

Max and Peter will be going to the meeting. It sounds like Dalwallinu Shire will be happy to be involved if we can attract funds.

7.5 Discussion of Wheatbelt NRM as the new name for the Avon Catchment Council

8. Close Meeting (Approx 5.30 pm)

8.1. Agenda items for next meeting

8.2. Next meeting is at Kalannie, Thursday 4th February 2010

8.3. Close Meeting

I certify that this copy of the Minutes is a true and correct record of the meeting held on 22nd October 2009.

Signed: _____
Chair of YYCMG

Date: _____

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