



Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group

General Meeting Minutes

April 23rd 2009
2.30 pm
YYCMG Office Perenjori

1. Open General Meeting (2.35pm)

1.1. Attendance

Barrye Thompson, Stacey Hudson, Jo Ashworth, Harold Wass, Keith Camac, Geoff King, Max Hudson, Lizzie King, Ian Fordyce

1.2. Apologies

Richard Lee, Janette MacPherson, Peter Syme, Dene Solomon, Keith Carter

Chair for this meeting is Keith Camac

2. Minutes of previous General Meeting, held 19th February 2009

2.1. Amendments

3.2.3 – Axel for the oil mallee trailer and new tyres and rims for the oil mallee truck are repairs and maintenance, therefore should not be listed as assets.

Moved Max Hudson, seconded Lizzie King that the minutes of the YYCMG meeting held on the 19th February 2009 be adopted as a true and correct record, with the above amendment.

Carried 9/0

2.2. Matters Arising

Insurance, royalties for regions, fencing, monitoring of the Burakin weir, submission to NACC regarding wages; these will all be covered in this meeting.

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

Moved that true and correct

3. Executive Reports

3.1. Correspondence (SH)

3.1.1. Correspondence In - tabled

- Environmental community grants information
- Letter from Westminster National
- Landmark re reward points carried forward
- Workers compensation policy (that we have now cancelled under YYCMG's name)
- Michael Whyte & Co
- Lotterywest, letter acknowledging receipt of our grant application
- DEC regarding YYCMG not complying with the conditions of the clearing permit at MU16.

3.1.2. Correspondence Out - tabled

- Response to DEC re the MU16 clearing permit. Jo has proposed that we put more pipe in. cover this over to create flora crossings and when the soil has improved will then revegetate.

3.2. Funding and Finance (SH)

3.2.1. Financial Reports – tabled (YYCMG & YYCRC)

YYCMG:

- Keith Carter has completed his envirofund. Stacey waiting on his invoices so that he can be reimbursed for the expenses he incurred.

- Total uncommitted funds of \$32,314

YYCRC

Received \$92,400 from NACC on 22/04/09 (from invoice dated 21/01/09). \$34,100 due for final 10% on Merkanooka drain. Checklist now completed. Should be forthcoming.

Most of the money for capital works for the drainage project has been spent. It will all be spent by the 30th June.

At 30/06/09 there will be \$70,000 in unspent wages funds. We need Barrye to ring Bill to confirm these funds can be used for capital works.

Most of the NRMO money will be spent by June 30th 2009.

We now have \$38,000 of DoW funds on hand. Dene has a list of what these funds will be spent on.

Governance funds need to be looked at closely as not convinced the figure is correct. There was definitely \$25,000 that came from the DoW and was deposited into the Shire of Perenjori Trust Account. What has happened to these funds? Stacey to investigate.

MH – Drainage project funds:

We need to get all the finances to balance now, so that the YYCRC do not end up having to cover any costs if goes over budget.

Reasons for changes to budget:

-The drain at Merkanooka was too hard to dig at the planned site, so it was moved and the landholder was very unhappy about it. Proposed to the landholder that a spur drain could be put in to the South side of the drain, this would cost \$15,000, so far have not had a decision from the landholder

- Sufficient fencing material has been ordered to finish the project

- Can we get the excess funds for wages transferred to capital funds, and put in another 5km of drain, or will this money have to be handed back? This needs to be sorted out by the regional council. Previously NACC have stipulated that any extra works had to be in the Merkanooka catchment (i.e. finish the drain in one sub catchment), will need to check if we have to spend it here or if we can use the funds in another catchment.

- Drain at MU16; the new owner wants another boundary crossing put in. When the drain was dug, this wasn't a boundary, but as some of the land has been sold, it now is. This would cost around \$5000

- Extra money will be needed to sort out complying with the MU16 clearing permit.

Moved Jo Ashworth, 2nd Lizzie King that the financial statement for the YYCMG and YYCRC be received.

Carried 9/0

3.2.2. Associations Liability Insurance

The YYCMG no longer require this, we have a letter from Michael Whyte & Co advising us of this.

Moved Jo Ashworth, 2nd Ian Fordyce that the YYCMG will no longer have association's liability insurance.

Carried 9/0

4. Reports

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

- Report and “road show” to local shires

Have been to all the local shires and given presentation bar Wongan Ballidu, as their council meeting was the same day as the Perenjori and Morawa shires.

- The lease agreement is back with the solicitor and should be all finalized by the end of this week/early next week. It has been signed off by the regional council.
- Royalties for regions; the regional council should get money through the royalties for regions scheme, but it is still unknown who will get what and when. It is unlikely that any money would be received before November 2009, May 2010 – which leaves a long gap with no money.
 - There is a possibility of getting \$450,000 for the next three years, but there is no guarantee
 - For the first year only, local governments (shires) get funding, but for the next three years their allocations will be reduced, and the remainder of the money will go to regional councils
 - The only thing which may alter this is the global financial situation

4.2. NRM report (LK) – tabled

4.3. Oil mallee update (JA)

We are still waiting for approval for assets from the State NRM office. Advice from NACC is not to push them. The next part is ongoing ownership of assets after June 30 Tim Emmott has discussed whether the Oil Mallee Association could take on any assets after June 30th. NACC seem open to this idea. We will still need to spend the cash, so need to decide what to do with this.

- Agreed that Jo will speak to Bill Currans again to see if he knows what is happening yet, and let him know we want to talk to the state office (Barbara Morell). If we don't get anywhere, Barrye will talk to Alan Bradley.
- Last time Jo spoke to NACC, they had not submitted the asset approval forms to the state office yet. They have since been sent.
- To achieve the milestones before the end of June is looking very unlikely as there is not long enough to get the bins built and working.

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4.4. Max's report (MH)

- See above (in finance section) for drainage project update
- Broom bush - have been gps'ing sites for where all the seedlings are going
- Have submitted two applications to try and get money for the YYCMG through the Royalties for regions scheme. One through the Mid West Regional Council and one with the Wheatbelt Catchment Alliance. There was support for the WCA application from the Wheatbelt drainage council.
- Taking accumulated leave, 8 weeks from beginning of May (back last week of June). Max to get a report to Barrye for the next RC meeting before Max goes

Moved Geoff King, 2nd Ian Fordyce that the reports from Barrye Thompson, Lizzie King, Jo Ashworth and Max Hudson are received

Carried 9/0

5. General Business

5.1. LCDC Progress (JA) – held second public meeting 23rd April in Perenjori. Now will talk to the commissioners' office (Gale Arnold) to progress the LCDC. We may have to wait for Max to get back before we start looking into setting up constitution, steering group etc...

5.2. Funding beyond June 30th 2009

BT – At the moment we do not know what will happen after June 30th. Regional Council sent a submission to NACC for funds to continue the monitoring, written to try and fit with the CFOC targets.

- CFOC application submitted to survey roadside vegetation, would employ Ian if successful.
- The only money NACC has is federal money, and so any application for it has to fit with the federal government targets
- State NRM money – nobody has heard anything about what is happening
- Barrye should have a meeting with the Minister for Water in the next couple of weeks

5.3. Grant Applications submitted:

5.3.1. Royalties for regions – covered above

5.3.2. Caring for Our Country – One through the Regional Council, one through the YYCMG.

5.3.3. Environmental Community Grants (1st May is application deadline) – we are going to put in an application for funding for biodiversity planting alongside some of the drainage lines.

5.3.4. Lotterywest – hopefully they will approve this or it may be difficult to get all of the broombush seedlings planted

5.4. Update of broombush planting in 2009 and 2010 – lotterywest application submitted, this has been covered by Max in his report.

5.5. Internet in the Perenjori Office

BT – when decided what action to take, this can go through the NRMO budget.
Lizzie and Jo to look at this following the meeting

5.6. NACC boundary (JA)

- Burakin is not within the NACC area although it is part of the YY catchment. This is because when NACC was set up, they followed the Ag department boundary.
- The Avon catchment does not include Burakin either.
- It means that when there are NACC funds for project work, landowners in Burakin are unable to access these funds
- Informally NACC appear happy to change this boundary
- This should be done at Regional Council level, RC will send a letter to NACC< Barrye will sort this out.

6. Business without Notice

Ian asked for direction from the committee regarding a final report that will be due at the end of June about the drainage and monitoring. Should Ian concentrate on writing up the report or concentrate on carrying on with the monitoring work?

- Technically there will be three months after June 30th to write up reports however this is not practical if there are no funds for wages after this time.
- BT – continue doing the project, for now, and keep doing 1 day a week on the report.

Max – If we are successful in getting funding for the WCA through the royalties for regions scheme, we may be able to get money for YY wages through this. Could this then result in forming a partnership with NACC, e.g. to get matching funding.

Not discussed further, will have to wait and see the outcome of the application.

7. Close Meeting (Approx 4.05pm)

7.1. Agenda items for next meeting

7.2. Next meeting is at Kalannie, 25th June 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
