

PEEL INLET MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

14th meeting held on Wednesday, 16th August 2006
at the Peel Waterways Centre, Mandurah

The meeting commenced at 9am.

ATTENDANCE:

Bruce Tatham	Acting Chairman
Cameron Bulstrode	Department for Planning and Infrastructure (Planning)
Tony Cappelluti	Department of Fisheries
Phil Curran	Community
Cr Zita O'Reilly-Carter	Shire of Waroona
Murray Love	Department of Environment and Conservation
Cr Christine Thompson	Shire of Murray
Kim Wilson	Community
Alan Wright	Department of Environment and Conservation
Colleen Yates	Peel Development Commission

APOLOGIES:

Martin Baird	Department for Planning and Infrastructure (Maritime)
Marilyn Gray	Community
James Holder	Department for Planning and Infrastructure (Maritime)
Dorothy Lucks	Community
John Hughes	Chairman
Cr Brian Joynes	City of Mandurah
Bob Pond	Coordinator, Peel Waterways Centre
John Pszczola	Executive Officer, Department of Water

EXECUTIVE SUPPORT:

Leon Brouwer	Manager, NRM & Waterways, Department of Water
Debbie Colquhoun	Minute Secretary, Department of Water
Adrian Parker	A/Program Manager, Catchment and Waterways Management, Department of Water

1. WELCOME AND AGENDA REVIEW

The Chairman opened the meeting and announced the apologies. He announced that Mr Morris Bessant had tendered his resignation from the Council.

He welcomed Mr Alan Wright, Nature Conservation Officer with the Department of Environment and Conservation. Mr Wright will be working from the Mandurah office assisting Mr Murray Love.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved:

The minutes of the thirteenth meeting held on 21st June 2006 were received and adopted, subject to the following amendments:

- (a) *Page 7, Item 13(c), 2nd paragraph – replace the first sentence with the words “Lakes Road will be widened as part of the planning for the Peel Deviation which may mean the removal of the informal facility at the Stakehill Road bridge.” The reference to the “Department of Main Roads” to be amended to read “Main Roads Western Australia”.*
- (b) *Page 5, Item 5(b) – delete the word “their” in the second line.*

Moved: *Kim Wilson*

Seconded: *Colleen Yates*

Mr Love to ascertain with Main Roads WA whether this informal boat ramp is on the nature reserve or road reserve and report back to the next meeting.

Action:

1. Report back to the next meeting on whether the informal boat launching facility at the Stakehill Road bridge is on the nature reserve or road reserve. (*Murray Love*)

(a) Action List

(i) Proposed South Yunderup Channel Dredging

Cr Thompson advised that there was nothing further to report at this stage.

As the spoil from this site would not contain any acid sulfate and due to the fact that it may take some time to obtain permission from the Conservation Commission to use this dredge spoil on Boodalan Island, Mr Love agreed to commence the process now to be in a position to utilise this spoil when the dredging occurs.

(ii) Moratorium on High Risk Acid Sulfate Soils – Correspondence to the Water and Rivers Commission Board

With the abolition of the Water and Rivers Commission and establishment of the Department of Water, the Water and Rivers Commission Board will

be disbanded and a new Water Resources Council established under the Department of Water. It was agreed to seek clarification on the structure and reporting arrangements and revisit the Council's correspondence once the new structure has been established.

Action:

2. Seek clarification on the new structure and reporting arrangements under the Water Resources Council. (*John Pszczola*)

3. REVIEW OF THE PEEL REGION BOATING FACILITIES STUDY 2003

With the acknowledged increase in boat traffic and subsequent increase in the requirement for mooring facilities for both boats and houseboats in the Peel Harvey and the rivers and the lack of designated areas, it was agreed to request the Department for Planning and Infrastructure to establish the Peel Harvey as a mooring and anchoring control area.

Action:

3. Write to the Department for Planning and Infrastructure (Marine) requesting consideration be given to establishing the Peel Harvey as a declared mooring and anchoring control area. (*John Pszczola*)

In Mr Holder's presentation which was circulated to members after the last meeting, it appears that it is proposed to extend the Murray Bend boat ramp. Mr Curran queried whether this would be compatible. It was agreed to have this discussed at the next meeting when Mr Holder or Mr Baird would be present.

Mr Parker reported that the sullage survey of commercial and recreational vessel operators and pump out facilities has been completed. It indicated a strong demand for a dedicated public facility be established on the Murray River.

The Shire of Murray is applying for a grant under the Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme to establish a pumpout facility and also under the Community Water Grants for disposal of the wastewater to sewer. The proposed location is downstream of the Pelicans Deli as this site already has sewer connection, whereas other areas along the Murray River do not have sewer in close proximity to the river which increases the cost of establishing this facility.

4. STRATEGIC LAND USE PLANNING

Mr Parker provided members with updates on the following:

- (a) Eastern Estuary Environmental Assessment
- (b) Discussions with officers servicing the Environmental Protection Authority and Department of Environment and Conservation (ex CALM) planners to ensure consistent advice on land use planning referrals.

- (c) A concept plan has been finalised for Amarillo, and is currently being reviewed by the EPA.
- (d) Perth Bunbury Highway – assessment of proposal by the Department of Environment and Heritage. Ms Wilson reported that nesting sites for the Carnaby's Cockatoo and Forest Red-Tailed Black Cockatoo have been sighted along the route of the proposed highway.

5. CURRENT DREDGING, DISPOSAL AND RETAINING WALL LICENCES

(a) Mariner's Cove Stage 6CA Disposal

No issues.

(b) Southport Stage 5 Disposal

Mr Parker reported ongoing problems with turbidity. The Western Australian Fishing Industries Council (WAFIC) have expressed concerns with the effect of the plume on the blue swimmer crabs. Mr Parker reported that the developer had undertaken a dive for a benthic survey in the Dawesville Channel. The video of the dive will be made available to the Department.

Mr Parker will be meeting with the developer this week to discuss the ongoing turbidity issue and also how any potential impacts from the breaching of the canal in the next few weeks can be best managed. Mr Cappelluti will also attend the meeting.

Mr Cappelluti also requested samples of crabs which it is believed have been affected by the plume together with samples of mussels from the bridge pylons for tests to be undertaken to determine if they have been affected by the particulates in the plume.

(c) City of Mandurah Stingray Point Retaining Wall

No issues.

(d) Lot 800 Pinjarra Road, Ravenswood Retaining Wall

No issues.

The meeting adjourned at 10.10am and resumed at 10.30am.

6. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND RECREATION MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE PEEL WATERWAYS

Mr Brouwer reported on the status of the following strategies:

(a) Strategic Recreation Sites

Very little progress to date. Terms of reference to engage a consultant are currently being prepared.

- (b) Reef Ball project
An amended funding application has been resubmitted jointly with the Peel Harvey Catchment Council with the support of the local Department of Fisheries.
- (c) Future directions and new projects
Aligning the Peel Waterways Centre program and the next top priority projects is being considered.

Ms Yates reported on the status of the following strategies:

- (a) Peel Waterways Institute
The feasibility study has been completed. The Committee will be meeting shortly to discuss progressing the Institute. A CD copy of the feasibility study can be made available to interested members. Ms Yates will provide a briefing at the next meeting.
- (b) Cultural mapping of the eastern Peel Harvey
Progressing.
- (c) Bio-diesel
The Peel Development Commission has been successful in obtaining 3 year funding from the Commonwealth Government to investigate converting algae species into bio-diesel. A business case is currently being prepared to seek State Government assistance with the proposal.

Action:

4. A briefing on the proposed Peel Waterways Institute be provided at the next meeting. (*Colleen Yates*)

7. GOVERNANCE UPDATE

Mr Brouwer gave a briefing on the proposed governance arrangements for the Peel Harvey and current status.

8. PEEL REGIONAL PARK – PROGRESS REPORT

Mr Bulstrode advised that he had met with the Chairman of the Western Australian Planning Commission to outline the need for additional planning staff resources for specific projects, such as the Peel Regional Park Plan. At this stage no budget approval had been obtained for additional funding for the Peel Regional Park Plan Project, as the funding arrangements between the Western Australian Planning Commission and the Department for Planning and Infrastructure were yet to be finalised.

It is anticipated that the funding arrangements will be resolved and that a decision on the project funding should be made within the next month. However, until additional

funding is provided and additional planners are appointed, the Peel Regional Park Plan Project can not be progressed.

9. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The Executive Officer's report was received.

It was noted that the Executive Officer had been attending an increasing number of clearing complaints. Mr Brouwer advised that a letter will shortly be sent to private landowners with properties abutting the foreshores advising them of the clearing control regulations and that it is an offence to clear vegetation on foreshore reserves.

10. ACID SULFATE SOILS AND PEEL HARVEY ESTUARY LONG TERM DREDGING WORKING GROUP

The group has not met since their last meeting in March 2006.

11. DEPARTMENT OF WATER/DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION UPDATE

Mr Brouwer gave an update on the current status of the formation of both Departments.

12. PEEL WATERWAYS CENTRE BUDGET 2006/07

Mr Brouwer reported that the Centre had been operating for 1 year. A series of public lectures has been conducted on a number of topics which have been well received. The Centre is currently setting up a website, newsletter and preparing a communication strategy. The Centre is also progressing a number of projects including an economic assessment of the waterways and a recreational use survey.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Alan Wright

Mr Love introduced Alan Wright, a Nature Conservation Officer with the Department of Environment and Conservation, who has recently transferred permanently to the area. He has expertise in flora and fauna monitoring.

(b) Murray River 6 Point Action Plan

Mr Parker reported that a number of reports have been compiled for the various projects under the 6 Point Action Plan. These reports will be discussed by the project steering committee next week followed by a community consultation workshop to release the findings from the Plan. An update will also be provided to the Minister for the Environment.

(c) **Birdlife**

The Acting Chairman queried whether any studies had been conducted on the numbers of birdlife as part of the RAMSAR agreement which states that the area must house at least 1% of the birdlife.

Although a lot of work has been done by various community groups, they have not been collated. Mr Love advised that Jim Lane has just released a paper on bird numbers.

Cr O'Reilly-Carter advised that a recently established group is collating a lot of data on a range of environmental issues from volunteers dating back approximately 20-30 years in the Lake Preston Lake Clifton area for their case against the development of Preston Beach.

14. NEXT MEETING/CLOSE

The meeting closed at 11:25am.

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 18 October 2006** in the Peel Waterways Centre, Mandurah.

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Chairman