Minutes

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| Title: | Koo Wee Rup Longwarry Flood Protection District Advisory Committee |
| Meeting date: | Thursday, 21 February 2019 |
| Meeting time: | 1.30pm -3.30pm |
| Location: | Melbourne Water offices, 334 Rossiter Road, Koo Wee Rup |
| Chairperson: | Bruce Turner |
| Attendees: | Bruce Turner, Ian Anderson, Robert Mure, Bernard Dillon, Matthew Coleman, Con Raffa, Susan Anderson, Frank Rovers, Cr Ray Brown (CSC), Tong Ung (BBSC), Anna Zsoldos (MW), Tom Le Cerf (MW), Stuart Cochrane (MW), Claire O’Reilly (MW) Georgina Downey (MW) |
| Apologies: | Jo Fontana, Mark Howard |
| Note taker: | Georgina Downey |

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| Agenda item | 1. Welcome & apologies and items for General Business | Presenter | Bruce Turner |
| Agenda item | 2. Actions from previous meetings | Presenter | Stuart Cochrane |
| Discussion | **12.1** Mark from Cardinia will follow up with relevant Council officers to seek clarification on members’ questions about Moody Road Drain. **OPEN** | | | |
|  | **12.2** Stuart to follow up with Susan on weeds on Bunyip River. **CLOSED**  Susan said she appreciated Stuart visiting the site. Discussion on Stream Frontages Management Program and MW preference to prioritise weed management where there are engaged and active landholders. Susan has been in SFMP for many years but with the ability only to tackle the top of the banks, the infestations are too hard to manage. Stuart advised that MW will look to assist in this area and is trying to allocate some weed control funding from outside of KWRLFPD funding stream. | | | |
| Agenda item | 3. Planning for future meetings | Presenter | Bruce Turner | |
| Discussion | 3.1 Question to Committee regarding how we are tracking since the Future Focus Workshop (March 2018) which included a summary of the role and scope of the Committee.  Discussion on drainage capacity in a massive flood event (like 2011) and how confident Melbourne Water is that drains would cope. If doing well then that’s 80% of the Committee role fulfilled. Tom advised that while some areas would still flood (eg some drains have a 1 in 2 year level of service), the assets are unlikely to fail and the drains are mostly operating optimally.  Some discussion on the 2011 flood and the intensity of the flood in the different areas.  Frank spoke of the past works on the drains which have not been maintained and now there is excessive trees in the drains so that capacity is diminished.  Question as to whether there has been any improvement in capacity of the drains and service levels.  Comment was made that there have been improvements in tackling blackberries.  Susan commented on the impacts of climate change on the area including the potential for increased rainfall.  Ray asked whether MW felt that the committee has value. Response that Committee is very helpful in building a case for works and prioritising them. | | |
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|  | Ian noted that we work to a limited budget. He gave an example of works between Cora Lynn and Iona which had required external resources. He said he hoped it was not a reflection on the Committee that this area had returned back to where it was before the works (35% reduction in flood capacity). There was consensus that this is a problem and that flood protection is the key role of Melbourne Water and the Committee.  Frank mentioned that the community has changed and there is now an emphasis on high value crops as opposed to grassland and the drainage needs to be adequate to allow for this. He noted that while we do have increased capacity, it is beginning to be an issue again. The Committee’s job is to get the best bang for the buck in terms of capacity as if the area floods, the community will come back to the committee.  The Committee provides corporate memory of the history of the region, and how things were in the past compared to now.  Engagement will be required on levels of service and Customer Charter in parallel with the Pricing Submission 2021. Also boundary changes.  Timing of bus tour discussed and agreed that it should be in Winter to ensure that we have high flows.  Committee tenure: Tenure is up for all but Susan and Jo (who were appointed more recently than the remainder of the committee who have served their three year terms) so MW will seek nominations for new members. There was discussion of the process for outgoing members to reapply. Georgina will email all existing members (except Susan and Jo) to seek a response as to whether they wish to continue for another term. Members will be reconsidered if they indicate they wish this, even without submitting a full application (optional).  **Action 13.1: Georgina to email outgoing members to determine their interest in reapplying to join the new Committee.** | | | |
| Agenda item | Action Plan update | Presenter | Tom Le Cerf | |
| Discussion | See attached table for updates. | | | |
| Agenda item | Capital works & Maintenance | | | |
| Discussion | Stuart gave a progress report before having to leave the meeting:  • McDonalds Catch Drain – 500metres  • Soldiers drain desilt postponed due to budget  • Yallock Outfall weed control – Tynong – Bayles.  Matthew stated that while it was good to know what was being done, it would be good to have updates by exception, i.e a report highlighting drains which are not running optimally and what is being done about them. If there was an ‘Exceptions Report’, the committee could help prioritise the remediation work.  Tom advised that such a report would involve revisiting all the models which MW cannot resource at this time. He discussed the improved inspection of drains using drones. Infrared for vegetation coverage etc. This would enable provision of an annual report focussing on the hotspots. Ray asked if it would be possible for members to see a video of some aerial survey sites.  Tom said that survey results could be provided each year in August, before the bus tour so hotspots could be visited.  Frank commented that community angst arises where areas are flooded due to lack of maintenance. He said all can accept some flooding if necessary works have been completed. | | | |

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|  | Susan requested that the maintenance and capital works report be included with the agenda so that it can be reviewed prior to the meeting.  **Action 13.2: Tom to develop a plan/ proposal of options for an annual survey to identify exceptions or hotspots for discussion with the Committee at the May meeting**  Capital works:   * Floodgate on Cardinia Creek at Ballarto Rd * No 7 Yallock Drain – Coster Rd erosion control. * Environmental Weed control in Cardinia Creek area to protect saltmarsh and mangrove   On the last point, Susan reported attending a day of presentations focused on Westernport Bay which she said is basically ‘holding its own’.  **Action 13.3: MW to circulate a link to presentations from the Bay event** | | |
| Agenda item | Community Feedback | Presenter | ALL |
| Discussion | Change in maintenance contractors may pose issues as there is a loss of the local knowledge. Hard task to maintain drains effectively. (Ian)  Desilts – need to use laser level, not just follow the previous work level. (Frank) MW is currently looking at how we desilt and making sure that we improve these practices.  **Action 13.4: MW to circulate a list or link to a list of maintenance service providers that MW uses**  Have new LIDAR? Available – 2017 have shot the ground with laser to see what drain levels are.  Drain contractors should remove their litter. (Frank)  Cumulative impact of infill development – drains in development may be fine but when discharged to external drains there is no capacity. Is this a failure of the referral system, to not be looking at cumulative impacts? (Susan) Developments may only meet 1-2 year floods.  Tarago Reservoir water – is it used? Who by? Quality of water? Suitable for irrigation? (Bernie)  **Action 13.5: Georgina to check and circulate information on Tarago between meetings**  Grading of Cardinia Catch Drain (Con) – Tom has already spoken to Marshall Baillieu onsite  Why is nothing being done about trees in drains? (Frank) Works occur under a programmed maintenance revision of program is being undertaken to ensure adequacy in response to community feedback.  Does MW control rabbits? (Robert) Not outside of high value vegetation sites or areas where they are causing damage to levees. | | |

Bruce concluded the meeting with an acknowledgement of and thanks for the efforts of the current, outgoing committee members over the past three years.

**Meeting closed:** 3.00pm

**Next meeting**: Thursday 23 May 2019, 1.30 to 3.30 pm, Koo Wee Rup offices. *(Note slight change of time from previous meetings)*

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| **#** | **Action Item** | **Committee Lead** | **Priority** | **Status** | **Comments** |
| **(1= 6 months,**  **2= 6 – 12**  **months , 3= 1 year +)** |
| **The area boundaries** | | | | | |
| 1 | Explore the opportunity to review (external provider) the KWR district boundary to ensure catchment and hydrology are equitable and climate change are taken into consideration. | Sarah | 1 | Currently with pricing submission team at MW. | Matt indicated he was happy to be an advocate to this revision |
| **Flood protection / improved flows** | | | | | |
| 2 | Investigate the potential removal of pylons under the historic railway bridge crossing at Bunyip River to assist in flood conveyance | TL | 1 | Feedback from Council  heritage constraints on Bunyip River Bridge further clarification sort, | Survey booked in as first step to understanding risk to flooding |
| Looking to initiate investigation into risk of blockage, funding will be required. McDonalds Drain also to be considered |
| 3 | Maintain Bunyip Main Drain for maximum flow- including | TL | 2 | Significant works recently undertaken downstream of railway bridge including removal on significant instream vegetation.  Additional works planned for March. Investigation underway for how to improve the environmental management of the area. | Area between Cora Lynn Ford and 13 Mile Road raised as area of concern. Additional works to be undertaken in March as a response. |
| Arrange to carry out weed control activities between railway bridge and Bunyip - Modella Road bridge |
| Provide reeds and rushes along levee banks |
| 4 | Are we getting development right? |  | 2 | Key developments to be discussed as a part of this action item. This includes Pakenham East PSP and Moody Street Drainage scheme | KWR Road duplication planning underway. Once further information is known will look to share with committee |
| 5 | Strategic land use planning – ( Use of roads as drains is inappropriate in flood prone townships) | TL | 2 | We need further  information to improve understanding locally. Information to be shared with flood committee. | KWR development guidelines to be completed will be forwarded once complete. |
| 6 | Increase the coverage in monitoring flood protection | TL | 2 | Hydro graphics team to present in May What are key questions? | Minor flood warning when ford overtops??  Monitoring station for McDonalds Drain would be useful |
| **Efficiencies** | | | | | |
| 7 | Provide greater clarity around ownership of drainage maintenance responsibilities between council, MW and private properties | TL | 3 | One pager to be developed. Key information within customer charter. | Cardinia Shire Weed Strategy also referenced as a key document. |
| 8 | Explore the potential to improve work efficiency and work practices (i.e. spreading of silt), include efficiency reporting as a part of this |  | 1 | Doing trial around works methods in Lower Bunyip to look at removing woody vegetation from within waterways.  Packaging of desilt works Consider multiple machine desilts? One to dig and one to spread | Ongoing part of practices. |
| **Communications and Technology** | | | | | |
| 9 | Continue the annual committee bus tour of the KWR district |  | 1 | Complete |  |
| 10 | Melbourne Water to improve  knowledge sharing to the Advisory committee through guest speakers, subject matter experts on key topics with further input from Council. |  | 1 | Complete |  |

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| 11 | Reduce the use of paper based  newsletters and communicate through other effective approaches (i.e. use of MW KWR committee webpage or email based) | Georgina | 2 | Complete |  |
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| 12 | Coordinate with the MW customer call centre to actively ensure that issues/concerns are managed appropriately – tracking and escalation  process | Sarah | 1 | Complete |  |
| 12 | Technologies to improve Advisory  Committee communication in between meetings – e.g. access to website/portal that everyone can  access |  | 3 | Complete |  |
| **Habitat / environmental management** | | | | | |
| 19 | Investigate blackberries/weeds in areas across the flood district | TL | 1 | Yallock No. 4 Drain to begin as pilot area | Vegetation studies/management plans underway at Lower Bunyip and Yallock Outfall. |
| 13 | Investigate the opportunity to create a corridor for nature and public use along Yallock outfall (eg bike path network) | Council | 3 | Mark to discuss with Cardinia Council |  |
| 14 | Engage an ecologist/ specialist to  provide advice on the management of blackberry (staged approach) to reduce the impact on Southern Brown Bandicoot (SBB) habitat and provide a monitoring program | Stu | 1 | Complete |  |
| 15 | Monitor the effectiveness of the fox and  cat control program through a program of works | Stu | 2 | Complete |  |
| 16 | Improve management of litter within drains | TL | 1 | Current policy is to only  remove blockages, hesitant to divert resources away from primary purpose of drainage levee.  Acknowledgement of  larger issue. |  |
| **Collaboration** | | | | | |
| 17 | Ensure effective coordination of programs across organisations | TL | 2 | Meeting with Council to discuss | Relationship between councils  being strengthened. Recent collaboration around councils biolinks and weed management plan |
| 18 | Explore opportunities to work together  with councils on drainage infrastructure projects | Sarah | 2 | Living Rivers existing projects | Complete |
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| Amber started |
| Red not progressing |

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