



Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group

Minutes

26th February 2019
12.00pm
Perenjori Office

General Meeting - Minutes

1. Open General Meeting – 12.20pm

- 1.1. Attendance: Jude Sutherland, Stacey Hudson, Lizzie King, Paulina Wittwer, Rowan Smith, Annabelle Garratt
- 1.2. Apologies: Carris Waite, Max Hudson, Bryce Hathway, Sanny Levett, Brian McAlpine, Peter Syme

2. Minutes of Previous General Meeting, held 27th July 2018

- 2.1. Amendments – no amendments
- 2.2. Matters arising – some to be discussed in general business
- 2.3. Sign previous minutes if true and correct record (Chairperson)

Moved Stacey Hudson, 2nd Paulina Wittwer Carried

3. Executive Reports

3.1. Funding and Finance (SH) to be tabled – tabled, see attached

Financial Report is attached

- Drain maintenance. An ongoing issue. Always the same farmers who pay and the same farmers who don't pay. No legal way to enforce it. All farmers aware they won't be eligible for maintenance if they choose not to pay the annual fee.
- Several projects were finalised (State NRM Capability grant, State NRM Creating a buzz about revegetation, Gunduwa, Lotterywest, Regional herbarium and Yarra Yarra district soil audit)
- Paulina queried the LCDC set up, are they still active i.e. Kalannie/Goodlands/Jibberding/Perenjori? No, these LCDC's were wound up many years ago and we are holding their remaining funds.

Stacey moves that the finance reports be received.

Moved: Stacey Hudson 2nd Lizzie King Carried

3.2. Correspondence - to be tabled

- **Correspondence In:**

- Shire of Dalwallinu – regarding the Kalannie Office.
- Edith Cowan University – Letter requesting variation & extension to the project reporting. They have about \$2,000 left in their budget. They would like a student to do up a more detailed report and scientific publication, including putting together some guidelines for future revegetation.
- Mount Gibson Mining – Successful in receiving \$24,000 towards a direct seeding machine.
- Smart Farms Smart Grants – approval letter, \$48,200.
- Letter from Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, that changes to the YYCMG constitution have been approved and lodged (22nd Nov 2018).

- Email from Brian McAlpine, regarding deep drains and permissions – Jude to respond to Brian and suggest he contact the Shire as a first contact.
- Email from Paulina – Landcare Australia have recently launched Fund Landcare. Email attached. Discuss further in general business (point 6.6).
- **Correspondence Out:**
 - Gunduwa RCA – Letter requesting a variation & extension to complete project
 - Annual YYCMG Information statement lodged with the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety.

4. Reports

4.1. Landcare Coordinator Report (JS) read out and tabled

- Unsuccessful for State NRM community stewardship grants. Have emailed asking for feedback. We propose writing to the Minister, Alannah McTiernan, regarding the lack of funding through State NRM to express concerns, ask for more information about what is required etc... for future funding... WALN will look over the letter. Lizzie to draft
- Reply from advertising in Eneabba “on the Mat” for bird workshops. Paulina and Jude to follow up, Carnamah LCDC may be able to work with them. Jude forwarded request to West Midlands Group who suggested the Greenhead CRC.
- Smart Farms site assessments have taken place at all sites, with Tony Rosser. First report submitted

4.2. Wheatbelt Catchment Alliance – no update (MH)

5. YYCMG Constitution

5.1. Update – it has been approved

6. General Business

6.1. Kalannie office update – Dalwallinu Shire want us to vacate the Kalannie office building. They no longer want the upkeep costs.

Options:

- 1) See if we can take on the lease ourselves, but this would be very expensive.
- 2) Ask the Shire to continue the peppercorn lease.
- 3) Think Kochii are unaware of the entire issue. Stacey will call Ian Stanley and let him know what is happening. Perhaps Ian can contact the Shire, he may have more clout.

6.2. Bait laying Trailer = NACC have leftover funds from a State NRM project – “Feral Fix”. They contacted YYCMG to see if we could use some funds for any relevant equipment. After discussions with Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association, thought a bait laying trailer would be a useful and appropriate way to spend the funds. Discussed the ongoing financial implications, namely insurance and maintenance costs – NACC will be able to pay us enough for the trailer and to cover these other costs for at least 12 months, probably more. CWBA could potentially take on the trailer down the track if necessary. Agreed to go ahead with accepting the NACC funds.

6.3. State NRM Community Stewardship Grants = We will submit a letter, to be checked by WALN (discussed already).

6.4. Mount Gibson have approved \$24,000 towards a direct seeding machine, plus we have an additional - \$5000 from NACC, \$2000 from Carnamah LCDDC, \$2500 from YYCMG. The direct seeder (Agrow Plow) costs \$48,000, so we are about \$15000 short. Jude has spoken to Finn at Afgri to see if they would reduce their price, waiting to hear back.

A couple of other options to follow up:

- 1) Ask each farmer directly involved in the project to contribute up to \$1000 each (maybe \$500?)
 - 2) Talk to SMART farms coordinator, to see if we can do a variation, and use \$5000 of the grant to go towards it. Jude to follow up
 - 3) There is a small amount of money left in projects 21,22 and 24 – which could be used to make up a shortfall (NB this money has been earmarked for Jude's wages)
 - 4) Tony Rosser expressed interest in contributing towards it – some reluctance to go with this option as it may mean the machine isn't available in this region when we need/want it. We could ask if he would sponsor it?
- Stacey will find out insurance costs.

6.5. RBG update – Midlands Biosecurity Group are in the process of getting set up as a Recognised Biosecurity Group (RBG). They cover some of our region.

6.6. YYCMG Future Direction

Our current costs are:

- 1) Jude working 3 days per fortnight, \$25,000 for wages and super (per year).
Insurance costs \$3100, auditing fees \$1000, bank charges \$100, electricity \$250, Domain renewal \$20, honorarium \$3000 totals approx. \$32,500.

We have just renewed our insurance. Next year we will check with WALN regarding an insurance quote as this was one of the reasons for becoming a member, they offered potential savings here. Stacey needs to get a quote before January.

We will continue applying for funding – including Gunduwa, State NRM community stewardship grants, SMART farms (not until towards the end of the year). We should look more broadly at what grant options might be available. Lizzie to follow up.

Other options:

Regen WA – do they have any funds? Would Brendon Haeusler talk to local farmers? Lizzie will follow up.

Is it worth organizing a meeting/catch up with the Carnamah Shire CEO Karin Oborn? She is very supportive of Regen Ag. Maybe speak to Jess Attachwa to see if there may be any opportunities. Jude to follow up with the Shire of Carnamah.

Move a motion that we continue to pay Jude at 1.5 days/week from the Yarra Yarra Enterprises account until the end of June 2019.

Moved Lizzie, 2nd Paulina Carried

7. Business without Notice

7.1. Birds and Flora of the YYCMG – posters – tabled. These are completed and look great. What will we do with them now? Are their options to make them available through tourist offices? Can we sell them? Jude to follow up – tabled.

8. Close Meeting

8.1. Set date for next meeting – June, tbc

8.2. Close meeting: 1.40pm