



Executive and General Meeting

Monday 14th February 2011

MCG Meeting Room: Unit 10 Cassidy Arcade, 72-76 Monaro St. Queanbeyan.

1. Opening

The meeting was opened at 5:02 pm by Lynton Bond (President) in the Chair. A warm welcome was extended to all present.

2 Attendance / Apologies

In attendance were Lynton Bond, John Bruggeman, Maryke Booth, Tom Baker, Jim Arnold, Sandra Lloyd, Andrew Westcott and Dr. Stephen Skinner.

Apologies were received from Karen Williams and Bruce Taloni.

3 Minutes of 13th December 2010.

Motion: John Bruggeman / Sandra Lloyd

“That the minutes be accepted”.

Carried.

4 Business Arising.

- (a) 13(a): Aaron’s Rod should be cut at the seed ripening stage in its cycle.

5 Correspondence List.

In

- (a) Bureau of Agriculture, Resources, Economics and Sciences: Invitation to *Outlook 2011*, March 1-2
- (b) Captains Flat markets: Thank you card
- (c) Christmas Cards: ACT Greens, Australian National Museum, Cooma Waterwatch for Lynton, Edwina and Jeni, Hawker College
- (d) Andrew Leigh MP: Invite to informal gathering of environment groups, 5-6 pm Feb. 15th
- (e) Feral Flyer
- (f) Optus: junk mail
- (g) Volunteering ACT: Notice of AGM and notice of AGM change of date
- (h) NSW Govt: Application to renew fund raising authority
- (i) CIC: *Communities in the Making* newsletter
- (j) PCL: *Scribbly Gum* newsletter
- (k) Communities in Landscape: *Woodland Wanderings* newsletter
- (l) Conservation Management Network: Communities in Landscape
- (m) Greening Australia: Signed variation for SoSF contract
- (n) DECCEW: Acquittal of *Canberra Urban Storm Water Education Initiative*
- (o) Yarramine Environmental: *2011 Enviro Grants Guide*
- (p) DSEWPC: 5 copies of *Australia’s Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030*

Out

- (a) Management representation letter to Lawler & Partners

- (b) Palerang: Confirmation of support for *Sustainability Snapshot*
- (c) Yarramine Environmental: Order for *2011 Enviro Grants Guide*

6 President's Reports - Lynton Bond. New and outstanding business.

- (a) See report sent out by email.
- (b) Lynton, Andy and Stephen have been working on budgets and project outlines for Regional Investment Strategy 2011-2013 EOIs for Catchment and Waterwatch Coordinator funding for 2011 to 2013. They met with other catchment coordinators and catchment group convenors/chairs on February 11th to align proposals.

7 Vice President's Report – Tom Baker.

- (a) Along the Molonglo: Tom received an email from ACTEW Corp. agreeing to fund both art shows this year (\$2,000 for ASOC & \$1,000 for QAS). The Canberra show will not have a Floriade component due to time and restricted number of entries. It will be held at the Wesley Centre. For next year the ASOC proposes to dedicate a stand alone show for *Along the Molonglo* only, with a more defined environmental theme, possibly linked to public events such as Water Week. There may be some support forthcoming from the NCA.

8 Treasurer's Report – Maryke Booth.

- (a) Accounts sent out by email.
- (b) \$232,000 in the bank, \$17,500 in General Expenses.
- (c) Funded Projects Chart shows all MCG funded projects, funding per project and the balance.
- (d) Online bank fees for transfers between Westpac branded accounts have been waived and most other bank fees are also gone.
- (e) Maryke has been investigating the availability and costs of online and telephone merchant facilities with Westpac:
 - Ongoing fees for PayWay are excessive.
 - Easy Bpay is cheap.
 - Paypal, which we started with about 12 months ago has conditions which are onerous, requiring an individual to take personal responsibility, providing 100 point id check.
 - OurCommunity accepts donations online on our behalf now.
 - Facilities for selling products (order form) have been available on the web site for 6 months.

9 Coordinators Report – Andrew Westcott.

- (a) See report sent out by email.
- (b) Activities Andy has been working on are:
 - Regional Investment Strategy 2011-2013 EOI: Spending some time on this. New milestones and a new reporting period.
 - Weeds: Contacted Bunnings in Fyshwick to enquire about including our Weed Information Pack in the nursery and garden tools section of their store. Through BoB Molonglo we are looking into working with Yarralumla Nursery to ensure that new residents in the area purchase suitable plants. We'll look into ways we can assist Friends of the Pinnacle who are currently running a series of Grassland trials. Our *Seeing Grasslands* project may meet this grassland target also. Carwoola Weeds field day was held on 12/12/10.
 - Information Dissemination: 35 Weed packs, 50 Pest Animal packs, 7 Guides to Private Conservation, 2 boxes of Isabella Ponds Regatta to Tanya Noakes.
 - Sustainable Farm Practices: Potential topics from SSF workshop feedback include soil compaction, pasture management and controlling weeds with biological controls. Andy

intends to combine soil and knowledge/skills into one field day, combining soil compaction and pasture management/grazing. Potentially a David Tongway field day.

- Landcare: Investigating feasibility of increasing maximum amount available through MCG project funding in the future (no change). Friends of Glenburn are now members of the MCG. A GPS training session was held for STEP on 20/1/11 with 5 volunteers present. Met with FOTPIN to discuss projects they are currently working on.
- Indigenous Projects: Assisting the Indigenous Facilitator in development of projects where possible. Contacted Jo Donovan re. a heritage walk with Adrian Brown. Worked on ideas with Geoff Robertson for *Indigenous Values Workshops* being planned for March and April. The workshops will feature Rod Mason.
- Sustainability On Small Farms: Milestones have been met for the project and Andy is currently finishing off the reporting.
- Community Based Biodiversity Monitoring Feasibility Study: Rainer Rehwinkel has completed the first draft of his report. He's currently adding some key outcomes and recommendations to the report. Sarah Sharp is happy with how the report is progressing. The final report and Rainer's invoices will be presented to us imminently.
- Majura Valley: Site visits completed. Next step is to hire a consultant to prepare the report while Sherry focuses on the field days involved in the project. Andy will meet with Sherry and the Regional Landcare Facilitator on 14th February.
- ACT Environment Grants: Next round of grants are expected to be open soon. The *Guide to Aquatic Plants of the ACT* is with the printers. Molonglo BoB meetings are going well with a wide range of groups now represented. *Seeing Grasslands* Flickr is building and is well worth a look.
- Other Grants: Successful application for a NSW Environment Trust grant for *Sustainable Horse Property Management for Small Farms*. Working with Equiculture on potential dates with a day being planned for Braidwood in mid April. Underspent on the ActewAGL horse seminar at Burra. Now organising with Miranda from ActewAGL to hold another field day with these funds. This may be a day with Alison Elvin at Burra as the community has shown a keen interest in having another session with Alison.

10 Waterwatch Coordinator – Dr. Stephen Skinner.

- (a) See report sent out by email.
- (b) Activities Stephen has been to working on are:
 - Publications and Website, Waterwatch: *December in our Catchment* (focusing on river bank native shrubs) and *January in our Catchment* (focusing on reptiles in waterways) are on the website and have been sent out to the network. Also a note for the website on the Banksia Street Wetland picnic.
 - Catchment Health Indicators data collection: In December, 18 groups submitted data on 42 sites across the catchment. In January, 19 groups submitted data on 43 sites across the catchment. The volunteers have been active over the last couple of months.
 - Seasonal Indicator Species program: Included detailed Macroinvertebrate count in my "catch" for the Banksia Street Wetlands picnic.
 - Public Events and Websites: Demonstration Reach Environmental Committee meeting 16th December, Molonglo Stormwater meeting at ACTPLA 20th December. UMCCC meeting 9th February.
 - Field Days: World Wetland Day, Banksia Street Wetland First Birthday Picnic with DECCEW Urban Wetlands and with 50 people attending.
 - Technical Support and Administration: Gallium aparine fact sheet as requested.
 - Volunteer Training, Individuals: 11 enquiries in person or on the phone, and numerous emails.

11 Members Report – Maryke Booth

- (a) Royalla LC: 1st meeting for year last week.
- (b) She Oak seeds collected for the Glossy Black Cockatoo project.
- (c) Swainsona recta seeds collected and sown in tubes.
- (d) The rabbit project has funding and needs to be got up and running.

12 Members Report – Jim Arnold

- (a) FOAB: The knapsacks have been put to good use against St. John's Wort. Next weekend is the next work party and Patterson's Curse is the focus.
- (b) NSA: Postponed working bee and field day was held at Bredbo and Dalgety last weekend. Next month there will be an open day on a Yass River property which follows NSA principles. Peter Andrews has been awarded the OAM.

13 Members Report – Sandy Lloyd

- (a) Burra LC has applied for funding to do a survey of 3 properties affected by the water transfer pipeline.

14 Members Report – Tom Baker

- (a) Queanbeyan LC will conduct a walk in the Cuumbeun Nature Reserve some time in April, details to be sent out by email.
- (b) Sawfly larvae are starting up again.

15 Members Report – Lynton Bond

- (a) Carwoola LC will look into implementing a rabbit eradication program (UMLC funding) after a local fox eradication program has been completed.

16 Business

- (a) Auditor's Report: The Auditor's report was accepted by the committee and the documents have been signed by the president and secretary.

Motion: Lynton Bond / Sandra Lloyd

“That the committee accept the Financial Statements for the financial year ending June 2010”.

Carried.

- (b) ACT NRM Regional Investment Strategy 2011-2013 EOI: At the last performance review Andy and Stephen both received a high rating and have both moved up a level in their job level and thus will cost us more to employ. The proposal for the Catchment Coordinator includes \$16,000 project funding over 2 years. Additional projects might include Landcare tours, complete the *Catchment from the Air* video (possible ACTEW and other funding), etc, and the *Horses on Small Properties* project includes a budget for a project officer.
- (c) MCG Shirts and Jumpers: Andrew and Stephen have prices from Sears Workwear. More enquiries are still to be made. A reserve value for clothing allowance has been set aside for staff (\$200 or so). Lynton will price shirts, caps and jumpers and present his findings to committee.

Motion: Lynton Bond / Maryke Booth

“That the committee is in favour of providing clothes for staff and possibly for volunteers”.

Carried.

- (d) Molonglo Catchment Group Project Funding: Our funding last year for member groups was limited to a total of \$2,000 and \$500 maximum for each project. Should we raise

limits and overall cap for each group? We'll use a standard application form and committee will evaluate each application after the closing date, addressing the milestones we adhere to. Reporting guidelines have to be maintained. We'll cap applications at \$3,000 from project funding with projects in excess of \$500 considered. Funding rounds start over the next couple of months.

- (e) Queanbeyan Environment Expo Sponsorship: Andy reports that we get very little value out of this compared to our costs.

Motion: Lynton Bond / Sandy Lloyd

“That the MCG attend the Qbn. Environment Expo but not sponsor this year”.

Carried.

17 Next Meeting

Exec. & General Meeting: Monday, 21st March 2011, 5:00 – 6:30 pm.

MCG Meeting Room: Unit 10 Cassidy Arcade, 72-76 Monaro St Queanbeyan.

18 Closure.

The meeting was closed at 6:36 pm.

Action By	Details	Start Date	Due Date	Completed
MB	Make allocations in accounts for agreed commitments.	9/3/10	12/4/10	

.....
(Chairman)

.....
(Date)