



Executive and General Meeting

Monday 6th June 2011

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

1. Opening

The meeting was opened at 5:03pm with Lynton Bond (President) in the Chair. A warm welcome was extended to all present with a special welcome extended to Regional Landcare Facilitator, Nicole Maher.

2. Attendance/Apologies

In attendance were Lynton Bond, Tom Baker, Maryke Booth, Karen Williams, Sandy Lloyd, Margaret Piper, Dr. Stephen Skinner, Andy Westcott and Nicole Maher.

Apologies were received from Bruce Taloni, Jim Arnold and John Bruggeman.

3. Minutes of General Meeting, 9th May 2011.

Motion: "That the Minutes be accepted" Margaret Piper.

Seconded: Tom Baker

Carried.

4. Business Arising

- a) 8e: Tom Baker noted that he has now discovered that cattle can access the Oaks Estate area of the Molonglo River and fencing work needs to be completed to rectify this. Karen Williams told the group that in the past she was able to contact the property owner when she noticed stock on the loose in this area, the owner would then remove the cattle. However, the property has changed hands and Karen does not know the current owner so she can no longer do this. Lynton Bond pointed out that as part of the Molonglo River Rescue project of riparian rehabilitation in that area, the previous owner had intended to fence the river corridor off from cattle, illness and the subsequent death of the property owner prevented this from happening. Angela is still negotiating with the property manager.

5. Actions Arising

- a) Maryke Booth stated that allocations have been made to accounts so this action can be removed. Lynton Bond made the comment that more allocations are still needed to be made but agreed the action could be removed.
- b) Lynton Bond is continuing to investigate VOIP. To implement successfully, an investment in capital equipment may be necessary and therefore cost becomes an issue within the current financial situation. Update at next meeting.
- c) Andy Westcott has completed Membership mail out.

- d) Gary Byles has made contact with the group via Stephen Hughes. Andy Westcott has replied to Stephen Hughes in three separate emails to organise a meeting, no response yet. Meeting will be finalised once group knows details of Lynton Bond's availability pending Jury Duty notification.
- e) Catchment Strategy Work still on-going.

6. Correspondence List

In

- a) Regional Achievement and Community Awards notification
- b) ACTEW-Thank you to Lynton Bond for joining the Murrumbidgee to Googong reference group and notification of the next meeting.
- c) CSIRO- Book: Climate Change
- d) Tony Burke-GVEHO notification of continued support for MCG of \$2,300. Paperwork will arrive soon.
- e) Telstra-Phone Bills
- f) GCG-Letter of Support for Seeing Woodlands
- g) Email-notification of Community Action Grants.

7. Presidents Report – Lynton Bond

See report sent out by email

- a) Future Funding: Once again the group is being frustrated by the process of negotiating base funding. We are yet to be advised if our application under the RIS has been successful despite being advised in a conversation with John Feint on 28/05/2011 that some good news on funding would come before the end of the month. After no contact was made in this period, Lynton attempted to contact Tammie Spackman but her entire section was out of the office for training. Frustrated by this process the Commonwealth was contacted to outline the issues and the funding of groups is expected to be raised at the 07/06/2011 meeting of the NRM Council.
- b) ACT Environment Grants: Forty applications have been received and John Feint has said the standard has been impressive. A selection panel will meet to review the applications on 10/06/2011 and make recommendations to the Council.
- c) Kosciuszko to Coast: The meetings for K2C are becoming tedious and repetitive. Suggested that in order to demonstrate they are working toward their Strategic Plan is to finalise the Conservation Action Plan to demonstrate the reasoning behind targets. This advice does not seem to have been taken. Also suggested that before the group seeks funding from elsewhere they should first ensure that the current partners are contributing money to the project as this would demonstrate their faith in K2C. However the group appears to be heading down the path of associate memberships and donations though administrative requirements still need to be met to achieve this.

- d) CLA: Peter Ollerton from Sky Mining attended the last CLA meeting to extend his offer to donate a sum from profits from every commercial Photovoltaic unit sold in the ACT to Landcare. The ACT is attractive to due to its feed-in tariff. The blurb for Sky Mining is on the website and the committee is encouraged to read it.
- e) UMCCC: After moving along steadily the reallocation of project funds to extend SACTCG African Lovegrass project and to fund works on Ginninderra Creek have slowed. Despite this, the projects continue to progress.
- f) Bush on the Boundary: Final community consultation held by ACTPLA and the good news is that the damming of the Molonglo to create a new Lake is off the agenda. One of the ponds associated with the development's triple bottom line storm water proposal includes a 20m wall. After discussions with Stephen Skinner, the issues with this proposal are that the depth and width of this pond will create stratification of the water and result in water quality issues including Blue Green Algae. The Draft Molonglo River Park Concept Plan will be released this week; it will be interesting to see the bush fire management proposals included in that plan.
- g) Murrumbidgee LC: AGM held on the 14th May, Sam Archer stood down as Chair due to a very busy schedule. Ted Wolfe was elected as the new Chair and is keen and eager to carry on the work of the group. Ted mentioned an interest in reading the landscape concept but had not heard of David Tongway's work so details were passed on.
- h) Along the Molonglo-A very enjoyable afternoon.
- i)
- j) Landcare Awards- Nominating Stephen Skinner for the Community Support Award, FoMM, Mount Ainslie Weeders and Watson Woodland Working Group for the Urban Landcare Award and Leanne Barrett for the Quiet Achiever Award.
- k) Regional Achievement and Community Award- Nominating ourselves, this process has been a great way to update our details and list of achievements which are now very impressive.

8. Vice President's Report-Tom Baker

- a) Along the Molonglo: Great afternoon and not too crowded. Karen Williams gave a terrific introduction linking art with the environment which was appreciated by the audience. A pastel by Don Taylor was chosen as the winner out of 85 entries.
- b) Environment Expo: Good advertising (Lynton and Maryke indicated they disagreed and thought advertising was poor), quality of exhibitors was good and the range of topics covered was broad. Maryke Booth disagreed suggesting the crowd numbers were down by a third on the last expo, exhibitor numbers down including some not turning up, including one of the major sponsors which was not a great look.

9. Treasurer's Report-Maryke Booth

- a) See accounts distributed by email.

- b) \$144,775.74 cash at bank including \$98,290 provision for unexpended grants etc with approximately \$12,000 in general accounts. In short, there is money in the bank, but it is largely allocated for.
- c) Karen Williams asked for clarification of the Profit and Loss Statement which shows a \$55,000 loss. This is due to funding being received in last financial year but not spent until the following financial year, the result is a profit shown in year 1 and a loss in year 2. The Balance Sheet was recommended as the key statement to look at as the Profit and Loss can be deceiving.

10. MCG Coordinators Report-Andy Westcott

- a) CAG- The proposed project for a trial property implementing the Jane Myers methodology is gaining momentum. Jane Myers and Alison Elvin have begun preparation of a bare-bones management plan which will highlight the infrastructure needed. This will allow identification of in-kind support needed for the budget. Still having trouble engaging a Vet to identify a way to link horse health to property health.
- b) Applied for an ACT Heritage Grant with Friends of Glenburn.
- c) Environment Expo- Attended the expo but questions over how much we got out of it. It may be better in the future to have stalls at events like this unmanned.
- d) MCMA: Met with Kathleen Harvey to discuss potential projects we can work on together. Waiting on new milestones for both groups to determine links.
- e) Seeing Grasslands: Attended the opening of the exhibition, a great turn out and a fantastic exhibition. Encourage the committee to go and take a look.
- f) Majura Valley: Rosemary Purdie on track to complete report by the end of June. Landholders currently reviewing notes on their meetings to confirm they are accurate representation of their comments.
- g) Attended Lake Users Group meeting where Gary Rake made mention of a move to encourage the Commissioner for the Environment to undertake a review of the health of the Molonglo catchment. I have sent Gary a copy of the Action Plan to assist this process.

11. Waterwatch Coordinator's Report- Dr. Stephen Skinner.

- a) Another good turnout for sites, 42 sites monitored once again.
- b) UMDR coordination seed funding will run out at the end of June. Luke Johnson is seeking funding to continue the coordinating role one day a week.
- c) Leanne Barrett and Nyree Stenekes have informed the group that they will no longer be monitoring their sites. Both have been dedicated Waterwatchers for an extended period of time, a big thank you was extended to both. Shelley Owen will continue to monitor the site she and Leanne have been working on together, we will need to find a new volunteer for Nyree's site.
- d) Attended the Dickson Wetland planting day and had a great day.

12. Members Report

- a) **Sandy Lloyd:** Heather Mason attended a **Burra Landcare** meeting to discuss the clearing of Kunzea after a local landholder enquired about clearing it. Heather advised the group that an approved PVP was required before any clearing can be undertaken.
- b) **Maryke Booth: Royalla Landcare** distributed 660kg of carrots for free-feeding in stage one of the rabbit control project, a further 175kg of calicivirus-dosed carrots were distributed on 04/06/2011 to 55 landholders from Royalla, Carwoola, Burra and Little Burra. Lots of emails to say carrots have been eaten but as yet no signs of dead rabbits. The group is hopeful that they can repeat the project next year, with or without funding as costs have been lower than expected.
- c) **Tom Baker (Queanbeyan Landcare)**
 - i. Approached David Wong about taking the Seeing Grasslands exhibition to Floriade.
 - ii. If nobody else is interested in joining K2C in Lynton's place, then Tom has offered to do it. He will attend Partners' Forums as a representative of the MCG and report back to the group on K2C projects.
 - iii. Queanbeyan Landcare are working with residents concerned about the five parklets that were not rezoned as part of the Queanbeyan City Council's rationalisation of small parcels of public land to ensure sound environmental protection.
- d) **Karen Williams (Oaks Estate)**
 - i. Looking forward to meeting with Gary Byles to show the areas the community is keen to get involved with. New members of the group have a lot of energy and Karen has taken on an advisory role. Potentially using Placestories as a tool to promote the groups goals.
 - ii. Community gardens are quiet at present.
 - iii. Nursery expansion is being watched with interest as it appears to be getting closer to the river than other lots in the area.
- e) **Margret Piper:** Article in CT 6 June about Professor Richard Kingsford's comments on impacts of storages on a catchment discussed. Should the MCG talk with the local media about the impacts of this on our catchment? Lynton Bond highlighted the report written by Vanessa Keyzer on this topic but pointed out more work was necessary. Palerang Council currently undertaking a Sustainability Snapshot including data on water quality which may be useful also.

13. Business

- a) **Nicole Maher, RLF:** Reiterated Lynton's comments on the new Murrumbidgee Landcare Chair. Ted has offered his services to groups as a guest speaker and also offered to encourage his contacts to attend meetings as guest speakers if asked. Meeting with Sally McIntosh and Kathleen Harvey to discuss how they can work together. Happy to assist with Community Action Grants. Tony Robinson (UMLC) has asked Nicole to follow up

on report done in 2008 on group activities and needs. The group indicated the report may need refreshing.

- b) **MCG Funding:** Concern over cash reserves to keep office open if funding is delayed to long. Salaries and office costs are approximately \$8,000 per month. With current reserves we can cover 2.5 weeks in the new Financial Year. Stephen has a few weeks of accrued leave which the group must carry over if not taken, encourage Stephen to take some of this leave. Some money listed as allocated is not needed immediately and it could be directed temporarily toward the running expenses and repaid on receipt of funding. These provisional funds in conjunction with the \$2,300 of GVEHO funding take us up to 11 weeks of potential funding for the office while waiting on base funds. We have also been hit with an electricity bill which may be back-dated to when we first took over the office in the Cassidy Arcade. The previous occupants have been paying the bills until recently when QCC became aware of the situation.

ACT have indicated they can provide their own funds if necessary in the interim until the Commonwealth releases funds. Given the ACT NRM gave an undertaking to provide an update by the 1st June and did not follow through with this, the Commonwealth were contacted. The Commonwealth has indicated that the next opportunity for funds to be released to the ACT is 7th July; the situation may be brought up at the next ACT NRM Council meeting to be held on 7th June.

14. Next Meeting

Exec & General Meeting: Monday, 11th July 2011, 5:00-6:30pm.

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

15. Closure.

The meeting was closed at 6:37pm.

Action By	Details	Start Date	Due Date	Completed
LB/AW	Preliminary review of Molonglo Catchment Strategy	13/12/10		In Progress
LB	Investigate call forwarding as an option in order to implement VOIP phone system.	21/3/11	11/07/11	In Progress
AW	Contact Stephen Hughes to arrange meeting with Gary Byles from TAMS, re. common ground on MRR	06/06/11	11/07/11	
AW	Review MCG Project Funding Small Grants process	11/4/11	11/07/11	