

MOLONGLO CATCHMENT GROUP Inc.

ABN 78 210 867 987



MCG Executive and General Meeting
Monday, 8 April 2013

MCG Office: Unit 13, Cassidy Arcade, 72-76 Monaro Street, Queanbeyan

1. Opening

The meeting was opened at 5.05pm by Lynton Bond, President, in the chair, who extended a warm welcome to all present.

2. Attendance/Apologies

In attendance were Lynton bond, Anna See, Karen Williams, John Bruggeman, Don Fraser, Tom Baker, Margaret Piper, Stephen Skinner, Carol Billett and Alan Cole (Landcare Support Officer with Murrumbidgee Landcare Inc.).

Apologies were received from Linda Beveridge, Jim Arnold and Maryke Booth.

Lynton asked Alan Cole to introduce himself. Alan stated that he is visiting and learning about the different groups and their functions. He is a forester by profession and his role as a Landcare Support Officer is to support any Landcare groups that are struggling and need assistance with funding applications. His role will continue until the end of the year.

3. Minutes of 18 March 2013

Tom requested that the words “as well as \$500 for the Canberra Exhibition” be added to the second paragraph of his Member’s Report.

4. Business Arising

No business arising.

5. Action Table

See table at end of minutes.

6. Correspondence List 18 March – 8 April 2013

In:

- a. 26 March – Thank you letter from Helen McIntyre for MCG small grant.
- b. 2 April – Nominations open for the 2013 NSW Landcare Awards.
- c. 2 April – Nominations open for 2013 ACT Landcare Awards.
- d. 4 April – Corporate MCG membership form and cheque for \$100 from Enviro Ag Services Pty Ltd.
- e. Conservation Council invitation to Tuggeranong Treasures Launch on 16 April.

Out:

- a. 21 March – Community Engagement ACT Government – Coombs Riverside Preliminary Design MCG Comments.
- b. 4 April – Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife, Private Land Conservation Grant, Land for Wildlife Grant Application.
- c. 4 April – ACTPLA –Mugga Lane Landfill Expansion, MCG submission on draft EIS.

7. Molonglo Catchment Strategy

Mel Hillery had produced a PowerPoint presentation on Molonglo Catchment Strategy. Mel was unable to be present at the meeting but by teleconference took part in the discussion during and following the presentation. Mel's plan was that we should survey residents and stakeholders (completed), assess goals, revise the history and people section and consider integration with NSW state-wide standards and targets. Mel asked whether we should stick with the 2005 plan or whether we should update. It was agreed that the plan should be updated.

Part 2 of the strategy – Targets and Actions: Mel stated that we should be aware of what has been developed.

Part 3 – Monitoring and Evaluation: Mel thought we should look at the data as there is scope for real data against the indicators. Mel was impressed by the 2005 strategy and for this revision, made the point that we should keep in step with other organisations. Current performance indicators are very activity based instead of performance based.

The draft MCAP Next generation 2012 has taken a Resilience Theory approach, attempting to move to a “whole system” approach and we should look at everything together with regard to risk management. We have to deal with change; however, the community can respond defensively or take an offensive approach and move with it. There are 6 Murrumbidgee catchment goals but they are very broad and vague. There are 9 different landscapes but MCG falls within two of them. There were workshops last year about taking a risk management approach, but as a whole approach it muddies the waters a bit. There has been significant change and we need to consider how much we want to take on board. Mel recommends the MERI (Monitoring, Evaluation, Reviewing, Improvement) Framework. The ACT takes an asset management approach and has not moved to resilience yet.

Mel's final slide provided suggestions for us to review. She mentioned that agency documents never refer to previous targets and targets change. One solution would be to modify the section to become a “State of the Catchment” report. It could be framed around clear questions and have an executive summary.

Part 2 – Targets and Actions: Mel said that she was struggling with whether we should stick with the MCAP approach or whether we should take on a resilience approach.

Part 3 – Performance Indicators: Mel advised that she could put data against the performance indicators but we need to decide whether we are measuring MCG's activities or effectiveness. Tom asked if a clear language would be more simple approached. Mel affirmed this and suggested that if we put out that part of the report in clear language, more people might read it. Discussion followed on whether to stick with the current asset management approach or move to a resilience approach. Mel stated that she was trying to judge whether resilience was just a fad or likely to be the way to go. She would talk to the ACT Government and other organisations and try to gauge where all are going. She was trying not to get lost in the bigger, theoretical picture.

Margaret asked whether studies in groundwater, mineral resources, etc would go in appendices to the report? Mel thought that they should keep to a whole report but cover it with an executive summary. She

mentioned that a lot of the performance indicators are about the numbers of people attending workshops instead of, for example, the quality of groundwater management.

Tom mentioned that K2C are taking a resilience approach and suggested that Mel talk to Rainer Rehwinkel. Mel said that she knows Rainer and will talk to him. She asked if we were happy for her to go ahead and bring a broader system approach by including risk analyses and then stick to the previous report in terms of specific targets as it was important to retain the details. Lynton stated that he was quite happy with where Mel was heading. Karen stated that she is interested in a whole system approach and is happy to be a sounding board for Mel. Lynton said that the issue with the original strategy was that we see that things get done, rather than actually doing them. Some outcomes are beyond our control but we should still measure them. Mel said that she will come back to us about performance indicators by the next committee meeting.

8. President's Report – Lynton Bond

See report circulated by email.

Lynton and Anna had attended Cultural Awareness training - being more sensitive to Aboriginal culture. Understanding the difference in culture makes it easier to approach and be more aware. The ACT region is one of the most difficult to work with Aboriginal culture and Lynton undertook the training to assist in determining where funding is to be allocated.

9. Vice President's Report – Karen Williams

Karen reported that there has not been much progress since the last meeting. She is still having conversations about the Oaks Estate peri-urban/river corridor/urban-agriculture/social inclusion pilot project. She is about to meet with Fiona Dyer from UMCCC to discuss ideas on the future direction of UMCCC Indigenous focus. Karen, with John, is involved with the Black Mountain heritage Walk on 28 April.

10. Treasurer's Report – Lynton Bond on behalf of Maryke Booth

Lynton advised that there was a glitch in that the first item on the balance sheet is shown as overdrawn. At the next meeting the Treasurer should be able to present a statement on how projects are going. For example, the Rabbit Control program had a budget of \$10K but has now spent \$13K as the salary will be charged back to the Catchment Coordination project. The bottom line is that we are still financial and progressing towards spending the budget by the end of the year.

11. Coordinator's Report – Anna See

See report circulated by email.

There will be a planting on Monday with volunteers from ADFA.

Only 7 people have registered for the Burra weed and spray workshops so they may have to be postponed until spring. Stay safe and Spray is better than Chem Cert and gets accreditation.

Anna will be on leave from 17 April for 5 weeks. Ro MacFarlane will take over her position while she is away.

12. Waterwatch Coordinator's Report – Stephen Skinner

See report circulated by email.

13. Member's Report – Carol Billett (on behalf of Linda Beveridge – Friends of Black Mountain)

See attached report forwarded by email.

14. Member's Report – Tom Baker (Queanbeyan Landcare)

Not many entries have been submitted yet for the “Along the Molonglo” competitions which open on 22 April. The Catchment groups are setting up a display and there will be a talk by Don Bursill, South Australian Chief Scientist. Lynton will give the vote of thanks. There should also be a display regarding the Centenary Trail.

Queanbeyan Landcare Members continue to contribute to the Glossy Black-Cockatoo project, through local plantings and land preparation. Members have assisted in local neighbourhood plantings and continue to work on the environment mosaic for the new Crawford Street Precinct. Work continues on Buttles Creek, Queanbeyan Railway Station and involvement in the Community Gardens in Henderson Road. Members attended the Seminar at Scottsdale on Thursday 4 April by Barry Sampson on Biological Controls for invasive weed species (www.weedbiocontrol.com.au 0401 197035). Bio control continues to be a viable element of integrated weed control.

15. Member's Report – Don Fraser (Burra)

Don attended an interesting talk by Gaylene Harris on Voluntary Conservation Agreements.

9 residents involved in the Glossy Black-Cockatoo project have been given seedlings.

Burra Park tree replacement has commenced and the council is removing *Pinus radiata*.

16. Member's Report – John Bruggeman

John is still working with the Friends of Grasslands at Stirling Ridge.

There will be a planting day at Oaks Estate on 5 May.

17. Member's report – Karen Williams (Oaks Estate)

Karen would like to take up Lynton's offer of a barbecue for May 5 tree planting.

The second stage downstream from River Street has been sprayed but no signs were put up regarding the spraying and someone has started planting – concerned that has been no interaction with the community

18. Member's report – Lynton Bond (Carwoola)

Thanks to Queanbeyan Landcare, 300 casuarinas are going to other Landcare groups for planting; 100 coming to Carwoola.

Quite a few people are working on the rabbit project.

19. Business

- a. Cultural Sites – at a CLA meeting last month, Karissa Preuss from Ginninderra mentioned that she is working with Wally Bell on a cultural sites brochure; Lynton has indicated that we want to be involved as well.
- b. Southern ACT Spray trailer – Southern ACT Catchment Group have got a quote for \$24K for a spray trailer. They are looking to other groups for \$14K – should we contribute \$7K? The trailer would be stationed at Palerang and Southern Catchment will do the bookings. If we contribute, we will put on a Spray Safe course in the next 12 months.

Motion to contribute \$7K proposed by Tom, seconded by Carol.

- c. Land for Wildlife Agreement – John Asquith from Land for Wildlife is educating people about flora and fauna on their properties. He is running workshops in Palerang and wants to expand into Molonglo Catchment so we have taken it on. The agreement gives us some funding in managing workshops for training in plant identification. The best way to engage people is face to face, showing them how to do things.

20. Other Business

Catchment Model - Anna advised that we have a volunteer to do up our model and install circuit boards which will cost about \$1,000 so a cheaper option is being sought. The volunteer is going to put in lights to indicate different places and show the flow of water.

Royalla Solar Farm – Stephen thought it would be ill-advised for us to be involved as it is not in our catchment area. The area where the solar panels are going is heavily degraded.

21. Next Meeting

The next Executive and General meeting will be held on Monday, 13 May 2013, 5:00-6:30pm at the MCG Office at Unit 13, Cassidy Arcade, 72-76 Monaro street, Queanbeyan.

22. Meeting Closed

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6:53pm.

23. Action Table

Action By	Details	Start date	Due Date	Completed
MB	Financial report at organisational level.	11/2/13	18/3/13	In progress

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(Chairman)

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(Date)