

MOLONGLO CATCHMENT GROUP Inc.

ABN 78 210 867 987



MCG Executive and General Meeting

Monday, 8 July 2013

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

1. Opening and Apologies

The meeting was opened at 4.58pm by Lynton Bond, President, in the chair, who extended a warm welcome to all present.

In attendance were Lynton Bond, Karen Williams, Anna See, Stephen Skinner, Linda Beveridge, John Bruggeman, Tom Baker and Carol Billett.

Apologies were received from Don Fraser, Jim Arnold and Maryke Booth.

2. Minutes of Meeting of 17 June 2013

The minutes were circulated by email prior to the meeting. Linda requested that paragraph 5f be amended to show that the weeding party occurred on 1 June, not 4 June.

The minutes were accepted, subject to the above amendment (proposed by Linda, seconded by Karen).

3. Business Arising

There was no business arising.

4. Correspondence

In:

- a. 20 June, request for support from UMCCC;
- b. 26 June, Simon Corbell, Minister ESDD, copy of Government response to the Commissioner's report on the State of Water Courses and Catchments for Lake Burley Griffin;
- c. 28 June, Conservation Council request for membership renewal;
- d. 4 July, National Parks and Wildlife Foundation, advising successful grant for wildlife workshops;
- e. 5 July, Queanbeyan Landcare request for membership renewal.

5. Reports

a. President's Report – Lynton Bond

See full report circulated by email.

Lynton advised that the Catchment and Landcare Association is continuing and UMCCC is deliberating whether to continue. The Commonwealth's Landcare grant is to continue.

There is a meeting on Thursday for the K2C Partners Forum as a strategy planning session and Tom will attend.

This year MCG is tight for staff so will be looking for volunteers to attend meetings.

We have received notice of the draft Water Strategy which was released on Friday.

The NSW Environmental Trust Grants have been announced. MCG was not successful. ESDD has provided some funding for BioBlitz to keep it ticking over. Land for Wildlife has provided a grant of \$2000 over 2 years to run workshops. We have applied for administrative funding of \$6000 per year for 3 years. We applied for an ACT Environment Grant for work in the Molonglo Corridor but received advice that the application had been sent up to the Minister with the administration funding component removed.

b. Vice-President's Report – Karen Williams

Karen reported that the Oaks Estate pilot meeting had occurred and formed a hub focussed on urban agriculture, the river corridor and sustainability. Most people were interested in the heritage, environmental and social issues and the response was quite positive. Karen is currently writing up her notes. There is a cross-border meeting on the 16 July and she believes a workshop is needed to explain the heritage issues to the community.

c. Treasurer's Report

In Maryke's absence Lynton advised that Dianne had been sick and therefore unable to produce a report this month. Lynton undertook to get the report out as soon as possible.

d. Coordinator's Report – Anna See

Anna advised that it was the end of year for projects so there were no new milestones yet. She has chased up the horse property requests and is chasing up support from Roads ACT to restore Woolshed Creek and is still waiting to hear if MCG has been successful for other grants. Tom queried why we are chasing funding and Lynton advised that we are the intermediary between the community and the contractors and Anna added that we have provided advice to the project.

Anna further advised that Weed Identification workshops will be held in September and that the Catchment model has gone to the Men's Shed for drilling, etc. Tom suggested that we make a donation to the Men's Shed as a token of appreciation and Anna said she would talk to Brian about it.

e. Waterwatch Coordinator's Report – Stephen Skinner

See report circulated by email.

Stephen reported that on 25 June 50+mls of rain fell in the Burra Catchment and the creek took less than a day to reach 200 mgs per day. It may need some remediation work.

Stephen attended St Francis' School on Friday and took the pupils on an excursion to Banksia Street.

There is a free seminar at Jerrabomberra at 3pm on 24 July about the story of water in the Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve.

f. Member's Report – Linda Beveridge (Friends of Black Mountain)

Linda reported that she has organised a meeting on 24 July regarding the development of a website for FoBM.

A weeding party was held on 6 July in the Australian National Botanic gardens Annexe and the next weeding party is scheduled for 3 August.

The Burbidge – Chippendale Walk will be held on 12 October and will focus on spring wildflowers, including orchids.

FoBM members will take part or assist with the BioBlitz at the end of October; biodiversity monitoring will take place tomorrow and a Birds Group meeting will be held on 25 July.

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

Tom reported that Queanbeyan Landcare worked with Queanbeyan Council to organise a large planting on the banks of Buttles Creek, a tributary of the Queanbeyan River, for National Tree day on 28 July.

Queanbeyan Landcare received a grant of \$10,700 from Caring for Our Country Community Grants to run workshops and work with councils and Landcare networks to identify and distribute the promising biological control agent, a tiny mite, for controlling St John's Wort.

h. Member's Report – Karen Williams (Oaks Estate)

Karen advised that there is still a problem with cows straying into Oaks Estate. She had emailed Canberra Connect and TAMS again and this time got a rapid response and was contacted by a ranger.

Karen also advised that John Bruggeman had now completed ChemCert training.

6. Business

a. K2C Partners' Forum

A Strategy Planning meeting will be held on 11-12 July and the MoU will be revisited. Tom has a copy but it is fairly brief. Lynton asked the Committee to consider what we get out of the Partners' Forum. He said that K2C is a very good brand and partners could be leveraging on that brand. MCG and UMCCC provide workshops. Lynton mentioned the Voluntary Conservation Agreements and the different levels of commitment, support and funding and the mutual support that was previously provided. Tom stated that the Partners' forum is trying to get back to that and that the K2C region is part of the bigger picture, spreading to the Great Eastern Ranges, Yass, etc and linking to the Kosciusko National Park. K2C has received funding for grasslands, including in Victoria, from the Myer Foundation.

Lynton stated that it appears that K2C are applying for funding and deciding which partners are to be involved instead of bringing partners together. Karen commented that, according to the MoU, the facilitator does a lot of networking, etc to raise funding and it made sense for someone to have an oversight position. Tom remarked that the facilitator's role should be to work with the partners. Lynton added that the partners should fund the facilitator's position.

b. Fundraising Committee

Lynton advised that it had been suggested at a UMCCC meeting that the catchment groups should fund a position for a shared grants writer. Stephen remarked that the NSW Botanic Gardens used to have such a person and it might be worth finding out about it. Tom advised that Queanbeyan council has a person who does that. Lynton suggested that it could be done on a volunteer basis as he has been doing it himself. Yarromine has a website and will mentor applications, but not write them, for a fee of \$200. We need to talk to investors and find out what they want. Anna advised that we have a list of projects that we want to do and need funding for and that it would be good to have a volunteer to look at the list and take on

writing applications. Carol asked if there was a pool of volunteers to draw on and Lynton responded that they came ~~from through~~ Volunteering ACT ~~as~~ Chantry had ~~come done from there~~. Anna added that sometimes people who have a disability pension (for example) do volunteering as part of their qualification for the pension.

Action: Anna will ring the Catchment Coordinators and Volunteering ACT to make enquiries.

c. UMCCC

Lynton had previously circulated an email from UMCCC advising of funding cuts and seeking donations from member organisations. He suggested that in our present circumstances, there was no justification for MCGg making a donation and the Committee agreed.

d. Land for Wildlife Workshops

Anna will circulate correspondence on the topic to the Committee. Discussion was deferred until the next meeting.

e. Catchment Strategy Review

Lynton has a copy of the draft, which is 110 pages without maps, and is working through it. The next step is to put it into a format to send to the Committee, hopefully in the next fortnight, and then circulate it to a wider audience.

7. Other Business

a. Watson Section 64 Block 9

Anna advised that a request had been received from Watson Woodlands Working Group seeking support for a submission to the ACT Government about the proposed sale of land for development (Watson Section 64 Block 9) that would affect Justice Robert Hope Park. The Group had raised concerns about ponds, run off and the removal of trees. Carol offered to draft MCG's letter supporting the concerns. The response is due by 18 July.

Action: Carol to draft letter to ACT Government raising concerns about the planned development of Watson Section 64 Block 9 for submission by 18 July.

b. Draft ACT Water Strategy

Stephen advised that the draft ACT Water Strategy had been released and urged us all to read the document, especially the 6 fact sheets available on the website. Lynton had forwarded the Committee an email containing a link to the website.

c. Conservation Council

The Conservation Council had sent out a request for membership renewal and the fee was \$60. Lynton asked the Committee if we should continue the membership and the Committee agreed that we should.

8. Next Meeting

The next Executive and General meeting will be held on Monday, 12 August 2013 at 5.00-6.30pm at the MCG Office, Unit 13, Cassidy Arcade, 72-76 Monaro street, Queanbeyan.

9. Meeting Close

The meeting closed at 6.41pm

10. Action Table

Action By	Details	Start Date	Due Date	Completed
Anna See	Contact Catchment Coordinators and Volunteering ACT about volunteers to write grant applications	9/7/13		
Carol Billett	Draft letter to ACT Government about Watson Section 64 Block 9	9/7/13	18/7/13	Completed

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(Chairman)

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(Date)