

# MOLONGLO CATCHMENT GROUP Inc.

ABN 78 210 867 987



**MCG Executive and General Meeting**  
Monday, 16 March 2015

**MCG Office: Unit 21, Cassidy Arcade, 72-76 Monaro Street, Queanbeyan**

## 1. Welcome and Apologies

Karen opened the meeting at 3:03pm and welcomed everyone present. She advised that this meeting would focus on the Catchment Strategy and the Business Plan.

In attendance were Karen Williams (President), Lynton Bond, John Bridge (Treasurer), Bernie Bugden (Molonglo Catchment Coordinator), Don Fraser, Jim Arnold, Carol Billett (Secretary), Mel Hillery (Catchment Officer) and Tom Baker.

Apologies were received from Maryke Booth and Linda Beveridge.

## 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 9 February 2015 were circulated via email prior to the meeting. Carol proposed that those minutes be accepted; John seconded the motion.

## 3. Business Arising

Karen commended Mel and Bernie for their work on the Catchment Strategy and Business Plan and congratulated Lynton for getting MCG to this stage. She would discuss the matters in more detail later in the meeting under Other Business.

## 4. Correspondence

Reporting Period: 4/2/15 to 13/3/15

### Inwards:

| Date    | Source | Subject  | From   |
|---------|--------|--|--|
| 4/2/15  | Letter | Submission of draft DCP for South Jerrabomberra  | Arthean McBride, Queanbeyan City Council                           |
| 13/2/15 | Email  | Invitation to attend an information session about the Canberra Brickworks and Environs Planning and Development Strategy | Susan Roberts, Communications Branch, Land Development Agency      |
| 3/3/15  | Letter | Conservation Council of the ACT  | Clare Henderson, Executive Director                                |
| 10/3/15 | Email  | National Landcare (RIS) Funding Update   | Tim Wong, NRM Programs, Environment and Planning Directorate (ACT) |
| 12/3/15 | Email  | Summary of outcomes of the Parkcare Forum – October 2014   | Jasmine Foxlee, Parks and Conservation Service                     |
|         |        |  |  |

### Outwards:

| Date    | Source | Subject    | To                              |
|---------|--------|------------|---------------------------------|
| 13/3/15 | Email  | Green Army | Chair, Southern Catchment Group |

## **5. Reports**

### **Treasurer's Report – John Bridge**

The Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Statement and Jobs List were circulated by email prior to the meeting.

John advised that there was nothing abnormal to report. There is nothing outstanding over 30 days in payables. The Jobs List is a weekly report of projects with funding attached. This is to be reviewed and updated in the next few weeks.

### **Staff Report – Bernie Bugden**

The Staff Report was circulated via email prior to the meeting.

- The critical issue is the situation at 30 June when the RIS will take a 25% cut over the next three years. We need a strategy to deal with the cuts and go forward over the next few years.
- Projects are well on track. A funding application was submitted today for the Green Army project across the three Catchment Groups.
- RIS is on track with contracted targets. Still negotiating with Tim Wong about amended targets. The funding has not been signed off by the ACT Ministers yet so we may need an advance.

**NB:** As time was running short and the Executive needed to discuss the Catchment Strategy and Business Plan, other members' reports were held over until the next meeting. Carol advised that if members forwarded their reports to her, she would include them as an addendum to the minutes.

## **6. Other Business**

### **6.1 Draft Catchment Strategy**

The Committee agreed that Mel had done an excellent job in putting the strategy together and commended her for her efforts. The Committee then workshopped the draft strategy.

Lynton recommended that the program logic be put in an appendix, as it is not needed in the main document. Mel recommended an annual survey to ensure we are effective in achieving our goals and outcomes. There is no baseline data yet.

We need to emphasise that we are not rolling backwards but moving forward and incorporating the indigenous perspective as well as using western science. The long-term outcome should be that we look at projects in a holistic way, instead of having separate projects for separate things (eg: soils, water) and we should try to include landscapes.

Lynton reminded everyone that the catchment strategy is things we want to see done, not necessarily things we are going to do ourselves.

### **6.2 Draft MCG Business Plan**

The Business Plan would cover the next five years (2015 – 2020) and include action plans for projects. The key items for the Business plan are MERI, improvement and planning.

Bernie then outlined the Business Plan's Business Objectives:

- 1<sup>st</sup> objective – implementation of strategy;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> objective – good governance, etc;

- 3<sup>rd</sup> objective – how we monitor;
- 4<sup>th</sup> objective – how we communicate/collaborate with community stakeholders.

The Committee agreed to break the Business Plan up across working groups and flesh it out.

Karen stated that the business Plan needed input from Committee members about the Values and Services and Resources. We also need to consolidate accountable groups so that each group can focus on their issues.

The committee agreed to use 1 July 2015 as the “stepping off” point and that we should ratify both the Catchment Strategy and the Business Plan by then. Lynton advised that the strategy should go out to all our stakeholders. Mel indicated that the draft strategy would be ready by the end of March.

At the end of the discussion Lynton proposed that the draft strategy be forwarded to stakeholders and John seconded the motion.

#### **7. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Monday, 13 April from 3:00-5:00pm.

#### **8. Meeting Close**

Karen declared the meeting closed at 5:22pm.



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**President**

13/4/2015  
.....

**Date**

## **ADDENDUM to MINUTES**

As the meeting was dedicated to the draft Catchment strategy and draft MCG Business Plan there was no time to include individual reports. Information provided by Committee members via email is reported below for information purposes.

### **Friends of Aranda Bushland – Jim Arnold**

The thrust has been against St John's Wort and Patterson's Curse: mostly spraying, with the March work party bagging and dabbing respectively, including in the newly inherited SE bushland. In the ex-rural lease, a blitz of Bathurst burr recurrence was found- 76 (=4/ha). PCL were surprised that it had any.

### **Queanbeyan Landcare – Tom Baker**

The Fernleigh Park and Environa "Fenced Stepping Stones for Small Birds" project, funded from Great eastern Ranges, is now proceeding smoothly with plants going in the ground. MCG's Mel Hillery has been extremely helpful here (and has endured much). The date for the large planting at Fernleigh Park has moved from Sunday 3 May back to Saturday 18 April. Even though there will be 50 RMC Cadets, the community can also contribute. The recent 80mm rain will help. Participants are to meet in the Fernleigh Park community Centre, 17 Swan Drive, Fernleigh Park on Cooma Road, south of Queanbeyan, at 9am but RSVP to Bruce Davies on 6297 9584 as there will be a barbecue.

The small group of members that is managing Bicentennial Park grasslands and woodlands in West Queanbeyan is growing and becoming better organised and working with Queanbeyan City Council on managing weeds.

On Saturday 2 May, Friends of Grasslands are joining Queanbeyan Landcare to remove more woody weeds from the important conservation land on the Poplars east side of Lanyon Drive. This will go from 9am to 12 noon and there will be a mid morning refreshment break. The general public is welcome. Participants need gloves and good shoes and can bring saws and cutters.

Radio Landcare on QBN FM 96.7 on Sunday mornings (8-9am) is off the air at the moment because of perplexing management unhappiness with one of our shows.

Queanbeyan City Council has a Green Army team doing exceptional work at various points within the city. Many of these participants have good educational qualifications. Council has been successful in getting a further Green Army team in the near future.

### **Burra Landcare – Don Fraser**

Burra Landcare members were deeply saddened by the death of our dear member, Cecily Dignan. A planting of the *Drooping She-oak* as a source of food for the vulnerable Glossy Black Cockatoo is planned as a Memorial to Cecily in Burra Park.

We have been invited by National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) to become volunteers for a koala survey across Yanununbeyan. This will involve training in May in the methodology (largely scats and chew trees) by koala experts, before spending one day every couple of months carrying out the survey.