

# UPPER TORRENS LAND MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Project Manager: Gerry Butler

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**Draft MINUTES  
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING  
Thursday 9 April 2015  
9.40-11.30pm**

Mt Pleasant Natural Resource Centre  
132 Melrose Street, Mount Pleasant

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## 1 Attendees:

**Steering Committee members:** Councillor Michael Seager and Ian Baldwin (TBC), Councillor Malcolm Herrmann and Steve Brooks (AHC), Bronwyn Mudge, Julianne Troup (Chairperson), Graeme Donaldson, Ken Craig (Chairman GGRP Technical Steering Committee), Stephen Anderson [Community/URLG] and Bryn Troath (Adelaide & Central Hills NRM Operations Manager)

**Project Staff:** Gerry Butler [Project Manager] and Kim Thompson (Project Officer)

**Minute Secretary:** Kim Thompson

Invited Guests: Mike Williams and Piers Brissenden (DEWNR)

Apologies: Mike Williams and Piers Brissenden (DEWNR), Andrew Fairney [Project Officer], Rick Gladigau and Martin Philcox,

## 2 Declaration of interest:

Committee

Steve Brooks – re Green Army. His daughter has applied for a position with the Central Hills Landcare Network.

## 3 Acceptance of Minutes: Minutes of the UTLMP meeting 12/2/15 & Action Items.

Amendments to minutes: MOVED BY M HERRMANN; SECONDED BY K CRAIG TO ACCEPT MINUTES

Business Arising:

8.2 Clifton property – GB still needs to inspect the work that has been undertaken to use herbicide to kill off the tree. G Donaldson has provided further information about utilizing the Defence Force to remove the tree trunk from the main channel of the River Torrens. The non-emergency aid that can possibly be provided by the Army, and support can be applied for to waiver the costs and he will complete the application form – the committee will need to discuss this further, look at the options.

8.1 The next PMWG meeting, May 21 2015, we will be inviting Kim Krebs, Community Engagement Officer to continue to assist the committee in how they will focus on the tasks required and .

9.1.1 Andrew Fairney will present at the next Steering Committee meeting.



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SUPPORTED BY THE Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board

**YOUR NRM LEVY AT WORK**

Australian Government Biodiversity Fund  
The Upper River Torrens Landcare Group,  
The Barossa Council - The Adelaide Hills Council

Review of Action Items: (see attached)

4.2 Michael Seager discussed the potential change from Section 41 to Section 43 committee. IB explained that Section 43 committees are a combination of two councils working together within the Committee. Both The Barossa Council and the Adelaide Hills Council have commented in the past that they wish to look at the risk management issues related to the delivery of the UTLMP. Malcolm Herrmann advised that AHC has no information about this potential change. IB advised that TBC were waiting for the review from the sub-committee to report back to the TBC.

MOTION: THE COMMITTEE WILL WRITE TO BOTH COUNCILS (AHC LACHLAN MILLER / TBC IAN BALDWIN TO REQUEST THAT COUNCILS IDENTIFY THE RISKS AND ASSESSMENTS THEREOF THAT HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED CONCERNING THE OPERATION OF THIS SECTION 41 COMMITTEE SO THAT WE CAN ASSIST THEM TO DETERMINE HOW THEY CAN BE MANAGED.

Moved by KEN CRAIG; SECONDED GRAEME DONALDSON all agreed, MOTION CARRIED

7.4.2 Malcolm Herrmann will visit the new owners of the Pat Leopardi property

ACTION: GB WILL CIRCULATE AN ACTION ITEM AS SOON AS THE DRAFT MINUTES HAVE BEEN PREPARED AND SEND A COPY OF THE MINUTES TO THE COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW WITHIN 5 DAYS.

5.2 Gerry is still progressing the vehicle purchase and awaiting some final figures on the monthly payments.

5.2 Amendment to 5.2> Stephen Anderson .... Vehicle for Andrew Fairney (not staff) please change.

7.3 GGRP Shed Alarm installation – discussion later at this meeting.

Minutes accepted (subject to minor changes); Ken Craig; seconded by M Herrmann

#### **4 Correspondence Incoming and Outgoing (list to be tabled)**

Incoming Nil

Outgoing Nil

Business arising from Correspondence Nil

#### **5 Budget**

**G Butler**

Financial Statements to 31/3/15, actual budget for 2014-15– summary provided by AHC (to be attached).

All our funding from the AMLRNRM has been received.

We are currently waiting for the second payment from the Aust. Govt. Biodiversity Fund.

ACTION: GB TO DISCUSS SOME OF THE LINES IN THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT PRESENTED, WITH MARCELA ARDELEAN AT AHC IN TIME FOR THE JUNE MEETING.

Status of NRM and Biodiversity Fund funding for 2015-16 and proposed budget 2015-16  
We are starting to think about the funding for 15/16.

Bryn Troath advised the committee that the AMLR NRM Board has received a 20% cut to its allocation from the Federal Govt. and the Board is currently assessing how that will affect the distribution of funds to community projects such as the UTLMP.

GB raised the issue that in our funding agreement the signs say "Your NRM Levy at work", therefore if monies are being used from the Feds we should know the proportion of the Levy money. The NRM Levy money should be still available, so what does that mean for this group? .

**ACTION: BRYN TROATH WILL PROVIDE THE ACTUAL BREAKDOWN OF THE FUNDING WE RECEIVE.**

\$270,000 from the Biodiversity Fund for Year 5 and Year 6, so that will ensure funding is available for salaries for Andrew Fairney & Kim Thompson for the next two years.

We are currently on track to spend all of our allocation for NRM Funds this financial year.

**6 UTLMP Committee Governance:**

**GB**

Confirmation of Committee members and Induction process – 21/5/15 following PMWG meeting

The Chair has recommended that the PMWG meeting scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2015 be held from 9-11am at the Troup property. Following the meeting dedication of the Troup SPA would then be followed by an Induction of all Committee members, at the MPNRC, with Ian Baldwin and a BBQ to informally acknowledge Ian Baldwin's 17 years of service to the UTLMP prior to his retirement.

**7 Local Catchment Groups and other projects**

**K Thompson**

Project Officer Report – [report attached].

Kim discussed several items in the report including the RFRI, training received recently in Community-based Social Marketing, Community education initiatives with the Trinity College and Torrens Valley Christian School, the upcoming NRM Activities report and what Funding agreements are being developed at present.

Friends of Cromer and Porter Scrub Conservation Park 2015 programme has been circulated and the first event will be on 19/4/15 at Porter Scrub and 26<sup>th</sup> April at Cromer Conservation Park.

Roadside Fuel Reduction Project – The AHC is considering the next stage of funding for this project and recent media has highlighted the community's acceptance of this as a serious issue. Karlene Maywald has identified that this project is a good candidate for funding from fire prevention programmes. Good momentum from the recent AHC Community Forum and publicity, leverage from the Mount Barker Courier; Steve Brooks advised the AHC Biodiversity Forum will be discussing this project at its next meeting.

Other Community Engagement Programmes: Acidity Workshop Mt Pleasant 22/4/15  
Acidity Workshop – GB is assisting to facilitate the workshop here in Mt Pleasant. Brian Hughes (Rural Solutions SA will be speaking about liming; Greg Butler SANTFA will speak about Bio-char.

**ACTION: GB WILL SEND THIS OUT ELECTRONICALLY TO THE COMMITTEE**

Community Based Social Marketing – we will have some more discussions with Kim Krebs about how we develop a project in our area, based on the key messages taken from this training.

Update to the NRM activities table –fencing undertaken by Phil Keatley will be added to the activity list.

## **8 Project Management Working Group**

**Gerry Butler**

Meeting of PMWG 19/3/15 – Minutes were tabled for the Committee  
Project Manager’s report – (report attached)

At present, we are two members down including the Convenor. Most of the meeting was discussed the priorities and review processes for the PMWG, so the committee is recommending that it will make recommendations to the Steering Committee to reduce the overlapping within the two committee discussions.

Status of security system in the “Jimmy Dunn Shed” Recommendation: motion activated lights and single cylinder deadbolt on Seed Storage room door, ~\$500 cf security system \$3-4000

The PMWG recommended motion activated lights instead of a security system.

MOVED BY KEN CRAIG THAT THE ORIGINAL MOTION BE RESCINDED AND THAT MOTION ACTIVATED LIGHTS BE INSTALLED UP TO \$500.

Seconded by B Mudge Carried

On-ground works AMLR NRM Board 2014-15 (spreadsheet to be tabled)

We are continuously working through our 40 plus projects that are funded through the NRM processes. We have had some challenges achieving the fencing component this summer, due to the lack of moisture and the seasonal challenges associated with summer activities.

### **8.1.1 Status of Watercourse Erosion Control progress and new projects (Pinchbeck)**

Miller Creek – there are a number of properties that have serious watercourse degradation and land degradation issues. Dan Pinchbeck has approached the UTLMP to ask for some technical advice and assistance. We have asked Geoff Fisher to prepare a report for consideration. The adjacent land degradation issue will be discussed with Bryn Troath and Karren Carman along with a couple of other land degradation issues around the catchment.

M Herrmann asked the question around erosion issues on a property in Birdwood on the northern bank of the main channel of the River Torrens - Peter Mac & Poland properties. Recently the AHC have cut a track to provide fire access. BT advised that if the process is a natural erosion issue, there isn’t much we can do, however, if there are contributing factors that are beyond. Given the UTLMP’s considerable attempts at engaging with these landholders, it would be important to progress this further to look at the causes of this issue.

ACTION: GB WILL INVITE THE STAKEHOLDERS (UTLMP, NRM, AHC, LANDHOLDERS, SA WATER) TO A MEETING ON 20/4/15.

**8.1.2 Green Army team – Central Hills Landcare Network, facilitated by the Landcare Association of SA, will be on ground in our region from May 4, 2015**

Geoff Hodgson, from Birdwood, has been appointed as the Green Army Team Leader. The Mt Pleasant NRC will be hosting Geoff from 13/4/15 whilst he commences the project and the team members will undertake their induction from 27/4/15 with “boots on ground” from 4/5/15. There are 6 project partners, (AHC, Mid Torrens Catchment Group, New Springs Landcare Group, Sixth Creek Catchment Group, Upper River Torrens Landcare Group and the UTLMP) who will allocate work to the Green Army team. UTLMP projects will include the GGRP, watercourse erosion control, revegetation and other issues. There were 41 applications for the 9 places within the team – this will be Geoff’s role to identify 9 from the shortlist of 15..

All of the groups are identifying which resources are available – the UTLMP have offered their equipment trailer for the group to utilize during their work in the area.

This is an opportunity to welcome the Green Army team to the area, Julianne Troup and Stephen Anderson have been invited to a welcome session on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2015 in Mt Pleasant.

Signs are being arranged to display at work sites recognizing the partner groups and the funding bodies. This is a training programme, not a “work for the dole” programme.

**8.1.3 Report for the 3rd Quarter due April 22, 2015 – in progress**

On track for delivery 22/4/15.

**GB**

**9 Grassy Groundcover Restoration Project**

**Andrew Fairney.**

Project Officer Report – [report attached] Minutes of the Technical Steering Committee meetings held on 26/3/15 and 30/3/15 – including dedication of Craig SPA by mayor Spragg (AHC) and Jamie Briggs Mbr for Mayo

Refer to the reports attached.

A lot of work is currently being undertaken by contractors and staff.

DEWNR have burnt the area in Cromer MU3-17, seeding is being done by Andrew at present, Trinity College students planted tubestock yesterday and ERA are finishing this work.

SPA Dedication – Craig property. We had two dedications, one with Mayor Bill Spragg on 26/3/15 and with Hon Jamie Briggs on . Both parties were impressed and recognised the significance of the financial value of each investment.

**10 Staff matters and Governance:**

Staff meetings – recent meeting 26/3/15 and “one-on-ones” scheduled late April  
One-on-ones scheduled later this month. At these meetings, we identify the priorities for each of the staff members, determine training opportunities, and review worketc.

Training proposed: KT: Environmental Education; AF: Ecological restoration processes; and GB: Management processes. Recently GB and KT attended Community-based Social Marketing

#### **11 AMLRNRM Issues:**

**Bryn**

Ongoing District Officer/Compliance Officer partnership, Incident Reports (WAAs & Declared plants)

As per the Funding Agreement with the AMLR NRM Board Audit 5 properties will be audited.

Funding for projects will come in the future from Spine of the MLR, Grassy projects L7 funding (Eastern side of MLR), L8 water issues

The Board will be looking at sub-projects to fit in with these outcomes.

Discussing in detail about Conservation Clusters and the development of a strategy to better engage and improve biodiversity outcomes.

Workshop proposed with Lobethal staff to discuss land degradation issues

GB advised that the biggest issue is that DEWNR Enforcement Branch identified some time ago that they are only able to prosecute one landholder in the whole State each year. Due to the costs (time & resources), the degradation and/or weed issues around compliance aren't being dealt with.

Clearly, the NRM Act doesn't work and some of our landholders are offended by the degradation of land within the area. BT encourages all landholders to put their concerns in writing so we can begin the chain of evidence.

How do we get landholders on board? CBSM; dealing with difficult people; We need to get incident reports completed so we can at least start mapping the degraded properties.

Weed control issues – Weed reports, mapping and communication strategy Nil

Communications of a compliance nature with Upper Torrens landholders Nil

Central NRM Community Connections news and views – status

This has been completed and Julianne Troup has commented that nothing new has been highlighted. There is another meeting tomorrow with Kim Krebs to finalise the information and JT is disenchanted with the whole process.

**JT**

#### **12 Other Business:**

Rural Land Management Course completed – successful with 17 families including 7 participants who were affected by the Sampson Flat fires

Landcare Awards nominations are now available for the 2015 State Landcare Awards. Who do we put forward? We have circulated an email about this and wish that you could think who we could nominate.

#### **13 Next Meeting/s:**

Steering Committee (normally 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of even months):

- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 9.30-11.30am; Venue Mount Pleasant Natural Resource Centre

- Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August 9.30-11.30am; Venue Mount Pleasant Natural Resource Centre
- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 9.30-11.30am; Venue Mount Pleasant Natural Resource Centre
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 4.00-5.30pm; Venue to be advised followed by the End of Year Celebration

**Project Management Working Group (normally 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of odd months):**

- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 9.30-11.00am; Venue Troup, Fulwoods Road then MPNRC
- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 3.00-5.00pm; Venue to be advised
- Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 9.30-11.30am; Venue to be advised
- Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November 9.30-11.30am; Venue to be advised

**GGRP Technical Steering Committee:**

- To be advised

**14 Meeting proposed close at 11.30am**

Approved: ..... Date: .....