

Signed 9/4/15

UPPER TORRENS LAND MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Project Manager: Gerry Butler

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**DRAFT MINUTES
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday 12 February 2015
9.30-11.30pm**

Mt Pleasant Natural Resource Centre
132 Melrose Street, Mount Pleasant

1 Attendees (Hardcopy of Agenda Papers will available at the meeting): 9.35 am

- 1.1 **Steering Committee members:** Councillor Michael Seager and (TBC), Councillor Malcolm Herrmann and Steve Brooks (AHC), Rick Gladigau, Bronwyn Mudge, Julianne Troup (Chairperson), Graeme Donaldson, Martin Philcox, Ken Craig (Chairman GGRP Technical Steering Committee), Stephen Anderson [Community/URLG] and
- 1.2 **Project Staff:** Gerry Butler [Project Manager], Kim Thompson and Andrew Fairney [Project Officers]
Minute Secretary: Kim Thompson
- 1.3 **Invited Guests:** Piers Brissenden (DEWNR)
- 1.4 **Apologies:** Ian Baldwin (TBC) and Bryn Troath (Adelaide & Central Hills NRM Operations Manager), Mike Williams (DEWNR) Steve Brooks (AHC)

2 Declaration of interest:

Committee

N/A

3 Acceptance of Minutes: Minutes of the UTLMP meeting 27/11/14 & Action Items.

3.1 Amendment to minutes:

Moved by Ken Craig, seconded by Michael Seager

3.2 Business Arising:

6.2 Progress on Section 41 reviews by TBC – M Seager and a committee (Terms of Reference to the Working Party – Redefining Community Committees) is examining all leases and everything to do with Section 41 committees. Currently discussions are confidential, however by the next steering committee Councillor Seager should be able to provide further information. Greg Groecke has been appointed to visit each Section 41 committee throughout the year, but both the BBG and the UTLMP are not on that list. He will explain details to each committee at this meeting, date TBA. This committee will be meeting on the 1st Wednesday of March. GB explained to those in our committee who weren't at the previous meeting our governance and how we engage with both Councils in our catchment, however, we are a Section 41 committee of The Barossa Council, and our Steering Committee would be interested to see what TBC think about our Committee. MS explained that at this point, there hasn't been too much detailed discussion about specific committees, just the governance issues and identifying who and what projects are Section 41 committees.



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YOUR NRM LEVY AT WORK

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

JT

KC asked the questions of MS if there is a level of governance that should/could be required to enable this project to remain as Section 41 and not move to Section 43. MS will ask the question: What are the objectives of TBC Sub-committee dealing with Section 41 Committees?.

Advantages to this group of changing to Section 43.

ACTION: - MS Will do this at the next TBC meeting and report back to this committee at our next Steering Committee.

3.3 Review of Action Items: (see attached)

Item 3.2 - GB has yet to contact Michael Cusack regarding the letter to Councils about dirt tracks on private properties. Oct meeting 14

Item 8.2 – GB has facilitated a report from an arborist (refer later in the meeting)

Item 5.2 – GB is currently finalizing the arrangements for the project vehicle.

Item 8.1 – GB to contact Kim Krebs to undertake a further follow up meeting – March 19, 2015 to be confirmed.

Item 8.3.1. – Discussions happening. GB explained why he invited SA Water into this discussion is because they pump a fair bit of water into the system and this will exacerbate the erosion at the point on the bank. Malcolm Herrmann asked the question: Who is responsible for this issue? – The landholder is responsible, however, in this case they don't have the finances available to deal with the erosion and risk factors. Piers Brissenden highlighted and congratulated GB for his processes taken on this issue as the risk to the main channel is significant. He also explained that there are also 2 more trees adjacent the fallen one and therefore we should look at the bigger picture in this instance.

Rick Gladigau asked the question: If it's the landholders responsibility, why then does the landholder have to obtain a Water Affecting Activity permit to do any work in the creek? – Interesting perspective.

ACTION: GRAEME DONALDSON WILL ASK SOME QUESTIONS TO THE ARMED FORCES ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THIS TREE REMOVAL PROCESS TO BE UTILISED AS A TRAINING EXERCISE.

Item 9.1.1. – AF will present this presentation at the next committee.

Item 11.4 – JT will make copies available through GB by email.

4 Correspondence Incoming and Outgoing (list to be tabled)

4.1 Incoming

AHC – appointment of Malcolm Herrmann to this committee for the next two years.

TBC – appointment of Michael Seager to this committee – GB needs to source the letter of confirmation.

Southern Quarries letter regarding price increase.

4.2 Outgoing

N/A

4.3 Business arising from last meeting.

ACTION: GB to follow up TBC letter of confirmation re Michael Seagers appointment to this committee.

5 Budget

G Butler

5.1 Financial Statements to 31/1/15 and proposed budget for 2014-15– summary provided by AHC (to be attached).

At present, we haven't received the second payment from the NRM board as we still have some work to do on the report – KT & GB will be doing this and submitting it early next week.

We are due another \$135k from the Federal Government, the report is due on 26/2/15 and AF & GB will be working on that acquittal very soon.

Small grants process is very limited, although there is an opportunity for an application through 'disadvantaged' members of our community. GB has been visiting the Gumeracha Recovery Centre and spoke with the Manager of the Torrens Valley Community Centre and there is a huge response and interest in the RLM Course that we are currently running. We may need to facilitate another one in the very near future. We do need to find ways of getting out to other sectors in our community.

KC asked the question about how the fires will affect our budget? Several properties that were affected had had works done in the past. Fences and some native vegetation (and gorse) has been burnt. Some situation where internal fences have been burnt They can be temporarily replaced (including insulators, etc.). Boundary fences are the biggest priority. One of the biggest issues has been where land holders haven't done their maintenance around the removal of phalaris in revegetation, Areas where maintenance hasn't been undertaken have been the worst affected.

GB has suggested that approximately \$10-\$20K of additional works could be requisitioned. Lots more property owners are coming forth asking assistance from the UTLMP.

IN the early days after the fire a CHECKLIST was distributed – JT asked whether GB and staff were following this. The NRM staff in the Northern Area and the central area have lots of discussion about how we start the discussions with the landholders. We know that this is the listening stage of the recovery and asking how we can help, rather than imposing regimes for landholders. The recent meetings at Inglewood and Gumeracha, and Kersbrook are very important and the community response has been excellent and we are encouraging landholders to visit this 'recovery' centre to find out where the appropriate resources are for their assistance.

RG asked the question about the fact that some lines of the budget are overspent and others underspent. Further work needs to happen with GB and AHC to truly reflect where the money is being spent.

Piers Brisseneden advised that the Federal funding will be reduced next year under the National Landcare Programme. This year \$2.1m next year the \$1.7m – this money is a mix of Federal funding and the NRM Levy monies. There will be changes to reporting requirements in terms of more pressure on administrative processes and monitoring. We haven't yet determined the model, and he is just advising this Committee that there will be a maximum of 32% cut to the funding provided to the Land Management Project teams and districts. PB will keep us informed as to where this sits with the UTLMP.

5.2 Approval to order the Project vehicle for 2015-2017 delivery July 2015 following the review of 3 quotes as per The Barossa Council Procurement Process (Paper attached)

Referring to the previous meeting regarding the quote comparisons for 4x4, however, TBC advised the procurement process has meant that GB has needed to get three quotes prior to purchasing. Jarvis Cars have provided their quote (see attached), GB will check with Lynas next week. Maughan Thiem were overpriced by \$8k. GB advised that Jarvis Cars are very keen to move this forward.

ACTION: THE COMMITTEE AGREED THAT GB WILL PROGRESS THIS FURTHER.

Stephen Anderson advised that the URTLG has purchased a vehicle that is available for staff. AF advised that for the past 2 years he has been using his own vehicle and whilst it is a reliable vehicle it has not been the ideal vehicle for this project. The idea that GB's vehicle should be utilized, however, has not been practical and therefore AF has only used this vehicle a couple of times. AF has worked through some figures demonstrating the cost of GB's vehicle and the comparison of what AF's fuel reimbursement costs have been over the past 12 months. The difference is quite considerable. The vehicle has been purchased for Andrew Fairney by Stephen Anderson, as the project cannot purchase this particular vehicle due to it's age (2005). The finances, the insurance etc. need to be discussed at a sub-committee to determine the cost to the UTLMP. The additional set up costs for this vehicle will be the point of discussion, including the support from the URTLG, the GGRP Technical Committee needs to determine how this will move forward.

Given this situation, Rick Gladigau asked the question about whether the UTLMP vehicle needs to be a 4x4 – could he move back to driving a sedan. GB advised that he would prefer to continue to progress the purchase of the "said" vehicle.

ACTION: GB TO PROVIDE IAN BALDWIN WITH THE RECOMMENDATION FOR PURCHASE ASAP.

Committee

6 UTLMP Committee Governance:

GB

6.1 Confirmation of Committee members and Induction process.

GB sent an email to Rebecca Tappett who is TBC person responsible for this induction process. Date TBA

Local Catchment Groups and other projects

K Thompson

6.2 Project Officer Report – [report attached].

6.3 Friends of Cromer and Porter Scrub Conservation Park 2015 programme

6.4 Activities for Committee involvement.

6.5 Roadside Fuel Reduction Project – status of the 8 sites.

6.6 Other Community Engagement Programmes:

(Refer report)

7 Project Management Working Group

Gerry Butler

7.1 Follow up to the recent facilitated workshop held on 20/11/14 proposed for 19/3/15

GB advised that to date we haven't had a PMWG meeting yet, although we should convene to determine who will be the Leader. We do need to build on the facilitation of this group.

7.2 Project Manager's report – (report attached)

GGRP is well on track to achieving all of our milestones. The Project Officer from the Federal Govt. was very interested in whether any properties were affected, and as GB advised the only property affected was in fact a benefit on this property due to the gorse infestations on this property.

7.3 Proposal to install security system in the "Jimmy Dunn Shed"

David Bradley has proposed a contractor to install the alarm which will send a signal to a phone number and those receiving that call will respond to a silent (motion sensor) the alarm. This is the most cost-effective alarm system around at a cost of \$2199 plus materials – approximately \$3000. On-going costs are negligible as the response person will be a volunteer and they will then be calling the police. This is still a proposal and whilst we haven't had any significant problems to date, we do need to insure the equipment is protected.

ACTION: THIS COMMITTEE MOTIONS THAT A MONITOR IS PUT IN PLACE TO APPROVE THE ALARM INSTALLATION – Moved by Ken Craig & seconded by Graeme Donaldson – all in favour.

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

Mostly achieved the milestones, sum we have under-achieved and some we have over-achieved, we will catch up.

7.4.1 Fallen tree across River Torrens in Birdwood (Clifton property)

GB/KT

7.4.2 Progress on Pat Leopardi's watercourse issues

Property has been sold, Malcolm Herrmann will introduce our project to the new property owner.

MH

7.4.3 Watercourse Erosion Control progress and new projects (Pinchbeck)

Substantial landholder just north of Gumeracha, got in touch with GB the other day to say that an area of Miller Creek has suffered significant bank and bed erosion. This has happened due to a large gum falling a couple of years ago. He has had work undertaken by the Torrens Catchment Board in the past but he is not interested in receiving any financial assistance from us or the Board. GB has asked Geoff Fischer from AWE to visit the property and prepare a report to remediate and ameliorate. Hopefully Dan Pinchbeck will be applying for a WAA soon.

The other issue at this site is the neighbor to the north, Mr Vicario has a very substantial degradation and erosion issue, resulting in landslips. Karren Carmen has started preparing a list of the properties who have overgrazed and we expect that this property will be on that list.

7.5 Status of 2014-15 Service Level Agreement

7.5.1 Report for the 2nd Quarter due February – in progress

GB

8 Grassy Groundcover Restoration Project

Andrew Fairney.

8.1 Project Officer Report – [report attached] including Minutes of TSC 22/10/14

8.1.1 Presentation from the Native Grass Workshop in Victoria Nov 11-14. - next Steering Committee Apr 2015

8.2 Seed Production Areas including Barossa Bushgardens

Harvested in excess of almost 300 kgs of seed from all the sites. Ken Harrington, ERA and AF are the only personnel collecting the seed. Mt Pleasant Site (Payne), 100kg this year last year 30kg; the other side 60-70kg, some has some thatch, but very significant. All the other sites have outperformed last year and met the expectations of the SPA's. All of that seed will be sown this season and what we harvest at the end of the year 15/16 will go into next year's sowing. At a rate

of 10kg/Ha we will have plenty of seed for broadacre sowing. Throughout the term of the project we will also plant an additional 130,000 tubestock.

JT mentioned that documentation of the processes and modelling of the SPA's would be a very valuable document which could be used for reference by other bodies wishing to establish a similar project.

BBG –Has produced massive amounts of seed; 20kg of Vittadinia (lightest amount of seed); *Brachiocome* – very valuable; Blue-devil – still harvesting from a few grams into a few kgs (very valuable)

8.2.1 Placement of Species name plates on SPAs – progress

All in place

8.3 Progress on seed inventory and on-ground works

Ken Craig provided a model, however we still need to look at how we can improve on this

8.4 Trials and research status on PRM and Cromer MU3 – Monitoring report

The trials have been completed although AF is still photographing the sites. Ellen Bennett and Chris Penfold are developing the data and statistical analysis for reporting. –At the next meeting we will be speaking about managing the broadacre revegetation sites. Most in the restoration business agree that if you don't change the management of the property after revegetation then predicted benefits may not be achieved. Therefore, we are suggesting that the trials also examine the most effective approach for managing revegetated sites .

8.5 Completion of milestones for Australian Government MERIT reporting – Due 26/2/15.

Reporting requirements have been altered to 200 Ha of restoration processes. Instead of 200 Ha of revegetation; just 200 Ha of restoration. The grant still has the original objectives and we are still doing that, but we only report through the MERIT system of 200 Ha. There is one item we are deferring (a milestone from July-Dec 14) ;and that is a field day directly relating to a sowing event at Echidna Flat. The weather has prevented sowing therefore the field day is being deferred until an appropriate time. Everything else has been achieved and will be reported accordingly.

9 Staff matters and Governance:

9.1 Performance Partnering sessions with Ian Baldwin

JT attended for GB's performance. All went very well and we hope to see a report at the next meeting.

GB/IB/JT

9.2 Training proposed: KT: Environmental Education and Aspiring Women; AF: Ecological restoration processes; and GB: Administrative processes.

From those discussions it was highlighted, and supported by the committee, that staff should follow up appropriate education and training opportunities in order to enhance their performance and positions.

10 AMLRNRM Issues:

Bryn

10.1 Ongoing District Officer/Compliance Officer partnership and Incident Reports (WAAs and Declared plants (Coolatai – Mt Pleasant and Caltrop -Mt Torrens)

Coolatai was identified on the roadside verge opposite Coopers, Mt Torrens and Karren Carmen has been advised of this.

PB is working closely with community in relation to post-fire; ongoing and provision of District Staff at Gumeracha Recovery Centre

10.2 Weed control issues – Weed reports, mapping and communication strategy
Phil Elson is coming to speak with staff (Black Hill CP), to discuss some new weeds that have been identified.

10.3 Communications of a compliance nature with Upper Torrens landholders

10.4 Central NRM Community Connections news and views

An eight month projects that the Boards liaised with communities of which JT & GB were part of the discussions. A report is being presented to the Board and we are just waiting to hear from the management as to how we can deliver the recommendations. Most of the outcomes are those that we already knew, so it's just about how we can implement them effectively. One of the things that came from the community discussions was the idea of 'pop-up' NRC's – being seen in the community (outside shopping centres, recovery centres). JT spoke about the withdrawal of staff from Lobethal and Norton Summit and the ironic suggestion that the Board wish to maintain a connection with the community.

JT/GB

11 Other Business:

11.1 The use of BlazeTamer380™ in fire control - Bob Myers scheduled for 10.30am
Given the initiative of the original project and it's conception to where the UTLMP stands now, this product could be pivotal within the district and within the community as we know it. Bob wanted to advise this innovative group that there is a product available to assist with the 'fear' that most felt during the emergency event.

At present most people rely on using water and/or mowers to reduce fuel loads or preparation of a site to a fire event. In the early days of burning on Bob's property he used Kill-Fire added to water which makes 'sticky-water'. It gets sprayed onto an area around the perimeter of the area Bob wished to burn using a few granules in a back-pack of water. This product became a little difficult to get, as this new product was launched.

BlazeTamer380™ is a far more effective product – 13/ml – 15l backpack. It is cheap, easy to use and effective. In the recent fire event, Bob coated his cars using a slightly higher concentration. You can spray trees, vegetation, gardens, and flammable parts of the house for protection. (Refer notes).

This product is a polymer (unlike other products used) which has endo-thermic reaction when heated which produces a rapidly cooling action and starves the fuel it is applied to of oxygen. The density of the structure (network) blankets the fire and depletes oxygen therefore preventing fire. It has no residue and is safe to be used in our landscape on a large-scale basis. (see Bob's notes).

How long does it take to degrade? – download the information from the website

www.blazetamer.com

Does it have a residual effect after two hours? – it just doesn't work

What affect does it have on the equipment you spray? – you need to wash it off, although it doesn't have corrosive effects like the current 'foam' being used.

Can you use a boomsprayer? - depends on the size of the nozzles (used in a back-pack/herbicide spray).

11.2 Biodiversity and Fires – Emily Moskwa (UniSA) interviews with selected members after the meeting

12 Next Meeting/s:

12.1 Steering Committee (normally 2nd Thursday of even months):

- Thursday 9th April 9.30-11.30am; Venue Mount Pleasant Natural Resource Centre
- Thursday 11th June 9.30-11.30am; Venue Mount Pleasant Natural Resource Centre
- Thursday 13th August 9.30-11.30am; Venue Mount Pleasant Natural Resource Centre
- Thursday 15th October 9.30-11.30am; Venue Mount Pleasant Natural Resource Centre
- Thursday 12th December 4.00-5.30pm; Venue to be advised followed by the End of Year Celebration

12.2 Project Management Working Group (normally 3rd Thursday of odd months):

- Thursday 19th March 3.00-5.00pm; Venue to be advised.
- Thursday 21st May 3.00-5.00pm; Venue to be advised
- Thursday 23rd July 3.00-5.00pm; Venue to be advised
- Thursday 17th September 9.30-11.30am; Venue to be advised
- Thursday 19th November 9.30-11.30am; Venue to be advised

12.3 GGRP Technical Steering Committee:

- Thursday 26th February 3.00-5.00pm; Venue Mount Pleasant Natural Resource Centre

13 Meeting proposed close at 11.45am

Approved as a true and correct record:.....*J.E. Traugh*..... (Chair)

Date:*8/5/15*.....