

# UPPER TORRENS LAND MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Project Manager: Gerry Butler

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## DRAFT MINUTES STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING Thursday 12 June 2014 9.30-11.30am

Mt Pleasant Natural Resource Centre  
132 Melrose Street, Mount Pleasant

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

- 1.1 **Steering Committee members:** Councillor Michael Seager and Ian Baldwin (TBC), Steve Brooks [AHC], Cr Malcolm Herrmann [AHC], Rick Gladigau, Bronwyn Mudge Julianne Troup (Chairperson), David Bradley (Project Management Working Group), Ken Craig (Chairman GGRP Technical Steering Committee), Stephen Anderson [Community/URTLG] and Bryn Troath (Adelaide & Central Hills NRM Operations Manager)
- 1.2 **Invited Guest:** Ms Kim Krebs (**Manager, Volunteer Engagement** Natural Resources - Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges) and Emily Mowska (UniSA Research Officer – biography attached)
- Project Staff:** Gerry Butler [Project Manager], Kim Thompson [Project Officers]  
**Minute Secretary:** Kim Thompson  
Apologies: Andrew Fairney, Tania Drever, David Eastham

### 2 Declaration of interest

Nil

### 3 Acceptance of Minutes: Minutes of the UTLMP meeting 13/2/13 and Action Items.

- 3.1 Amendment to minutes: Nil

Accepted and Moved D Bradley, Seconded M Herrmann

- 3.2 Business Arising: N/A

- 3.3 Review of Action Items: see attached

9.2 Performance Partnering – refer agenda

7.3.1 Service Level Agreement – refer agenda

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

- 4.1 Incoming

- 4.2 Outgoing

David Eastham as a member of the Steering Committee Group is having difficulties attending this group meeting; GB has asked him to formally resign from the Steering Committee to create a vacancy so we can fill this position soon. He was invited to still be a part of the PMWG.

- 4.3 Business arising from Correspondence

Nil



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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

## 5 Budget

G Butler

5.1 Financial Statements to 31/5/14 – summary provided by AHC (attached).

GB received a spreadsheet from AHC indicating how we are travelling and there has been a couple of queries regarding contractors v labour hire regarding expenses.

At present, the salaries for the staff are presented as contractors, this will be addressed when GB meets with Finance Staff from AHC. There is always a three month 'lag' time, which used to be six monthly, so the process is improving.

Lease costs have been identified in the budget and we will be progressively paying depreciation on these transactions.

We haven't seen two major contracts for Weed Control and Site Preparation for the GGRP from ERA & Hannco (Envirogroup) \$135k – significant on ground works outlay for this financial year – this will be discussed later.

We have received all of the income except for the fourth payment from the NRM Board, in addition to the NVC \$20k which is still outstanding.

KC asked the question around the bottom line and asked how much income before the end of the financial year.

DB asked about reimbursements – GB explained how the incentive vs costs for the on ground works is balanced and that there are quite a few outstanding reimbursement items with AHC currently.

We will receive a final invoice from TBC for the last quarter (additional costs for vehicle, fuel etc.) and the salaries.

Recent discussions with the AMLRNRM Board occurred regarding the inkind contribution from TBC and AHC so that we can try to get some reimbursement regarding the out of pocket expenses – this is being worked through at present. We also acknowledge the extra work that both Councils provide to us. GB presented a 'true' cost for his salary, vehicle costs and office expenses – this will be discussed later.

5.2 Budget status for 2013-2014 (attached)

GGRP expenses to date (13/14) \$520950 is shown on the spreadsheet. There is a lot of work to be done over the next few months to ensure that we will expend the funds allocated. There has been a lot of work actioned and paid for and we are on track to expend the full amount of \$533950.

GGRP for 14/15 is \$280k and this should enable us to implement the on ground works

KC asked about the reduced federal budget and its effect on Landcare and in particular our project. GB explained that there will be challenges in attracting funds in community grants, however, there will be three levels of grants available: <\$50k; \$50-\$200; >\$200.

GB has been working on the 'green army' programme – concerns include the questions around who sponsors the green army groups if the community groups don't have funding

for their projects in the first instance. GB has put forward a grant application for the green army programme asking for funding to continue to work on weed control, planting etc.

Clearly the reduction in federal budget cuts will affect the work that happens on the ground. The State Government budget gets released next week, the rumour is there will be no funding for community grants and we will just have to wait and see.

Recently there was a proposal launched by NSW Landcare called "crowd funding". We will put forward some "warm & fuzzy" projects that may attract interest.

MH has asked that Funding be put on the agenda so that we can get a good understanding about funding cuts across the region. There has been some considerable cuts to the local government funding which will affect the community.

GB has been working with Landcare network, raising awareness about these issues and the media interest including the recent editorial in the Stock Journal. KC has written to Jamie Briggs with no response! Steve Coombs has written to him as well, expressing the disappointment from the community about the cuts to the Eastern Hills & Murray Catchment Group's lack of support. GB also highlighted the problems around the 'green army' ideology.

5.3 Proposed budget for 2014-15 (attached).

GB still waiting to hear from the NRM board regarding the funding allocation, in addition to the extra costs.

\$280k from GGRP.

At present, there is no other funding in the horizon, although we will keep this committee informed if new opportunities present.

## **6 Local Catchment Groups and other projects**

**K Thompson**

6.1 Project Officer Report – [report attached].

6.2 Friends of Cromer and Porter Scrub Conservation Park 2014 programme

6.3 Activities for Committee involvement.

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

6.5 Community Engagement Programmes: refer advertisement on the back page of your papers.

## **7 Project Management Working Group**

**Gerry Butler**

7.1 Minutes of recent meeting: 31/3/14

GB advised there is still a number of jobs to be completed at the GGRP shed, some of these have been actioned by the Mens Shed, DB has installed the sink (donated by Julianne & David Troup). We are about to undertake a mice control program.

GB has raised the potential to install an alarm on the shed. There needs to be some more discussion around the type of alarm, with regards to the vicinity of neighbours.

RG explained the system at Springhead Lutheran and GB has asked for a committee member to investigate the needs and present a case for TBC. GB has also suggested that we speak with the neighbours to alert them to our project and the risks. MS will also speak with the Park Manager about the security.

GB has advised there are adequate locks, padlocks, etc. so any thief would have to be prepared and have a strategic plan.

**ACTION: David Bradley will investigate security options & costs and provide a report to the committee.**

Item 10.1 – Meeting Minutes PMWG. The watercourse erosion workshop was funded by the AMLRNRM Board, through a grant provided to URTLG.

As a result of the GGRP technical steering committee meeting, we have decided to mulch the sand trench areas at the BBG. 17 tonnes of straw has been offloaded and in addition quite a few mice arrived on the truck. George King has purchased all of the available baiting stations and he will continue to monitor them and fill them accordingly.

7.2 Project Manager's report – (report attached)

A follow up rabbit control programme is occurring at the hot spot around Mt Torrens, specifically around Jeff & Lea Sanders property at the end of Klose Road. GB has engaged with the surrounding landholders to ensure everyone is comfortable. KC has had some concerns around their cat who may pick up a poisoned rabbit, and he has expressed these with the contractor Andy Byrne.

7.3 On-ground works status AMLR NRM Board 2013-14 (attached spreadsheet)

We are well on track to complete the NRM board project with funds almost fully expended. There is a spreadsheet that demonstrates the last few years outputs in order to set the benchmark for next year's funding 14/15.

We are proposing that we will engage with 45 landholders; achieve 6.5 kms fencing; 2Ha Biodiversity Protection & Enhancement; 152kms roadside weed control; 161Ha pasture management.

7.4 Review of proposed 2014-15 Service Level Agreement

At present the Board are hoping that we can provide the same amount of funding as last year. We are still working through the additional costs associated with the extra support provided by both councils. BT will provide more specific details later. We are taking the Upper Torrens off the on-line reporting system, so this will reduce the additional reporting requirements for this project. Bryn Troath

## **8 Grassy Groundcover Restoration Project**

**GB.**

8.1 Seed Production Areas including Barossa Bushgardens

8.2 Progress on seed inventory and on-ground works

This is currently being worked on by Simon Carroll.

8.3 Trials and research status on PRM and Cromer MU3

Whilst AF is on holidays, George King is undertaking this work.

8.4 Completion of milestones for Australian Government reporting.

All of the milestones have been achieved and we have received the final allocation for this funding time.

GB is trying to organize a planning meeting for next Tuesday afternoon (AF first day back at work). We want to ensure that the two spraying contractors have all of the information they need to get on and undertake the site preparation so that those who are going to be doing the sowing of the seed done as soon as possible.

The AERO-Vator™ has been calibrated and is ready to go. Bob Myers has funded the modifications to the seed box (\$25k) and this has been acknowledged in our reporting to the AG. The changes will allow a curtain of seed to be sown compared with the traditional .

## **9 Staff matters and Governance:**

9.1 Confirmation of Interim Chairperson to take over from Julianne Troup for next 2 months – Rick Gladigau.

Rick G is happy to take over the Interim Chairperson for the next two months.

**GB**

9.2 Performance partnering – staff performance (Kim 2/6/14 and Andrew 24/6/14)  
JT & IB explained the process, following our business excellence process that we have running through the organization. This performance partnering process looks at adopting an ADEP (Achieve, Develop, Enjoy, Partner) approach. This provides the opportunity for the staff member to identify their ideas and what they wish to develop, in addition to what opportunities they may want to take, partnerships with other staff and other external agencies. What we hope to see is a happier Kim!!! who is very productive and enjoys her work and will continue to work with TBC.

AF 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2014, 3.30-5pm with Ian Baldwin, Rick G (as Interim Chairperson) will accompany GB to Nuriootpa for this meeting.

**Ian B**

9.3 Review of Job and Person Descriptions and relationships, roles and responsibilities – confirmation of contracts for all staff for 2014-15.

At present, there are no changes to these. GB has suggested that we include telephones in the contracts as the cost to phone mobiles from landlines is quite costly. GB will advise this as it progresses.

## **10 AMLRNRM Issues:**

**Bryn**

10.1 Ongoing District Officer/Compliance Officer partnership and Incident Reports  
Ongoing compliance around the 'previously' identified property.

At a District Level, we have been dealing with quite a few water affecting activities including erosion issues. Letters have been sent to some landholders.

GB has flagged with Karren Laundenbach re wholesale redevelopment of a cherry orchard and has clear felled of approximately 100Ha; landholder advised that a neighbor has cut down lots of native trees.

JT highlighted the redevelopment process regarding installation of new sheds around geo-tech etc. – EPA

10.2 Weed control issues – Weed reports, mapping and communication strategy  
BT will advise what the District will focus on next year once the District Ecologist has assessed the emerging weeds. NRM Signage around 'watch this weed'- will be implemented this year.

10.3 Communications of a compliance nature with Upper Torrens landholders  
Nil

10.4 Central NRM Group news and views

Live feed from Alan Holmes – budget cuts \$39 million, 100 staff of which 60/70 have already gone; 13% cut, AH has suggested we put forward our product to the State Government to raise the profile after Education & Health. He expressed that we will still do our best. Native Vegetation Council has gone from 26 down to 8 staff!

Lucy Hyde, Regional Landcare Facilitator has started at Lobethal. She will be providing a connection between government and Landcare.

Champions Workshop – Community Engagement activity - 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2014, Woodside Library 2pm.

DB has asked about the SLA – goal is to have it signed off by mid July 2014.

## 11 Other Business: .

11.1 (1045-1100) **Kim Krebs** – Community engagement and partnerships with UTLMP and AMLR  
NRM - how can we better engage with our community?

AMLRNRM has been developing their new strategic action plan (2 years). We have moved from three regions to seven (marine, & six land-based sub regions); we want to develop locally relevant community input into the sub-regional planning. Northern Hills, Central Hills, Willunga Basin, Northern plains, Marine. We want people to assist us to develop a process where the community is making the decisions around the local issues, how does this get actioned for each area. "Champion" engagement process (champion has caused some problems); What should we call you – not Champion; Advocate? Moving on from the name, what we are trying to do is to come up with the Sales pitch and the model of engagement that fits the Central Hills community, so we are prepared to go in seven different direction if that is what the community wants. Natural Resource Management is more complex – we are trying to think outside our square and deliver our actions, we need to connect with the community and recognize the local issues and be pro-active. How do we manage political change and how does this influence our processes. We are trying to make ourselves more future-proof and adaptable to change.

We don't have the model yet, but we are all ears open. If one of the solutions put forward is modelled from the UTLMP, and there is a consensus, we will go with that. At the first meeting we have about 50 people representing the community with two workshops. The next meeting (23<sup>rd</sup> June) will be about starting to make it locally relevant. The community will drive 'where to next'.

JT expressed her concerns that the name 'champion' doesn't mention natural resources management. Passion, drive and enthusiasm to change is the type of. GB highlighted that we don't like to put our hands up and boast that we could be champions.

All of the sub-regions will have Board representation and Senior Management available

11.2 (1100-1115) **Emily Moskwa** - community perceptions of vegetation management in high bushfire risk areas (see power point)

## **12 Next Meeting/s:**

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

August 14, 2014 9.30-11.30am

October 16, 2014 9.30-11.30am (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday)

December 4, 2014 4.00-5.30pm (1<sup>st</sup> Thursday, followed by celebratory EOY dinner at 6.00pm)

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

July 24, 2014 9.30-11.30am (4<sup>th</sup> Thursday)

September 18, 2014 9.30-11.30am

November 20, 2014 9.30-11.30am

GGRP Technical Steering Committee:

TBA .

## **13 Meeting close at 11.37am - followed by a light lunch with the Mt Pleasant Natural Resource Centre staff and volunteers.**

Brief biography:

Emily Moskwa:

I am working on an Australian Research Council project in partnership between the Universities of South Australia and Adelaide, and DEWNR as our industry partner. I recently met with some staff at the Adelaide Hills Council and they suggested you might be interested in being involved in our project. We are exploring community perceptions of vegetation management in high bushfire risk areas, and we would like to interview / workshop with local government authorities, CFS, DEWNR, foresters, conservationists etc. - not only local residents.

I have attached an overview of the project but in short, it is called "Bushfires and Biodiversity: Optimising conservation outcomes in peri-urban areas at risk" and it addresses and seeks to balance two key concerns:  
1) the threat of destructive bushfires occurring close to residential areas; and  
2) the need for effective conservation measures to maintain important and unique biodiversity.

I also see Barossa Council's Bushfires Stories project - it looks great! I wouldn't want to 'over-survey' Barossa residents but we are looking to survey in the Adelaide Mt Lofty Ranges and Eyre Peninsula in late September this year, and could potentially include the Barossa.