

UPPER TORRENS LAND MANAGEMENT PROJECT

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MINUTES
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday 27 November 2014
3.30-5.30pm followed at 6.00pm by End-of-Year Celebration
Mt Pleasant Natural Resource Centre
132 Melrose Street, Mount Pleasant

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

- 1.1 **Steering Committee members:** Councillor Michael Seager and Ian Baldwin (TBC), 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 **Project Staff:** Gerry Butler [Project Manager], Kim Thompson and Andrew Fairney [Project Officers]
Minute Secretary: Kim Thompson
- 1.3 **Invited Guests:** Graeme Donaldson (Forreston resident and UTLMP Participant), Amelie Jeanneau
- 1.4 **Late attendance:** Councillor Malcolm Herrmann, Steve Brooks
- 1.5 **Apologies:** Tania Drever

2 Declaration of interest: **Committee**

3 Acceptance of Minutes: Minutes of the UTLMP meeting 16/10/14 and Action Items.

- 3.1 Amendment to minutes:
Item 8.1 – Amend date from 31/12/14 to 31/12/17
- 3.2 Business Arising:
- 3.3 Review of Action Items:

Item 3.2 (Previous minutes 14/8/14) 12.1 Dirt Bike Tracks - GB talked to both Councils and reported that the building of a dirt bike track is allowed, provided it is only for personal use. DB suggested it would be good to speak with Michael Cusack, Blocks Road, Birdwood who dealt with a similar issue in his neighbourhood.

Item 6.1 – Letters sent by GB to Andrew Aitken - Adelaide Hills Council, Martin McCarthy – The Barossa Council and Kym Good – AMLRNRM Board requesting continuation of staff and Councillor involvement on the Steering Committee in the future and thanked them for their service to our Steering Committee and the community throughout the previous term.



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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

Item 8.2 – Fallen tree across River Torrens in Birdwood. GB has provided The Mount Pleasant Mens Shed with the details and visited with a team to investigate options other than commercial operators such as pro-Lop who supplied a quote. GB will facilitate a meeting to develop a small working group to engage stakeholders (NRM Board, SA Water, Landholders) in the New Year.

Action: GB to facilitate meeting with appropriate stakeholders re fallen tree on Clifton property across the River Torrens

4 Correspondence Incoming and Outgoing (list to be tabled)

4.1 Incoming

1. Email from Bryn Troath that Mike Williams will attend the Feb meeting with Piers B and he acknowledged the letter from UTLMP committee regarding AMLRNRM staff membership of the Section 41 Committee
2. Acknowledgement card from AHC re letter to Andrew Aitken re Steering Committee involvement and continued participation.
3. Bio-Gro correspondence advising of price increase effective 1/10/14
4. Invitation to Mt Pleasant Xmas Party Street Parade
5. Copy of correspondence from Australian Rail Track Corporation Ltd (ARTC) to AHC re Bushfire Management and prevention in the Adelaide Hills.
6. Email from Landcare Australia advising late grant entry application and the non-acceptance for consideration.

4.2 Outgoing

1. Letter to DEWNR - A reference for ERA to continue to collect seed from native vegetation in our region.
2. Refer Action Items – letters to AHC, TBC & AMLRNRM to continue membership on Section 41 Committee

4.3 Business arising from Correspondence

5 Budget

G Butler

5.1 Financial Statements to 31/10/14 and proposed budget for 2014-15– summary provided by AHC (attached). Received first payment with AMLRNRM Catchment Board and the 2nd invoice has been sent to them. Aust Govt. still working through the reports including MERIT before approving the first payment of 2014-15 funding. We haven't received any grants that we have applied for for \$10k. We still haven't finalised the NVC therefore there is \$20k outstanding. We will receive monies from landholders in addition. The "Lease operating" is the tractor. "Contract Labour" is staff salaries. "Materials" is materials for seed production areas, fencing, etc. "Reimbursements" is the monies identified as incentives paid to landholders to reconcile their agreement.

At the beginning of the year we had carry over of \$97.

5.2 GB sought approval to order the Project vehicle for 2015-2017 with delivery July 2015. There has been two proposals put forward – 2wd and 4wd. GB would like to ensure that Andrew F is able to utilise the project vehicle at his every opportunity and

recommends that we lease a 4x4. AF offered some input with regards to the use of his vehicle being very useful with tools etc. Resale for the current vehicle is around \$22,000 at June 2015

MOTION PUT FORWARD: APPROVAL TO ORDER the Recommended 4WD PROJECT VEHICLE FOR 2015-2017 DELIVERY JULY 2015 – Moved by D Bradley; Seconded by R. Gladigau

All agreed.

6 UTLMP Committee Governance:

GB

6.1 Current term of the UTLMP Steering Committee concludes in November 2014, with the Council elections – confirmation of continuing Committee members and outstanding vacancies

We currently have two vacancies, D Bradley & T Drever resigned from the Steering Committee and Tania would like to continue on the PMWG. The PMWG committee worked through a list of potential members to invite and GB will circulate this list and invite members to contact the nominees.

Graeme Donaldson has expressed interest in the UTLMP Steering Committee and was welcomed by the Committee.

6.2 Discussion about the potential improvements to current Section 41 status **IB**
Current recommendations by TBC have suggested that staff will begin to start some discussions with the groups to identify if and when the changes may happen. We understand these won't be resolved in the short term. This committee and the BBG weren't involved in the initial review as we are internal committees of Council. Only external committees have been looked at in the review by Council.

With the recent Government Review around Boards, the NRM Board has been able to show that it is relevant, although the NPWS will be dissolved.

7 Local Catchment Groups and other projects

K Thompson

7.1 Project Officer Report – [report attached].

7.2 Friends of Cromer and Porter Scrub Conservation Park 2014 programme completion
KT advised that these programmes have contributed in excess of 390 hours of volunteer actions within both parks for 2014 – great effort. Achievements include one of the large patches of gorse that the volunteers have been working on in Cromer CP for over 5 years has finally gone, albeit with follow up from now on. At Porter Scrub CP, the use of remote cameras has captured some fabulous action and has given the volunteers a better understanding of what creatures inhabit the park and where their efforts of habitat restoration should be focused.

7.3 Activities for Committee involvement. Refer report

7.4 Roadside Fuel Reduction Project – status of the 8 sites.
(refer report)

7.5 Other Community Engagement Programmes:

Thursday 4th December, 2014, students from the Torrens Valley Christian School will be undertaking "community service" at Mt Pleasant. This is a new engagement programme which hopefully will develop further in the future.

8 Project Management Working Group

Gerry Butler

8.1 Notes from the recent facilitated workshop: 20/11/14

PMWG Workshop facilitated by Kim Krebs, Community Engagement Officer – we went through what we considered our priorities for the project including non-negotiables (governance, etc.) and priorities. We were trying to identify what exactly needs to happen and what we would like to happen etc.

We also talked about the Upper River Torrens Landcare Group and the opportunities for improved community engagement. We developed a list of strategies for reinvigorating Landcare through the URTLG.

Working Group members – we developed a list of potential new members to encourage their participation in governance of the UTLMP. The working group was set up to on-ground action compared with the higher level focus of the Steering Committee. We identified a number of capabilities that we look for in new members that will complement the staff and the project including – diversity of interests, geographic & demographic representation and being critical thinkers.

One of the topics that we discussed was auditing landholder projects and we decided that we do need to work hard with the landholder prior to bringing the agreements to the committee and then set up some "outcomes" for each project so we know what to expect from each property.

More work needs to happen to finalise this workshop and GB and Kim Krebs will facilitate this in the New Year.

8.2 Project Manager's report – (report attached)

8.3 On-ground works proposed to date AMLR NRM Board 2014-15 (attached spreadsheet)

The spreadsheet and the contents represent all of the intermediate targets required by the NRM board. Each landholder has a budget assigned which fits into one of these lines. At present we are slightly overcommitted, however, as some landholders drop off and are unable to do the work, we are definitely on track to spend the allocation.

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

Fallen tree across the River Torrens in Birdwood (Clifton) - We have had several groups and individuals look at the issue and whilst many have offered solutions, several of which are very costly and the Clifton family and the UTLMP do not have a budget for this work. We propose to bring the stakeholders including SA Water, NRM Board, landholders and the UTLMP together for a meeting in the New Year to discuss a strategy to resolve this issue.

GB/KT

8.3.2 Progress on Pat Leopardi's watercourse issues

MH

Pat Leopardi's property is on the market at present. Her issue is that the reeds have grown upstream and spread into her property from the eastern side of Cromer Rd and over time have blocked the river system. It is interesting to note that they are not a problem in the National Motor Museum reach of the river. At present they are impeding river flow through the pipes and may overflow over the road causing erosion issues. The NVC are happy for her to burn or slash to reduce the plants mass, but she needs to apply to the

NVC. The UTLMP would love to work with the new owners and undertake a whole of property work plan and will keep a watching brief on the sale process.

8.3.3 Watercourse Erosion Control planning – reports from AWE

(Refer power point)

Amelie & GB have been working together to look at the Angas Creek Catchment and some of its issues. We contracted Geoff Fisher from Australian Water Environments (AWE) to develop an erosion risk assessment and categorized issues into high/medium/low. More work will continue on this to ascertain which work will get priority and a budget (if at all) and GB will engage with the stakeholders to develop a strategy for targeting the issues from the Priorities table.

8.4 Status of 2014-15 Funding Agreement with the AMLR NRM Board

8.4.1 Report for the 1st Quarter due October 22 - Accepted

GB

Bryn Troath acknowledged the receipt of the Progress Report verbally at this meeting.

9 Grassy Groundcover Restoration Project

Andrew Fairney.

9.1 Project Officer Report – [report attached] including Minutes of TSC 22/10/14 (refer report)

9.1.1 Report on the Native Grass Workshop in Victoria Nov 11-14.

AF attended this workshop with Bob Myers, he said it was very worthwhile and he learnt a lot. The Committee agreed that a presentation on this workshop would be made by Andrew at the February Steering Committee meeting proposed for 12/2/15.

9.2 Seed Production Areas including Barossa Bushgardens

All SPAs are growing well, seed harvest is exceptional with seed in substantial quantities and we are keeping up with the seed collection.

9.2.1 Placement of Species name plates on SPAs – Barossa Bushgardens and URTLG

Half are in place at BBG, still need to find the time to install the remaining ones.

9.2.2 A sign has been commissioned for the Craig SPA Mt Torrens, which will be installed in late January 2015 once the planting happens.

9.3 Progress on seed inventory and on-ground works – this task is with Ken Craig

9.4 Trials and research status on PRM and Cromer MU3 – Monitoring event

Recent monitoring event was successful. We determined that the question of what is needed to aid germination has been answered and now the management of the trial plots will change into a new phase of monitoring and management.

We did note that the chemical fallow sites showed low diversity and we found the same plants in all the plots, native and exotic.

The broadacre site on Rosenberg has showed up very good germination of sown native plants. The other sites that were sown earlier (June) have shown great emergence. This has highlighted the challenges we have faced with delays in equipment purchases and the late sowing of areas.

9.5 Completion of milestones for Australian Government MERIT reporting - Accepted.

Aust Govt are happy with us reaching our milestones.

Cost of Seed Production Areas – refer spreadsheet with exact cost of managing and building these seed production areas. This has been a substantial amount of our funding

(1/6th of our budget), but has been necessary and this year we are starting to reap the rewards. At a recent workshop in partnership with Native Seeds Pty Ltd, we were showcasing our SPA in Mt Pleasant and had numerous requests from participants about the availability and purchase of seed.

10 Staff matters and Governance:

10.1 Confirmation of Interim Chairperson to take over from Julianne Troup next 2 months – **GB**
Julianne Troup has offered to continue the Chairperson position for the next 12 months.
Moved and Accepted: D Bradley; B Mudge

Julianne's contribution was acknowledged by UTLMP staff and she was congratulated for her enthusiasm and support in this role. .

11 AMLRNRM Issues:

Bryn

11.1 Ongoing District Officer/Compliance Officer partnership and Incident Reports
Karren Carman is currently working with GB on a couple of issues

11.2 Weed control issues – Weed reports, mapping and communication strategy
GB will be working with Rob Murphy on a regional project in conjunction with AHC including weed reporting, mapping & communication strategies in relation to Roadside Marker Systems (RMS).

11.3 Communications of a compliance nature with Upper Torrens landholders **BT**
On going issues re compliance – the AMLRNRM is currently looking at improving the compliance process . We are currently trying to develop a consistent compliance application across the region so that if there is an issue it gets supported all the way to the top. There was a recent case that resulted in the Board spending in excess of \$50k with an end result of the landholder being found guilty and fined \$2k – we are asking the question about effort v worth.

We wish to ensure that the NRM Boards have the 'teeth' in the legislation to support the Act and hopefully this will result in better outcomes for the environment.

11.4 Central NRM Community Connections news and views

JT/GB

Central Community Connection meetings: - we have developed a number of statements about where we would like head, how we are going to connect to community – these will be collated with all the other groups. The original concept was to find a mechanism to connect with community and delivery priorities. The information will be recorded and provided to the Board.

Julianne Troup and GB made presentations at the Burnside Regional workshop and Julianne made reference to the UTLMP model as an example of good community connections and delivery of programmes.

Action: Julianne to make her paper available to the Committee.

The AMLR NRM region has been broken into sub-regions: Northern, Central, Fleurieu, Willunga Basin, Coastal, Adelaide, Marine etc. Each group was asked how they could improve the interaction with community and groups. Our group proposed a plan/model which is the UTLMP model and there were no other examples to compare.

These groups will collate their information including objectives and understanding what matters to people. Julianne highlighted that what we (the UTLMP) do, is really valuable.

BT also acknowledged that the UTLMP has a fantastic group of people volunteering around the table which is what makes the group so successful. IB also re-iterated that other community groups are quite envious of what this group has in terms of its governance and outputs.

One of the issues of concern to the community being discussed, is the proposal that NRM staff will be moved from local NRCs (Lobethal and Norton Summit) into a regional location, ie Black Hill Conservation Park. This matter is still to be resolved.

12 Other Business:

Resignation from the Steering Committee – Final words from David Bradley – “In 1999, DB’s neighbour, the late Jimmy Dunn rang to say there was a guy throwing some money around, so we got involved and after 12 months of work on our property with the UTLMP I decided I should join in with the Committee and ‘give back”. I subsequently have been involved with them ever since. I feel very lucky that I have had this opportunity to work with ‘tunnel vision, like-mindedness and determined community volunteers’, however, after 14 years involvement, I am going to retire from the Committee activities, but I will stay involved with the GGRP and assist Andrew Fairney out in the field. The bureaucratic processes have started to take their toll and whilst I leave this chair with a heavy heart, I will still be involved, just not in this role.

I thank you all for your camaraderie and fellowship and wish you all very well”.

13 Next Meeting/s:

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

February 12, 2015 9.30-11.30am (2nd Thursday)

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

January 29, 2015 9.30-11.30am (Date and Venue to be confirmed)

13.3 GGRP Technical Steering Committee:

February 2015 venue to be advised.

14 Meeting proposed close at 5.40pm

Minutes approved: (Chair)

Date: