

Minutes of Meeting No. 23 held at Meeting Room, 7-9 Symes Road, Woori Yallock on 17 October 2017

1. Welcome and acknowledgement of traditional owners of the land:

Convener Anne Langworthy opened the meeting, welcomed the committee members and invited guest, and acknowledged the traditional owners of the land.

Conflicts of Interest:

Nil

Attendance:

Members: Anne Langworthy (Convener), Cr. Jim Child (Yarra Ranges Shire Council), Jeff Latter (Community Rep – Cardinia), Sue Tardif (Community Rep – Yarra Ranges), Peter Cooper (Community Rep – Yarra Ranges), Craig Bray (Parks Victoria), Bob Anderson (Community Rep – Yarra Ranges), Marianne Sawyer (Cardinia Shire Council), Steve Hosking (Melbourne Water), Dan Harley (Zoos Victoria), Ben Cullen (Trust for Nature).

Guests: Victoria Purdue (DELWP), Dan Robertson (Melbourne Water), Kacie Melfi (PPWCMA), Beth McLachlan (Melbourne Water).

Apologies: Merryn Kelly (DELWP), John Terrick (Wurundjeri Tribe Land Council), Charley Woolmore (Wurundjeri Tribe Land Council).

Executive Officer: Joan Howard (YCACC).

2. Minutes of the previous meetings:

Acceptance of the minutes meeting No. 22, held on 19 September 2017

MOTION:

3. that the minutes of meeting No. 22 held on 19 September 2017 be confirmed.

Moved: Steve Hosking **Seconded:** Bob Anderson

CARRIED

3. Correspondence

Outgoing: nil

Incoming:

- (a) Dated 17/09/2017 – Copy of letter from Hon Lily D’Ambrosio MP re Dan Robertson’s (Melbourne Water) resignation from the YCACC;
- (b) Dated 17/09/2017 – Copy of letter from Hon Lily D’Ambrosio MP appointing Steve Hosking to represent Melbourne Water on the YCACC;
- (c) Dated 2/10/2017 – Copy of email from David Buntine advising he has nominated Ms Kacie Melfi as the PPWCMA representative on the YCACC.

4. Progress Report - YCACC Responsibilities under the Committee Terms of Reference

Anne Langworthy reviewed the Yellingbo Conservation Area Coordinating Committee (YCACC) Terms of Reference (ToR) set out by the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water, the Hon Lisa Neville MP in 2015.

According to the Terms of Reference YCACC is responsible for:

- a three-year Action Plan;
- a Business Plan; and
- an Annual Report.

The draft Action Plan was approved by the Committee at the August 2017 meeting.

Subsequently on August 25, the Action Plan was sent to each agency with the request to:

- review the actions, priorities and responsible agencies to ensure that they match the CFA strategic plans and priorities;
- add the particular agency to the agency column where this agency has a current responsibility for any specific action;
- add any action the particular agency is currently undertaking or plan to undertake that will achieve the goals specified;
- identify any gaps that the particular agency can address.

Agencies were also requested to include a list of any YCA-relevant strategic or management plans as required by the YCACC Terms of Reference.

A reminder was sent on October 4 and subsequently responses have been collected.

The Action Plan will be sent by email to all committee members and will be formally adopted at the next YCACC meeting before being submitted to the Minister.

The YCACC Action Plan lists an annual YCACC self-review process as an identified KPI which was undertaken as part of the committee meeting. Responses will be compared to the more detailed evaluation conducted in October 2016.

Business Plan: The Business Plan is currently being completed.

Annual Report: The Annual Report is currently being completed. The YCACC has undergone significant changes in membership composition and has actively adapted to challenges that have significantly changed the working environment for Committee members. The Committee would like the report to acknowledge the achievements of the Committee as well as the challenges.

Both reports will be formally adopted at the next YCACC meeting before being submitted to the Minister.

5. Regular updates

(a) DELWP YCA Project Implementation Team – Victoria Purdue

Haining Farm

Kelly Crosthwaite and Chris Hardman met with the Haining Farm Redevelopment Working Group to discuss the final plan for the site and some alterations have been made to the plan in response to feedback from the Working Group. The detailed design on the final plan will

commence over the next month and a committee has been established to oversee the implementation of the plan and works are intended to start on site in early 2018.

Project Team activities have included:

- identifying and assessing uncategorised public land in accordance with the Government accepted VEAC recommendations;
- organising the targeted stakeholder sessions;
- meeting with local CFA brigades with Kevin Tolhurst and Justin Leonard to provide info about YCA and develop the YCA bushfire management plan; and
- attending the Wandin-Silvan Field days to answer questions about the YCA;
- meeting with Melbourne Water and an adjoining landowner for a site visit in Woori Yallock; and
- meetings with Parks Victoria, Greening Australia, Zoo's Victoria, CFA and Melbourne Water to progress the redevelopment of Haining Farm.

(b) Melbourne Water – Steve Hosking

Melbourne Water is working on the refresh of its Healthy Waterways Strategy. The Healthy Waterways Strategy sets out the priorities and targets at individual catchment level that drives Melbourne Water's waterway investment programs for the next five years. The 2013 strategy concludes next year and in preparation for the new strategy a range of catchment collaboration workshop have been conducted, including one for the Yarra catchment held at the York on Lilydale on the 10 October attended by nearly 100 people. The workshop set out to identify what is important to stakeholders in the catchment to begin to establish the vision and high level goals.

(c) Executive Officer – Joan Howard

THE YCA PLAN: There have been two YCA Plan Working Group (WG) meetings since the last YCACC meeting. The current focus of the WG is planning for the key stakeholder and community consultations subsequent to the Agency Meeting held last month. The YCA Implementation Team is organizing these meetings and preparing the media campaign and concomitant collateral.

The EO will liaise with Committee members and organise a calendar/roster for those attending stakeholder and community meetings.

DATABASE: The stakeholder database continues to be a work-in-progress. Thanks go to those committee members who continue to provide suggested database entries.

WEBSITE: Boojum Pty Ltd have worked to resolve the background website IT issues and are assisting with the update to the YCACC website. They will provide ongoing support and security monitoring. Meanwhile specific email addresses for committee members have been made available and the website updated to include committee changes and the Minutes for June, July and August.

The website will have the capacity to generate a newsletter/regular news updates more easily than the old site, so it will be important for YCACC members to provide the EO with news items specific to their particular organisations, or in response to community enquiries and suggested links beneficial to the wider YCA community.

(d) YCA Plan Consultations

The YCA Team are sending out invitations, and managing the RSVPs, for the key stakeholder meetings on 25th and 26th October (conservation) and 2nd November (recreation and tourism). The aim of these key stakeholder sessions is to provide key information about the future development of the YCA; and provide opportunity for stakeholder / community involvement and feedback to inform the YCA planning process.

The Committee have requested that the YCA team add further stakeholder meetings to include the Wurundjeri Tribe Land Council, and Township, Youth, and Emergency Services groups as key stakeholders.

The re-naming of the conservation area was discussed.

MOTION:

4. that the Wurundjeri Tribe Land Council be consulted about the name change for the Yellingbo Conservation Area

Moved: Jeff Latter **Seconded:** Dan Harley

CARRIED

6. Business Arising

(a) Agency Meeting 19 September 2017 – Report and Next Steps

Anne Langworthy tabled the report of the Agency meeting and summarised key messages and themes. All committee members received a printed copy of the draft report. The content of the report was discussed, and it was agreed that committee members would email feedback, and/or any requested amendments, to Anne Langworthy by Friday (27/10/2017); the report would then be emailed to all Agency meeting participants.

All YCACC member agencies were represented at the meeting; and VicRoads and Greening Australia also attended.

A copy of the full *Agency Meeting Report* is appended to the end of these minutes.

(b) Riparian Licence Working Group

Steve Hosking convened the first meeting of the Working Group on Thursday 12 October. A meeting brief will be tabled at the next YCACC meeting (21/11/2017).

In general the areas discussed included: fencing, grazing, access to water, revegetation, licence applications including guidelines for issue and problems with compliance, heritage value overlays and the inclusion of traditional owners in the discussions.

It was reported that the debate was robust and provided a good beginning to conceptualising a set of principles and guidelines for licence agreements in the YCA.

(c) Issues Paper- Recreation in the YCA

A draft issues paper was tabled at the meeting. The committee considered the current recreational activities both legal and illegal within the YCA. However clarification around

what constitutes the 'high order' conservation value classification, and concomitant decisions made about area usage and/or permitted usage, need to be more clearly articulated.

Areas appropriate for horse riding, bike riding and dog walking were discussed in the context of existing trails and evolving planning for trail networks within the Shires of Yarra Ranges and Cardinia.

Possible illegal activities in the YCA will need further investigation and strategic management.

The committee noted that better consultation with recreation groups is needed to more appropriately align recreation activities with the conservation objectives for the YCA. An updated version of the Recreation Issues Paper is appended to these minutes.

7. Guest Speaker: Beth McLachlan – The Yarra Strategic Plan

Beth provided an overview of the consultation process for developing the Yarra Strategic Plan which deals with the Yarra River and land one km either side of the river up to the boundaries of the Local Government Area. The development of the Strategic Plan is a cross government project facilitated by Melbourne Water. Beth shared the range of communication materials and tools used in the engagement and consultation process which includes: 'Speak Out' events; walking maps; educational materials; library story telling; focus groups designed to access harder to reach members of the community; themed events; sausage sizzles; social research; contracted information packages; and online interaction opportunities.

Beth's PowerPoint presentation is appended to these minutes. More information about the Yarra River Strategy can be found at: <https://www.melbournewater.com.au/about-us/our-customers/yarra-strategic-plan>

8. Guest Speaker: Kacie Melfi – Yarra4Life

Kacie provided a brief overview of the history of the Yarra4Life project which has partnered in many successful community based projects over the last ten years. The opportunity exists for YCACC and Yarra4Life to work more closely together and Kacie's nomination as the new PPWCMA representative on YCCACC will facilitate this closer cooperation.

More information regarding Yarra4Life can be found at: <http://yarra4life.com.au/>

9. Other business

No further business raised.

Meeting Close

14:30

Date of Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 21 November 2017

Time: 09:00 to 14:00

Place: Symes Road, Woori Yallock VIC 3139