

## Minutes of Meeting No. 30 held at Meeting Room, 7-9 Symes Road, Woori Yallock on 15 May 2018

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

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

#### Conflicts of Interest:

Nil

#### Attendance:

**Members:** Anne Langworthy (Convener), Merryn Kelly (DELWP), Cr. Jim Child (Yarra Ranges Shire Council), Jeff Latter (Community Rep–Cardinia), Marianne Sawyer (Cardinia Shire Council), Dan Harley (Zoos Victoria), Ben Cullen (Trust for Nature), Peter Cooper (Community Rep–Yarra Ranges), Steve Hosking (Melbourne Water)

**Guests:** Dan Robertson (Melbourne Water), Tori McLennon (DELWP Regional Media and Communications Adviser), Corinne Mays (PPWCMA), Justin Foster (Manager DELWP YCA Implementation Team), Bronwyn Koll (Queensland Fruit Fly Regional Coordinator Yarra Valley).

**Apologies:** Craig Bray (Parks Victoria), Charley Woolmore (Wurundjeri Tribe Land Council), Sue Tardif (Community Rep–Yarra Ranges), Joshua Chikuse (Manager Parks Planning, Parks Victoria),

**Executive Officer:** Joan Howard (YCACC).

### 2. Guest Presentation – Bronwyn Koll, Queensland Fruit Fly Regional Coordinator

Bronwyn is employed by Agriculture Victoria and is a Regional Coordinator for the [Queensland Fruit Fly Action Plan 2015-2020](#). Bronwyn is working in the Yarra Valley with a range of stakeholders including: DEDJTR; DELWP; Agribusiness Yarra Valley; Melbourne Water; Parks Victoria; Yarra Ranges Council; private land owners; and community groups—to implement the Action Plan.

The Yarra Valley strawberry, cherry and raspberry and blackberry growers, together with Hort Innovation, Agribusiness Yarra Valley and Agriculture Victoria developed a [Pest Free Place of Production \(PFPP\)](#) program in the Yarra Valley. The PFPP program enables participating growers to take extra management precautions and certify produce as pest free for interstate trade, and not need to perform QFF post-harvest treatments that can deteriorate fruit quality and shelf life. Certified surveillance traps and rigorous fruit inspections are in place to ensure that the fruit is free of QFF.

Bronwyn provided an overview of an emerging problem with Queensland Fruit Fly infestations in some areas of the Yarra Valley and provided information about the *Yarra Valley Fruit Fly Action Plan*. Bronwyn highlighted the importance of monitoring and prevention strategies to keep the Yarra Valley QFF free.

There was extensive discussion about other possible vectors for QFF including fruit trees and other vegetation on private land; blackberry infestations (possible host plant) on public and private land;

and various vegetation occurring on roadside verges which are the responsibility of Local Councils and VicRoads.

It was noted that control and prevention mechanisms require an integrated approach involving all land owners and land managers. YCACC assistance was requested and it was suggested that this issue should be addressed in the YCA Plan. Bronwyn agreed that her PowerPoint presentation could be posted to the YCACC website

### 3. Minutes of the previous meeting:

#### a) Acceptance of the minutes meeting No. 29, held on 17 April 2018

**MOTION:**

1. That the minutes of meeting No. 29 held on 17 April 2018 be confirmed.

**Moved:** Cr Jim Child **Seconded:** Steve Hosking

**CARRIED**

#### b) Starred Agenda Items

The Chair indicated that given the reduced sitting hours for the YCACC meetings some Agenda Items would be 'taken as read' to allow enough time for discussion on more urgent items. Items selected for the 'taken as read' category are noted by a *star / asterisk* on the Agenda. Committee members can request discussion on these items if there is a specific need to discuss issues contained therein.

#### c) Acceptance of Starred Agenda Items as read

Merryn Kelly requested discussion of Agenda Item 5b but noted it could be discussed at 8e. Steve Hosking requested discussion of Agenda Item 5d. There was no Agenda Item submitted for 5c.

**MOTION:**

2. That Agenda Items 5a, 5e, 8a, and 8d be taken as read.

**Moved:** Steve Hosking **Seconded:** Ben Cullen

**CARRIED**

There was some discussion about the aspiration to reduce the volume of printed material provided for the YCACC meeting. Meeting papers are provided electronically and most members have laptops or tablets they can bring to the meetings to access meeting documents. It was decided that meeting papers will only be printed for the Community Members.

**MOTION:**

3. That YCACC members will access meeting documents via their electronic devices before and during YCACC meetings; and meeting papers will only be printed for Community Members unless otherwise requested.

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

**CARRIED**

**d) List of meeting Action Items for review**

The list of Action Items was discussed and given the complexity of the document there is a need to consolidate the various themes and retire items that have been completed or become redundant.

ACTION 3c.1: The Executive Officer will consolidate the list and contact members re outstanding action items.

#### 4. Correspondence

- a) **Outgoing correspondence** - nil
- b) **Incoming correspondence** - nil

#### 5. Regular Updates

**a) Budget\***

Budget document was provided and taken as read.

**b) DELWP - YCA Project Implementation Team**

The new DELWP Project Implementation Team Property Officer has been appointed and began work on 30th April. Jill Stanford is in the process of reviewing the property related actions that need to occur, and developing a plan for moving issues forward.

Immediate Actions

- Review the existing investigation survey reports for areas surveyed by the Office of Surveyor General (OSG) being: Coranderrk NCR, Warramate Hills NCR, Haining Park Education Area, Yellingbo NCR, areas of Sheepstation Creek, Hoddles Creek Education Area, areas of Shepherds Creek, Beenak Bushland Reserve and Wright Forest Bushland Reserve. Prepare a summary report outlining the next steps. Request Crown Survey Approvals (CSA) branch of OSG to create plan(s) for gazettal purposes (as identified in her summary report).
- Prioritize remaining rivers and streams for survey by the OSG. The rivers and streams are proposed to be grouped into 10 blocks of work, as shown on the attached map. This will be discussed at YCACC (*see Agenda Item 9e*). Prioritization should consider and identify areas of high priority for works, areas that may be easy to survey ("low hanging fruit"), costings, OSG time estimates for completion etc.
- Prepare a plan for the OSG that prioritizes remaining rivers and stream for survey.
- Liaise with Doug Hooley (Principal Legislation and Policy Officer) to identify the steps and timeframes for legislative change.
- For the parcels being identified that can be included in the YCA, once a final list is provided, identify those parcels that can be easily added.

*See Agenda Item 9e for discussion regarding how to prioritise survey blocks.*

**c) Parks Victoria\*** - no update submitted.

**d) Melbourne Water**

Steve Hosking advised that a new Waterways & Land Officer has been appointed by Melbourne Water to look after the geographic area comprising of the Woori Yallock and Wandin Yallock Creek catchments within the YCA. Sarah Gregor commences in the role on Monday 14th May having previously filled a similar role in the south-east area and as a support officer role within Melbourne Water. The previous incumbent Edwina Manifold is currently seconded into our Major Project Delivery team and is expected to return in February 2019.

Steve also provided the following update for the Cockatoo Swamp Project:

The trial pumping for Season 1 has been completed. The pumping trial has indicated that MW pumping philosophy needs to be based on levels rather than volumes of water. In this respect the University of Melbourne (Joe Greet) will nominate a target depth for the swamp. This will be based on data collected from monitoring points around the swamp and may need to change seasonally.

The pumps will be set up to meet the target depth within the desired band and will be automated to operate. One pump operating at levels between the nominated target depth and up to 0.2m higher, and 2 pumps operating at flows greater than 0.2m higher than target.

Cameras and telemetry have been set up on site and we have live access to a dashboard which provides status of rainfall and extraction rates.

The pumps have now been effectively decommissioned over the winter period.

An important component of this project is the monitoring and analysis of the swamp and vegetation condition. It is critical to carry out monitoring to understand the impact of pumping and verify if it is having the desired positive effect.

This monitoring & research work is undertaken by Melbourne University and is subject to different funding sources. Funding is currently available only until February 2019. Additional funding is required to support the ongoing project for a further two years. Annual costs for this component are in the order of \$100K. MW is already contributing a large amount towards this project and has limited access to additional unallocated funding.

The government have allocated \$3M funding towards delivery of the VEAC recommendations. This project goes towards delivery of YCACC objectives within the Yellingbo Conservation Reserve. Consequently, the allocation of some funding towards the monitoring and research component of this project would align with the funding goals provided.

The funding required could potentially be reallocated from the existing \$900K presently allocated to MW to be used for stream frontage fencing. To date the uptake by landholders has been very low and is accommodated within existing MW incentives budgets. There is a risk however that should demand increase substantially, this could create a future shortfall to deliver funded assistance to adjoining landholders.

The University of Melbourne will continue to explore alternative funding sources and if successful this would reduce the amount required to be supplied from YCACC.

MW is seeking YCACC endorsement to access \$100K in 2018/19 and \$100K in 2019/20 of the

existing available funds to go towards the monitoring and research component associated with the Cockatoo Swamp project.

**MOTION:**

4. That YCACC endorse the allocation of up to \$200K of funding from the YCACC budget towards the monitoring and research component associated with the Cockatoo Swamp Project.

**Moved:** Steve Hosking

**Seconded:** Merryn Kelly

**CARRIED**

**e) Executive Officer\***

This update provided an overview of progress made to date on the design and development of the new YCACC website. The website design and build phase is still in progress and pages and content are still being added and updated.

Authorised YCACC members/staff will edit and author webpages once there is confirmation that the design phase is completed. All data is to be imported/copied from the old YCACC website, and page content is being added to the new site.

The new website will feature interactive maps displaying different information and natural features in the YCA. The DELWP GIS officer is coordinating the mapping project and liaising directly with agencies who have agreed to supply spatial information for the maps.

## 6. YCA Planning Process

**a) YCA Plan – draft document**

The YCA Plan draft document was submitted for printing with the YCACC meeting papers on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May. Consequently, YCACC members were unable to review the Plan before the meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> May and therefore unable to provide feedback on the draft YCA Plan at the meeting. The YCA Implementation Team are attempting to meet a mid-June deadline to make the Plan available to the public on the Engage Victoria website. It was agreed that YCACC members would review the Plan over the next two weeks and provide out-of-session feedback to Justin Foster via email. Justin agreed to incorporate Committee recommended amendments to the Plan and email a copy of the re-drafted document to Committee members by 12<sup>th</sup> June to provide enough time for Committee members to re-view the re-drafted document before the next YCACC meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> June; and before the public release of the document on the Engage Victoria YCA webpage.

ACTION: 6a.1 YCACC members will review the YCA Plan over the next two weeks and provide out-of-session feedback to Justin Foster via email by 29<sup>th</sup> May.

ACTION: 6a.2 The YCA Implementation Team will incorporate Committee recommended amendments to the Plan and email a copy of the re-drafted document to Committee members by 12<sup>th</sup> June. [Justin Foster]

ACTION:6a.3 YCACC will discuss the draft YCA Plan at the next YCACC meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> June

**b) Allowed users by conservation category**

There was extensive discussion about what recreation activities are appropriate in the YCA as determined by the assigned conservation categories applied to different areas within the YCA. There is a complexity of Legislation governing the different land parcels, and land managers in the YCA, in particular legislation relevant to Parks Victoria who will be the primary land manager of the YCA. Until these issues are resolved legislatively it is difficult to assign appropriate use categories in the YCA.

### c) Communications and Engagement Plan

Tori McLennon, DELWP Regional Media and Communications Adviser, updated the Committee on the Communications and Engagement Plan which details the YCA Implementation Team's community engagement methodology for community discussion and feedback on the draft YCA Plan.

In addition to utilising Engage Victoria as a community consultation mechanism, the team have planned 3 drop-in sessions, and 3 pop-up sessions, each will be situated strategically throughout the defined YCA precinct areas to ensure all these areas are included in some iteration of the community engagement activities (dates and venues to be confirmed). Two members of the YCA Project Implementation Team will staff the community engagement events and record outcomes. DELWP media personnel will prepare the information and hand-outs for these sessions.

The Committee was advised that the proposed youth forum, farmers forum, and the follow up session with agency members who attend the first YCACC – Agency consultation would not be possible in the current round of community engagement activities; and that these groups would be able to participate in the drop-in sessions and provide feedback on the YCA Plan.

Given the discussions that have already taken place with the YRC youth ambassadors it will be necessary to follow up with the them to discuss other options including perhaps an online forum.

- ACTION 6c.1: Follow up with YRC youth ambassadors. [Anne Langworthy and Joan Howard]
- ACTION 6c.2: Provide advice about social media and online forums. [Tori McLennon]
- ACTION 6c.3 The YCA Implementation Team will make contact with the various agencies, provide them with a copy of the draft YCA Plan, and seek feedback directly with the Agencies. [Justin Foster]

## 7. Update: Legislative Process to Establish Conservation Area / Park

Survey work conducted by the Office of the Surveyor General needs to be completed to facilitate the legislative changes required for the establishment of the Conservation Area. It is hoped that the appointment of the new Property Officer will progress the prioritisation of survey work to assist this process.

## 8. Other Business

**a) Oxford Downs Case Study**

Case study completed and uploaded to YCACC website.

**b) Engagement Report – Merryn Kelly**

The Engage Victoria report will be a stand-alone report; a separated report will detail the targeted stakeholder engagement outcomes.

**c) Haining Farm Working Group**

Information provided by the Haining Farm Working Group indicates that:

- the final design for the Haining Farm precinct is nearing completion;
- a community newsletter update is being prepared;
- community engagement sessions are being planned;
- on-site clean up and earthworks are continuing;
- a community engagement position has been advertised; and
- a community representative will be invited to join the Committee.

**d) MW Fact Sheet - Herbicide use in Riparian Areas – Steve Hosking**

Fact sheet provided by Melbourne Water; will be uploaded onto the YCACC website.

**e) Proposed stream survey blocks – Merryn Kelly**

A map of the YCA proposed stream survey blocks was provided and YCACC opinion sought regarding the prioritisation of stream survey blocks for work undertaken by the Office of the Surveyor General. The Committee identified the following areas as important considerations for survey work:

- Launching Place;
- Hoddles Creek west;
- Little Yarra;
- Sassafras creek;
- Warramate Coranderrk block;
- Yellingbo to Butterfield;
- Monbulk creek;
- Shepherd Creek; and
- Don Road to Yarra Bridge.

**f) Meeting with the Minister – Anne Langworthy**

Anne advised that the The Hon. Lily D’Ambrosio MP had requested a meeting with YCACC members to be scheduled sometime in July. Anne will liaise with the Minister’s office re dates and prepare a briefing note for the meeting.

Anne also discussed briefly her meeting with The Hon. James Merlino MP and Mr Chris Hardman, Executive Director of Parks Victoria.

The proposed review of the YCACC will be managed by David Shelton, DELWP Manager Governance Unit, Land, Water, and Planning. The Terms of Reference, and the roles and responsibilities of committee were briefly discussed by YCACC members and clarity around process for this requested.

**ACTION 8f.:** The objectives of the TORs for the YCACC Review to be discussed by the Committee at the June Meeting. [Anne Langworthy]

## Yellingbo Conservation Area Coordinating Committee



**g) Guidelines for Riparian Licences – Steve Hosking**

Steve Hosking confirmed that the document was now complete and he had informal endorsement from the Wurundjeri Tribe Land Council and Parks Victoria. The document will guide DELWP processes for issuing Riparian licences for conservation purposes.

### Meeting Close

12:30pm

### Date of Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 19 June 2018

Time: 09:00 to 12:00

Place: Symes Road, Woori Yallock VIC 3139