

Coastal Planning and Management

Committee Meeting



HELD AT Bega on 20 October 2017

Present

Kyran Crane – BVSC
Derek van Bracht – BVSC
Jamie Dixon-Keay – BVSC
Terry Thompson – BVSC
Kerry Pfeiffer – Community Rep
Aimee Beardsmore – Office of Environment & Heritage
Danie Ondinea – Community Rep
Caroline Henry – Chair NSW Farmers Oyster Committee
Kel Henry – Oyster Farmer (Observer)
Graham Scott – SELLS
Jillian Keating – SCWO
Jillian Reynolds – DPI Fisheries
Cr Liz Seckold – BVSC
Cr Cathy Griff – BVSC
John Walker – Community Rep
George Malolakis – Ranger – NPWS
Lorraine Fuge – BVSC

Apologies:

Danny Madigan – BVSC
Andrew Woodley – BVSC
Michael Fiedler – BVSC
Daniel Murphy – BVSC
Don McPhee – Community Rep
Doug Reckord – Bournda Environmental Education Centre
Stephen Dovey – NPWS
Daniel Wiecek – Office of Environment & Heritage
Lee Blessington – Forestry Corp
Catherine Knight – Crown Land

Confirmation of minutes

The Minutes of the 21 July 2017 Committee meeting were taken as read.

Moved Kerry Pfeiffer Seconded Caroline Henry

1 Business arising

Actions from previous Minutes:

Action: Stuart Cameron to address next Coastal Committee meeting to highlight the project outcomes and impact.

Status: Stuart approached but was unable to attend meeting. Stuart suggested a site visit with the committee instead to showcase some sites.

Action: BVSC Environmental Services to inspect Mirador site and liaise with BVSC Planning Services.

Status: Environmental and Planning Services staff have inspected site. Noted that it is an old consent and is compliant, however further follow up was required. Environmental Services have also commenced an internal audit of Council erosion and sediment control practices and will be making recommendations on improvements to the process.

Action: Arrange a presentation by Council Water and Sewerage Services branch on the Merimbula Sewage Outfall project.

Status: To be arranged.

Action: Presentation of the new Biosecurity Act to committee.

Status: Was addressed at meeting.

2 Member Reports

BVSC Councillor – Liz Seckold

- Spoke of Councils involvement with City Climate Partnership and Professor Tim Flannery visit

Community member – Danie Ondinea (Bermagui area)

- Bermagui Community Forum had its first meeting on Monday 14 August 2017 at the Community Hall with a good turnout. One of the main issues raised related to the proposed cutting down of the shade trees in Dickinson Park.
- Meeting held of the newly formed Friends of Bermagui Saltmarsh and Shorebirds, Salty Lagoon and Friends of the Blue Pool community groups are continuing their efforts to protect and restore coastal assets
- Email from Marlene Wall read out to the Committee about the importance of wildlife corridors around Wallaga Lake and the natural Bunaan Rings.

NPWS – George Malolakis (Ranger)

- Update on staffing changes in NPWS and advised that Steve Dovey was no longer with the service.
- Also changes with Area Managers – less managers looking after larger areas.

Local Land Services – Graham Scott

- Estuary and catchments – small amount of funding available for this area for National Parks, Council, Landcare groups, etc.
- Continuing to work with Coastal Weeds Project
- Working on spiky rush and Norfolk Island hibiscus projects in Bermagui
- 5 year biodiversity funding program ended – all funding now ended for the financial year
- Working to secure funding for next 5 years

- Biodiversity Act now in force and new LLS officer appointed– 8 November information day for interested groups to attend (flyer to be sent out)
- Grants for working with Local Aboriginal Lands Councils available - Funding closing on 23 October – verbal applications accepted

Community Rep – Kerry Pfeiffer

- Mirador Drive – the continuing clearing of trees and native vegetation.
- Kerry is noticing his view towards Berrambool is extending with this continued clearing
- Merimbula Sailboard event on in mid-November

Chair NSW Farmers Oyster Committee – Caroline Henry

- NSW Oyster State conference was held in Merimbula on 22-24 August 2017 and was very successful
- Issues with Lands Department regarding oyster leases
- Issues with some oyster leases now going to Native Title
- Continuing issues with recreation fishers / boaters, damage to oyster leases / stolen oysters
- Worksafe now becoming involved with oyster industry and farming practices
- 25% increase in oyster production in 2015 / 16
- 7.5% increase in oyster production in 2016 / 17

Observer – Kel Henry

- Oyster farmer from Wonboyn – involved in the industry for 17 years, here today as observer

DPI Fisheries – Jillian Reynolds

- Kingfish on the bite for local professional fishers currently
- Good whale season
- Commencement of the dredging in Twofold Bay for the break water. There has been some turbidity plumes but generally following modelled predictions
- Recreational Fishing Grant now closed – All grants are closed for 2017
- 2018 Grants – need to make early start on applications for the 2018 funding year – amounts of \$40,000 and \$10,000 available, also larger grant of \$200,000 available which Council could apply for

Community Rep – John Walker

- Management Plan for Curralo Lake – continuing interest and involvement
- Whale movements not effected by the dredging works in Twofold Bay – regular whale movements along coastline

OEH Coast & Estuaries – Aimee Beardsmore (Wollongong)

- Working with BVSC and Manly Hydraulics Lab installing water level recorders in Nullica and Towamba Rivers next week
- Hydrosurvey for Curalo Lake next week

Sapphire Coast Wilderness Oysters – Jillian Keating

- Oyster conference held in Merimbula successful
- Reminder that estuary tours for stakeholders are a good engagement tool and suggested Merimbula for next year
- Release of the Healthy Estuaries for Healthy Oysters Guidelines
- Revegetation project at Wapengo
- Pambula Lake low height bank erosion – treated by the Koori Work Group
- Bega and Eden LALC – Pacific Oyster removal/treatment in area
- Updating of signage for oyster lease areas relating to oyster theft, tying up boats, etc.
- EMS Coordinator position due to finish June next year

BVSC Councillor – Cathy Griff

- Role for committee and how it can be better focussed going forward
- Buddy with other Councils – Climate change issues, etc. - Climate change strategies

3 BVSC Update

Derek van Bracht

- The Committee was advised of the recent staffing changes in Council affecting the Environmental Services Section and that Derek was now Acting Manager of Environmental Services.

Terry Thompson

- Change to Noxious Weeds Act to the new Biodiversity Act – presentation to follow

Jamie Dixon- Keay

- Staffing changes in the Vegetation Officers area – 3 staff now down to 2 staff
- Dropping of vegetation management and only dealing with weed control/management and biosecurity
- Danny Madigan had committed \$25,000 per year for the next 3 years for the Coastal Weeds Project prior to his departure

Presentation given by Jamie on the new Biosecurity Act

- Jamie gave a presentation on the new Biosecurity Act 2017 and explained the new implications / requirements for Council, landholders and other agencies.

Kyran Crane

- Update on the recent staffing changes within parts of Council

- Bega Valley Shire Council to host the 27th Annual NSW Coastal Conference in early November 2018.

Update on CMP – Coastal Hazards

- Community Uses and Values Survey has been completed. Key information / direction received:
 - Survey respondents = 80
 - 4 regions covered – Bermagui Coast, Tathra Coast, Merimbula Coast and Eden & Wonboyn Coast
 - Highest 3 values included:
 - Scenery
 - Water Quality
 - Pristine/Natural Condition
 - Highest three management responses / approaches preferred
 - Maintaining natural / pristine beaches
 - Managing new development in potentially hazardous areas
 - Strengthening natural storm buffers
 - Report will be available before Christmas
- Significant amount of key asset-owner mapping completed and ready for further assessment and management action response.
- Upcoming stakeholder workshop will be held on 29th November. Invitation to come out to CPMC soon.

Update on Bermagui River CMP

- 79 actions drafted and currently in the process of prioritising
- Draft Estuary Processes Study complete
- March 2018 draft plan for review
- Bermagui Focus Group – November / December

Update on CMP Reviews (Wallaga, Merimbula / Back, Curalo)

- Draft Synthesis of Information package complete
- Progressing on threats and pressures / values chapters of reports
- List of issues and actions now drafted for Curalo and getting close for other lakes
- Currently going through prioritisation process for management actions to be presented at next focus group November / December
- Draft plans for review March 2018

Presentation given by Kyran Crane on Wonboyn Lake Entrance Opening Policy Options

- Kyran Crane gave a presentation on the history of Entrance Management at Wonboyn Lake and presented a list of draft options to the committee.

Discussion points from Presentation

- The group discussed the list of management options generally and raised several key points and issues.

- There was a general consensus that a minimum opening height needed to be applied for the lake and some thought needed to be put into contingency planning for oyster farmers when low level closures occur.
- General consensus that dredging was not a feasible option.
- General consensus that the “do nothing option” was not feasible.
- Discussion between the group around precedents for other ICOLLs in the state.
- It was decided that more work needs to be done before an informed decision can be made, in particular, some research / modelling to determine a minimum opening trigger (if possible).

Action: Kyran Crane to liaise with Fisheries, oyster farmers and OEH further to discuss options, assess the feasibility of modelling minimum opening heights and update the group re progress at next meeting.

4 New Business

Nil

5 Closure

The meeting was declared closed at 12.15pm

6 Next meeting – New Meeting Dates for 2018

The meetings for 2018 will be held at 10.00am on the first Friday of March, July and October at the Commemorative Civic Centre, Bega.