

Unconfirmed Minutes



SOUTH COAST NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT INC

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MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT CAMERON BUSINESS CENTRE, CONFERENCE ROOM 10 TOBRUK ROAD, JERRAMUNGUP THURSDAY 18 OCTOBER 2007. COMMENCING 10.00 AM

1. WELCOME

Chairman Garry English welcomed members and declared the meeting open at 10.02 am. This year has been one of continuing our focus on building relationships. I would also like to reflect on the calibre of people who are involved with South Coast NRM Inc, all striving for excellence in natural resource management (NRM).

A Sustainability Forum will commence immediately after this meeting and it is hoped you will stay and join the debate about issues effecting the sustainability of the South Coast Region.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jude Allan, Kevin Beeck, John Blake, Jon Bradshaw, Jennifer Chambers, Elbe Coetsee, Carolyn Daniel, Denmark Environment Centre represented by Janice Marshall, Department of Fisheries represented by Noel Chambers, Garry English, Fitzgerald Biosphere Group represented by Tina Grimmond, Kristina Fleming, Steven Hall, Lynn Heppell, Nathan McQuoid, Tom Pankhurst, Carey Paterson, Samantha Rayner, Gary Schwab, Daniela Stehlik, Alex Syme, Grant Taylor, Len van der Waag, Rodger Walker, Rhonda Williams, Sharon Williams (scribe)

MEMBER APOLOGIES: Peter Adams, Naomi Arrowsmith, Neil Blake, Jenni Bradshaw, David Broadhurst, Alex Campbell, George Ebbett, Ted English, Vernice Gillies, David Guille, Ian Herford, Louise Hillman, Bill Hollingworth, Rusty Lee, Bruce Manning, Michael Power, Doc Reynolds, Kim Stanton, Kay Stehn, Katrina Syme, John Watson, Ross Williams

OBSERVERS PRESENT: Craig Baru, Klaus Braun, Wendy Cooke, Frank D'Emden, Rob Edkins, Russell Pritchard, Jessica van der Waag, David Williamson

OBSERVER APOLOGIES: The Hon Kim Chance MLC, The Hon Paul Llewellyn MLC, The Hon Matthew Benson MLC, The Hon Robyn McSween MLC, Peter Watson MLA, Terry Redman MLA, Marion Burchell, Charles Williams

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Moved: Rhonda Williams	Seconded: Jenny Chambers
That the minutes of Thursday 19 October 2006 and Wednesday 14 March 2007 be accepted as a true and accurate record.	

Carried

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4. PRESENTATION OF THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman read aloud and then tabled his report for the year 2006-2007.

It was unfortunate that the Australian Government went into caretaker mode before final sign off on the Bilateral Agreements could occur. Once the Australian Government election is over the Agreements will be progressed. Informally negotiations will continue to occur regarding operational arrangements of the Natural Heritage Trust Phase 3.

South Coast NRM Inc. has received notification that *The Third NRM Investment Plan* has been approved by the Australian and Western Australian Governments. This sign off signals the final investment of our initial three-year plan and will ensure we continue with on ground activity until June 2008. Ministers have requested to participate in a launch of the investment package. The Chairman congratulated the team on this achievement.

The Chairman thanked PR Officer Wendy Cooke and her team on the development of the Annual Report for 2007. The report highlights a number of the milestones and outcomes of our second year of investment.

The Chairman called for any questions relating to his report.

Deputy Chairman Jon Bradshaw sincerely thanked the Chairman on behalf of all members for his commitment and tireless effort for South Coast NRM Inc. and the South Coast Region.

Moved: Jon Bradshaw	Seconded: Kevin Beeck
That the Chairman's Report and Annual Report be accepted.	
Carried	

Clarification was requested regarding the regional boundary for the South Coast Region. The Chairman responded that this is an operational matter within the Bilateral Agreements which will see the South Coast Region boundary extended to take in the entire Esperance Shire. South Coast NRM Inc. is already investing over the boarder so this will recognise this contribution. There will also be some minor tweaking of the western end boundary. In the future South Coast NRM Inc. could also be responsible for managing the Shire of Dundas. In the meantime South Coast Inc. will work with the Rangelands NRM Coordinating Group through a memorandum of understanding for this area.

Frank D'Emden arrived at 10.27 am

Will South Coast NRM Inc. be affected by the performance of other regional bodies within Western Australia? South Coast NRM Inc. is working with the other regional bodies, State and Australian Government to demonstrate that we are operating under the right model.

5. PRESENTATION OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Treasurer Gary Schwab reported that as at 30 June 2007 the Cash on Hand was \$5.2 million. This figure reflects the funding that has been secured through the *First and Second NRM Investment Plans*. The Total Liabilities figure recorded \$5.3 million of which \$5.2 million is committed to project funds. Tighter invoicing processes ensures that South Coast NRM Inc. is not holding large amounts of money.

The Balance Sheet recorded \$519,342 was spent on vehicles during 2006-07. This was a large item last year and reflects the needs of on ground implementation officers employed by South Coast NRM Inc. needing transportation. The organisation is also taking advantage of Not-For-Profit benefits in regards to stamp duty. These arrangement cost South Coast NRM Inc. very little

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to maintain the current fleet. The branding of the vehicles with the South Coast NRM Inc. logo is a great initiative.

The surplus for the year ended 30 June 2007 is consistent with the previous financial year and was anticipated. The Treasurer invited members to ask questions.

Of the \$12 million recorded as Service Delivery/Hosting what is the percentage for both delivery and hosting? The Business Manager responded that approximately 15% of the figure is delivered in house by South Coast NRM Inc.

Moved: Gary Schwab	Seconded: Alex Syme
That the audited financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2007 be accepted.	
Carried	

The Treasurer noted that South Coast NRM Inc. has seen a change in staff in the financial area and Mick Brenton has joined the team as the Financial Accountant. Members are invited to welcome Mick to the organisation when in Albany.

An Internal Audit Committee is being formed to assist the Council and it is expected this Committee will be operational in the next month. The Internal Auditor has been very helpful in imparting knowledge in this field.

A commitment was made to keep South Coast NRM Inc. banking arrangements with BankWest. The management of the account has since been transferred from Jerramungup to Albany. South Coast NRM Inc. is exploring some interesting approaches with Bendigo Bank through their community sector banking.

The Treasurer sincerely thanked the financial and administration staff for their assistance during the past twelve months.

6. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR FOR 2007/08

The Treasurer Gary Schwab informed members that the Auditor Mark Heffernan and Associates adopted the same fee structure as charged last financial year which acknowledges our Not-for-Profit status. They undertook a high quality independent audit of the financial statements within the required timeframe.

Moved: Gary Schwab	Seconded: John Blake
That Mark Heffernan and Associates be appointed as the Auditor for 2007/08.	
Carried	

7. ENDORSEMENT OF COUNCIL APPOINTED COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Moved: Gary Schwab	Seconded: John Blake
That the following appointed community representatives be confirmed on Council:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coastal – Rhonda Williams• Marine – Kevin Beeck• Local Government – Grant Taylor and Brian Pearce• Indigenous interests – Ron (Doc) Reynolds and Vernice Gillies• Kent Frankland subregional representative – Tom Pankhurst	
Carried	

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8. ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Chairman Garry English informed members that five positions on the Council are available for election. These being:

Albany Hinterland subregional representative

Nominees: Bill Hollingworth and Alex Syme

Alex Syme withdrew his nomination.

Moved: Kevin Beeck	Seconded: Alex Syme
That Bill Hollingworth be elected as the Albany Hinterland subregional representative.	
Carried	

Fitzgerald Biosphere subregional representative

Nominee: Nathan McQuoid

Moved: Rhonda Williams	Seconded: Grant Taylor
That Nathan McQuoid be elected as the Fitzgerald Biosphere subregional representative.	
Carried	

Esperance Sandplain subregional representative

Nominee: Nicole Chalmer

Moved: Nathan McQuoid	Seconded: Alex Syme
That Nicole Chalmer be elected as the Esperance Sandplain subregional representative.	
Carried	

The Chairman noted that it is great to have representation from the eastern end of the Region.

Esperance Mallee subregional representative

The Chairman noted that no nominations were received.

Community member

Nominee: Bill Hollingworth (already appointed) and Alex Syme

Moved: Jon Bradshaw	Seconded: Kevin Beeck
That Alex Syme be elected as a community member.	
Carried	

Carey Paterson left at 10.48 am

The Chairman acknowledged that Steven Hall's term ceases today and expressed his appreciation and then thanked him for his input over the last three years.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

No discussion occurred.

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10. CLOSURE

As there was no further business, the meeting closed at 10.50 pm

These minutes were confirmed at a meeting on the _____/_____/2008

Signed: _____

Presiding Person at the meeting at which the minutes were confirmed.

Date: _____/_____/2008

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Chairman reminded members about the Sustainability Forum. This will be an interesting exercise and we have three highly skilled Facilitators to lead us through the process.



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Chairman's Report South Coast NRM Inc. Annual General Meeting held on 18 October 2007 in Jerramungup

Members

The past twelve months has been one of many highlights, foremost being the continuance of relationship building, consolidation of "on ground" investment, strategic review and forward planning across our Region.

We continue to appreciate our partnership with the Western Australian and Australian Governments in delivering the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAPSWQ) and the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT2). As this program concludes in June 2008 we applaud the announcement by the Australian Government of a further program (NHT3) for another five years with a positive response from the State for a continuing partnership. The bilateral negotiations have just been completed; however Australian Government has gone into caretaker mode preventing final sign-off by Ministers.

The second full year of our many investments under the NAPSWQ and NHT has continued the vision and prioritised strategic approach to on ground investment with success. For detailed activities of some of these see the South Coast NRM Inc. Annual Report. The investments into managing the Regions highest priority natural assets are based on science and logic that there will be long term positive change to their condition.

Where direct investment into widely dispersed natural assets such as agricultural land is not practical, an approach using partnerships with production groups, research organisations and agencies is being applied.

Equally within the biodiversity area, fragmented and dispersed remnant native vegetation habitat is still under threat. I fear we will regret in the future this continuing loss while understanding the reasons i.e.

- in agriculture the removal of paddock trees due to the greater size of machinery and new technology,
- local government needs for wider roads reducing roadside corridors as well as gravel extraction from vegetated reserves,
- development of housing estates that see complete destruction of large tracts of native vegetation for human habitats.

I would like to inform members of the receipt last week of the Ministerial approval of the final instalment of our three year investment plan (\$3,240,044), congratulations to those staff who have worked so hard to bring this about.

With a desire for continuous improvement in structural efficiency, effectiveness and inclusiveness of all the south-coast stakeholders our organisation has undergone a minor restructure and adopted constitutional changes. This has meant a delegation of some processes but with ultimate responsibility still with the Council.

A change of significance has been the adoption of our new name and branding preceded by a lengthy consultative process. **South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc.** leaves no doubt as to the business we are in as well as the geographic locality of our activity. As flagged in last years report the addition of a Public Relations Officer coupled with our new name and brand has led to better recognition and visibility of our organisation. In fact the launch of the new name was an enormous success in itself leading to greater engagement of the South Coast community.

I would like to acknowledge with gratitude the commitment of all our wonderful staff, and in particular our Chief Executive Officer. Rob has not only carried out a heavy workload for our Region with professionalism but also at the State level giving direction to policy making, supporting Regional Chairs (particularly myself) and guiding State level projects. I appreciate the support and direction from our Council as well as the wisdom and leadership provided by the Executive members. To our working groups, partner organisations and the broader community many thanks, your generous involvement shows the Regions natural assets are in good hands.

Garry English
Chairman