

**Southern ACT Catchment Group
Management Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday 18 April 2017**

Minutes prepared by: Kerry Olsson

1 Welcome and Attendance

Attending: Miranda Gardner (Chair), Amanda Galbraith (Treasurer), Wendy Rainbird, Glenys Patulny (Vice Chair), Kerry Olsson (Secretary)

Staff: Martin Lind

Guest: Dr Peter Bridgewater

2 Acceptance of Previous Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held 21 March 2017 were accepted, with the Committee asking to receive them earlier where possible.

The Treasurer advised that the bank had been provided with a copy of the minutes of the previous meeting as authority for her authorisation limit.

3 Guest – Peter Bridgewater, Landcare ACT Chair

The new Chair of Landcare ACT, Peter Bridgewater, joined the meeting and provided an overview of activities and priorities. Dr Bridgewater took over the Chair in February and has been visiting member groups in a series of introductory meetings.

Key points included:

- The relationship between Landcare ACT and the catchment groups, its role in bringing the groups together and its function as an ACT voice in national Landcare governance and policy are not widely understood.
- The relationship between Landcare ACT and NRM needs work.
- Securing funding post 2018 is a high priority.
- The imperatives of climate change adaptation provide a new value proposition for Landcare, which combined with its traditional objectives makes a sound case for further continuation of the model.
- Dr Bridgewater has meetings with ACT Government Ministers and the responsible ACT bureaucrats scheduled for later in the month.
- The National Landcare Network Council's next meeting will be in Canberra and will include a meeting with Minister Frydenberg.
- Landcare ACT has made a submission to the ACT Government on the northern national park proposal, which supports increased coherence and coordination in the management of the listed threatened woodlands, but does not agree that a national park designation is appropriate. A submission was also made on the management of Eastern Grey Kangaroos, which had not yet been circulated to the ACTCG.

ACTION: The Committee will consider how to raise the understanding of the role of Landcare ACT within the membership, including potentially inviting Dr Bridgewater to address a general meeting.

4 Correspondence

RECEIVED: Acquittal notice for the 25th Anniversary Landcare Grant. The correspondence included some criticism of the administration of the project, and the President noted that the funding body had undertaken additional audit activities for the project. The audit produced no adverse findings.

ACTION: The Committee noted that SACTCG project administration is generally of a very high standard, but the issues the raised for this project are nonetheless a concern and reputational risk. It asked that standard operating procedures be prepared for project administration, including a check list which ensured that the final report was fully consistent with the initial application.

RECEIVED: Request from ICON Water to participate in a joint application for Environment Grant funding. The Committee considered Martin's advice that the cost of participation would exceed the amount we were able to recoup, no volunteers would be engaged in the project, and research is not normally our core business. The Committee agreed that while we are interested in partnerships with ICON Water, this proposal was not appropriate.

ACTION: Miranda to reply to ICON Water declining the invitation.

5 Treasurer's Update

The Treasurer's report was accepted. The bank account is once again looking healthy. The Landcare funds will be removed from our financial reporting and separately identified, as transferring the money to Landcare ACT has proved on investigation to be administratively difficult. Landcare ACT will document the account keeping arrangement and the source and purpose of the money. They will pay SACTCG an account holding fee and reimburse audit costs.

Actions: Amanda will initiate meetings with the Landcare ACT Treasurer, and with the Treasurers of GCG and MCG. Miranda will provide contact details to Amanda.

The bank is to be advised that the function of approving the roll-over of term deposits is to pass from Glenys Patulny to Amanda Galbraith (Treasurer).

6 Ongoing Business

6.1 Feedback from the National Park forum

Wendy and Kerry briefed the Committee on the range of views expressed at the Landcare ACT meeting on the new national park proposal, and noted that the majority were aligned with the concerns of SACTCG members as previously discussed – that the proposal potentially marginalised some longstanding Parkcare groups, created preferential classes of volunteers/reserves, risked diverting resources from current activities, and failed to take a landscape scale perspective. On the positive side, the meeting was in favour of more integrated management, better resourcing and expansion of the listed threatened woodland parks, but these mooted benefits were largely speculative at this stage. As per item 3 in these

minutes, the submission provided by Landcare ACT seems to have reflected these views.

6.2 SACTCG Strategic Plan update

An inception meeting was held with the consultants, ACT Government departments, GCG and SACTCG on 30 March. Miranda briefed the Committee on the discussion at the meeting, and action to undertake minor revisions to the project planning is with the consultants.

6.3 Molonglo Catchment Group Update

The MCG have commenced a review of the concerns jointly raised by GCG and SACTCG which will be undertaken by Jon Brewer, a member of their governance and performance subcommittee. Both Miranda and Kerry have had telephone interviews with Jon, and indications are accurate it looks like the outcome will be positive.

7 New Business

7.1 SACTCG meetings: discussion of format, content of reports, standing items.

The President indicated that she is still looking to tweak the standing agenda to provide a better flow of business. Reporting to the Committee from Waterwatch and the Coordinator will be adjusted to be more milestone and risk focussed, with the richer sharing of experiences and success stories to become part of the meetings open to the general membership.

Action: Miranda to progress ongoing refinements to agenda and reporting.

7.2 Project Opportunities with ICON Water

Item 4 refers.

Action: Broader opportunities will be canvassed by Miranda with ICON staff on an informal basis.

7.3 Catchment Group Art Prize

The Committee agreed to provide \$300 in support.

Action: information the prize to be circulated amongst the membership.

7.4 Landcare ACT Members Council representation

Action: Kerry's name to be put forward as a nominee.

7.5 Replacement of Brian Butler on the Committee

The Committee agreed to invite Mike Sim and the Urambi Hills ParkCare Coordinator to join the Committee. The Committee must comprise at least 6 and no more than 8 members.

Action: Mike to be invited by Wendy, and Urambi Hills ParkCare Coordinator by Miranda.

8 Current Consultations

None advised

9 Landcare ACT Update
Item 3 refers

10 Coordinator update
Coordinator on leave

11 Waterwatch update
Report received with thanks and new format discussed.

Meeting closed: 6.45 pm