

Minutes and Outcomes from Berri Barmera Local Action Planning Committee Meeting held
10th January 2009 at the Berri LAP Office 7:00pm

Present: Lisa Stribley, Barry Porter, Max Kubenk, Brenton Fenwick, Gill Beeson, Lloyd Wright, Paul Stribley

Apologies: Jayme Peltz, Tony Whateley, Bob Clark, Clare Death

1. Welcome / Apologies

Gill Beeson opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present.

2. Agenda Approval

Brad Hollis is an apology and will now attend the March meeting to give his presentation.

3. Guest Speaker – Whendee Moore

Whendee Moore from DWLBC gave a presentation and facilitated a discussion on the Murray Futures Riverine Recovery project. This is a federally funded project with various objectives, and will engage existing community networks where at all possible, with the intention of community organisations such as LAP committees undertaking some of the works once priorities are set.

The presentation notes are included at the end of these minutes as an attachment.

The BBLAP committee identified a number of issues which may impact on the delivery of this project. These include:

- Native Title and Aboriginal Heritage (including site inspections)
- Development approval processes
- Ownership of infrastructure
- Capacity of the community to deliver (including monitoring)
- Conflicts with existing priorities and projects
- Conflicts with policy (eg salinity)
- Managing community expectations (eg pump relocations)
- Cost sharing arrangements (including decision not to pay landholders retrospectively for works already undertaken)

ACTION: Paul to summarise and briefly explain these issues and send in writing to Whendee.

4. Guest Speaker – Brad Hollis

Brad was unable to attend the meeting and will update the committee on the roles of the 2 positions employed by BBLAP on behalf of the Board at the March meeting.

5. Minutes for Confirmation

6. Business Arising / Action Sheet

There was no business arising from the previous meeting that could be recalled.

7. Correspondence

Copies of the correspondence sheet were given to all committee members present.

Motion: The correspondence is accepted

Moved: Barry Porter

Seconded: Lisa Stribley

CARRIED

8. Financial Report

Paul provided a copy of the financial report to the meeting, and gave a summary of his perspective of the LAP's financial position.

Motion: The financial report is accepted

Moved: Clare Death

Seconded: Max Kubenk

CARRIED

9. Project Managers Report

All to be covered in general business. Committee suggested that Project Managers report be removed from future agendas, and to cover off on any topics that need to be raised within general business.

10. Committee Members Reports

Clare Death Nothing specific to report. Spoke briefly about a project she is assisting with radio tracking a couple of carpet pythons.

Bob Clark Has commenced propagating trees on behalf of the LAP, using seeds purchased from Trees for Life.

Barry Porter Still busy doing river salinity surveys. Low flows during the drought are allowing for the discovery of “new” salt inflows that have gone unnoticed before. Have also determined that the salinity spike in the river around Banrock / Overland Corner is definitely coming from the Banrock side of the river and wasn’t appearing when Banrock lagoon was dry in March.

Also working on a project which will enable the measurement of low flows, down to 0.01 metres per second.

Gill Beeson Mentioned that her direct seeding has germinated and growing nicely with after the recent rains.

11. Walking Trails Proposal

The committee spoke about the proposal which Paul had circulated prior to the meeting, and all felt it was a good idea and should be implemented.

Clare said she sits on a community consultative committee which has previously discussed what can be done around the rodeo grounds area (part of a possible walking trail). There is also the issue of some of the people who reside in this area. Council support would be required to manage this issue.

The committee felt it would be best, once the position is filled, to establish a sub-committee to help manage the person and the project. Committee also agreed to set aside some funds for SAMRIC to do some GIS mapping for this project as required.

Committee agreed to advertise the position as an expression of interest, probably in early Feb, in NRM jobs and the Pioneer / Riverland Weekly. Offer the position as either full time or part time by negotiation.

10. Lake Bonney Update

- 20GL has been approved for a partial refill of the lake. This commenced around the 25th of November and will continue into the new year. There has been plenty of media coverage around this, and the resultant congregation of carp and other fish.
- Fish kill in early November – has also been well documented
- Lake Bonney Management Committee – has been holding monthly meetings. A sub committee was formed to collate a database of all existing reports, and produce a summary of all of the different ideas, views and opinions of committee members.
- We need to formalise who the designated BBLAP representative is. I have been acting in this role thus far – does the committee want this to continue or wish to appoint a committee member?
- The Lake Bonney Management Committee remains very divided “politically”, and I sense this is going to be a major stumbling block to anything being achieved.

- Brad Hollis from the SA MDB NRM Board has developed a draft project brief, designed for a consultant to evaluate all of the potential different options that have been put forward. This is a major task, and the concern remains that unless there is agreement from the entire committee to accept any recommendations put forward, then the entire process I think will fail.

Motion: Paul is to be officially the BBLAP representative on the Lake Bonney Management Committee

Moved: Bob Clark

Seconded: Max Kubenk

CARRIED

11. Loveday Basin Update

- The Minister granted an allocation of water (around 150ML) to top up Loveday Basin. This was applied on the 7th November. Complaints were starting to filter in re the odour about this time.
- My personal opinion was that the water level in the Basin was at its lowest ever, and another few weeks would have seen it dry out completely (and the assumption that the odours would then cease). At this time there was no further water available. The view from various community members, and the local electoral office (and I'm not making any more comment than that) was that the Cobby community should not have to put up with the odour any longer and that the water that was available should be applied. -> the recent rainfall may well have led to a major odour event had the basin been allowed to dry out.
- A flier has been circulated from DWLBC to all Cobby residents (handout). I was originally asked to draft a letter that would be a joint LAP/DWLBC handout, though this was obviously rail-roaded by Adelaide Bureaucrats!!
- Damian Vears has taken over from Dan Sartoretto as DWLBC project manager for this issue.
- Another lady (name eludes me) in DWLBC commenced yesterday who will be working primarily on this project on behalf of Damian. A meeting between the 3 of us is currently being planned.
- A public community meeting is required. DWLBC are aware of this. Timing seems to be the issue.
- DWLBC have stated that more water has been allocated, and that the Basin will be "topped up" prior to Christmas.

12. Funding

Jan – June 2009

- The SA MDB NRM Board had a relatively targeted call for Tenders during October, for funding for the period Jan-June 2009.
- BBLAP put up 3 projects
 1. Capacity Building
 2. Wetland Monitoring

3. Wetland On-Ground Works (design for new blackfellows creek crossing)
- All 3 projects were successful, and BBLAP is fully funded until June 2009.

Beyond June 2009

- Who Knows!!!!
- The federal government has released its Business Plan for Caring for our Country. This is highly specific and very targeted at areas the Federal Govt sees as priorities. Unfortunately, this generally does not seem to include issues / landscapes within the Murray Darling Basin to a very high degree.
- I am attending a meeting on Thursday with other LAPs, the SA MDB NRM Board and Paul Frances (Australian Govt Caring for our Country facilitator) to look at potential projects which may fit under CfoC guidelines.
- Whatever is put forward, I hope it still follows the generally successful regional delivery model where the Board puts up an integrated bid(s) and then devolves grants to the LAPS and other organisations. I feel that this is the Boards preferred model, though not everyone is in favour of it. I know of at least one other LAP which plans to follow this path AND also put the same projects up individually, and this is something that may need to be considered (although it creates a lot of extra work)
- Applications close on the 6th March 2009.

13. LWMP Arrangements / Sedan

- LBLAP have employed Lauren Burdett as their LWMP Implementation Officer. It has been agreed that this will be a sole LBLAP appointment, and that BBLAP will develop their own strategy for implementation of LWMP projects as required in the future.
- LBLAP put forward an original offer of \$8,000 to purchase the sedan. Myself, Barry and Jayme felt that this was unreasonable, and that we should accept no less than \$9000. Tentatively this has been agreed to by LBLAP.
- Subject to agreement of the BBLAP committee as a whole, a motion is required that we accept an offer to sell the Sedan to LBLAP for \$9,000 (plus GST), and that LBLAP assumes full responsibility for the vehicle

Motion: The BBLAP committee accepts an offer from LBLAP to purchase the sedan for \$9000.

Moved: Gill Beeson

Seconded: Barry Porter

CARRIED

14. Old Computers

Paul mentioned that there are 2 old computers sitting in the office which are surplus to requirements. Committee generally felt that they would not be worth anything, and if anyone wanted to make an offer they could. Lisa and Clare both expressed an interest in purchasing a computer for \$50 each, which the rest of the committee accepted.

15. Consultation

- There are currently two documents out for public comment and consultation
 1. The new Regional NRM Plan for the SA MDB. Focus group sessions to be held in Berri on the 21st January
 2. Draft houseboat, mooring and marina strategy for the River Murray in SA.

Paul asked if the committee wants to meet early in the new year to look at either of these documents and provide comment where appropriate. The general consensus was not to, but any committee member who is interested should contact Paul and arrange a time to discuss and make any comments.

16. New BBLAP shirts

Paul suggested the committee get some new shirts made with just the BBLAP logo on them now we have completely split from LBLAP, though admitted he hadn't looked into this at all!! He suggested a different style of polo shirt as LBLAP kept the old design. After discussion, Paul suggested that he will purchase a couple of different styles of work shirts for himself, and then each committee member could choose what they wanted. Committee suggested making the logo a bit larger.

Motion: The BBLAP committee agrees for Paul to purchase new work shirts with just the BBLAP logo.

Moved: Gill Beeson

Seconded: Barry Porter

CARRIED

17. Trees for Life – Glossop High School Nursery

Paul mentioned that he purchased 20 boxes of seeds from Trees for Life which Bob has kindly offered to propagate. These will be made available to landholders next year, to compensate for a lack of any other revegetation program. Cost to the LAP was \$177.

18. Martin Bend Structure Upgrade and Blackfellows Creek Investigations

- We have just been successful in obtaining \$40,000 from the NRM Board (funds which were quarantined from a project at the start of this year) to replace the box culvert structure at Martin Bend.
- The current structure has an invert level at or just above river pool level, which obviously prevents water from entering the wetland. The new structure will have an invert 30cm below pool level.
- Unfortunately, the current structure was installed without the relevant approvals, so we need to go through the entire approvals process for a non-complying development on the River Murray Floodplain. I have a meeting with Sandy Hansen (planning officer from Renmark Paringa council) who provides external consulting services in regards to writing development applications, with the intention of engaging her to do this work. It can then be used as a template for other structures (eg Blackfellows Creek and Overland Corner) in the future.
- Ken Smith has been engaged to develop a report on the feasibility of dredging a section of Blackfellows creek so flows can enter Loveday Basin South at river pool level. Funding was received for this as part of the 2008 wetland project. A survey of blackfellows creek was undertaken by Alexander Symonds for DWLBC back in 2005, and will form the basis for Kens report.

19. MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2009 (INCLUDING ANNUAL DINNER)

- For Discussion. Frequency of meetings, start times etc.

Meeting Closed 22:00