

Minutes and Outcomes from Berri Barmera Local Action Planning Committee
Meeting held 8th September 2009 at the Berri LAP Office 7:15pm

Present: Lisa Stribley, Barry Porter, Jame Peltz, Paul Stribley, Ruth Patching

Apologies: Brenton Fenwick, Max Kubenk, Tony Whateley, Bob Clark, Gill Beeson

1. Welcome/Apologies

Limited attendance was noted and it was decided to carry on with an informal approach. Meeting began at 7:15

2. Agenda Approval

Nothing to Add

3. Minutes for Confirmation

Minutes from July BBLAP were reviewed and found to be acceptable

4. Business Arising/Action Sheet

Paul informed the committee that he has purchased a digital projector and it was suggested that Paul also purchase a pull down screen that can be attached to the bricks above the white-board.

5. Correspondence

Correspondence for July, August and for the beginning of September were reviewed and July and August found acceptable.

Barry noted a Moorook Club bill in the correspondence and the need for separation of BLAP and BBLAP bills was discussed.

Barmera Primary School's request for money to fund their attendance at the Adelaide Youth Environment Conference was discussed as was their invitation to present their workshop "Lake Bonney – Back to the Future" to the BBLAP.

It was decided to organise the students to attend a LAP meeting to present their workshop and also to send committee members with free time to the performance at the school assembly on Friday the 18th September.

The committee felt that the funding of \$480 for students to attend the Adelaide Youth Environment Conference was acceptable. However, as this is the second time the Barmera Primary School has asked for funding this year the committee felt it would be appropriate to ask them in writing for greater co-ordination and organisation and to prioritise their funding requests. Also the committee would like to receive from the

School a prospective budget at the beginning of the year detailing their projects and funding options.

6. Financial Report

The financial report was reviewed and found to be acceptable.

7. OH & S

Nothing was presented

8. Committee Members Reports

Barry Porter

Barry was not at work for the last few weeks and spent some time in hospital.

He also spent some time at Mildura in the last two months doing a salinity run. Generally salt numbers has uniformly stabilized other than where salt inception schemes have been implemented.

Barry also spent some time in Canberra to discuss the national Water Data database. The SA system was praised for its quality of data and the ease of use of its system. There are difficulties, however, in co-ordinating between the states and in entering data in to the national system.

Additionally, Barry's capers have had their first sales to restaurants in Adelaide.

Jayme Peltz

Jayme spent time in Melbourne discussing Water Technology Hydrolic Modelling.

He has also been engaged run the Pike model and is involved in water buy back for critical water. There is an excess of work as up to 1000 properties need processing.

Additionally, the rural addressing is going well.

Lisa Stribley

Lisa is back at work and is currently involved in water licensing and the separation of land and water. As the process is entirely new there is an excess of work as site use and work approval is needed as well as a review of all the wetlands and water points.

She is also involved in discussions of licence conditions and the need for changes the ones that were made to fit for the wetland programs.

9. Walking Trails Project

Ruth commented that there was recently a steering committee meeting held where it was decided to concentrate on a long walk ending at Lock 4 and also some smaller loops walks in the area between the Rodeo Grounds and before the beginning of the National Park.

At the steering committee meeting the possibility was also raised of linking the long trail with an organised boat trip either transferring walkers to Lock 4 as a starting point or returning them to Berri after they have reached the Lock 4 endpoint.

Ruth commented that she had contacted the DEH who are also looking at Walking Trails in the area. It was noted, however, that the BBLAP proposed area of interest and the areas the DEH are currently looking at do not clash. DEH has also been informed that the Riverland is not a high priority for government development of walking trails.

Ruth also commented that it seems, currently, that there is provision for trails within the National Park (the trail to Lock 4 will run through the Katarapko National Park) but not the construction of any other structure (including signs, bridges, and benches). Although amendments to this can be proposed it usually takes up to a year to see results. The committee commented that it may take up to a year to find funding for the project so amendments should be investigated.

Finally, Ruth mentioned that information concerning the walking trails is being prepared for presentation at the Riverland Field Days. It is hoped that some community feedback will be obtained.

10. Barmera Playspace Project

Paul informed the committee about an active community group in Barmera aiming to develop a “playspace” at Sedunary Park, adjacent to Lake Bonney. He commented that whilst a large proportion of this project is aimed at developing play equipment and areas for activity across a wide range of ages and ability, there is also scope where BBLAP could be involved. There are plans for revegetation, interpretive trails and possibly a “bush tucker garden within the play space concept. Paul proposed that the LAP committee consider providing funding towards those ideas, with an opportunity to promote the LAP in what is likely to become a high use area.

The committee was pleased with Paul’s ideas concerning the Playspace and expressed interest in funding the environmental aspects of the projects.

11. Lake Bonney Update

Paul informed the committee about a “temporary” Box Culvert structure in the final stages of being installed in the embankment at Nappers Bridge. He noted that approval has been given to refill the lake with 26GL of water, and it is planned for this to commence on the 21st September.

He also informed that committee that SARDI are in the final stages of designing and constructing a carp trap which will be retro-fitted to the box culvert, probably sometime in October. He noted that this will provide both a means to remove carp from the lake environment, as well as new research into carp eradication. A no fishing zone is to be gazetted within 150 metres (from memory) of the structure.

Finally Paul noted that council has completed stage 1 of its foreshore development, primarily in the form of foot paths and a plaza.

12. Request to add Ruth as Signatory

Paul noted that as he is currently only working part time (0.7 FTE with Mondays and Wednesdays looking after Mitchell) he requested that Ruth be added as a signatory to the BBLAP accounts so she can assist with some of the financial aspects of running the LAP, especially in relation to banking and paying accounts.

He added that if this is approved by the committee he suspects we would need to re-affirm that all “authority to pay” slips, cheques etc must be signed by at least one committee member.

The committee noted that in principle the idea of adding Ruth as signatory, so long as precautionary measures were put in place, was acceptable but there is a need to re-affirm this at the next committee meeting.

13. Riverland Field Days

Paul informed the committee that he has developed a BBLAP display banner (90cm x 200cm) for promoting the LAP, which will be used for the first time at the Field Days next week. He commented that as per usual there will be a Riverland LAP display within the NRM Board tent.

Paul commented that he will not be attending this year as he is doing a course in Adelaide next week. It was noted that Ruth will be there on both days to promote both the LAP and the walking trail project, but if any committee members would like to spend some time assisting Ruth it would be much appreciated.

The committee were pleased that Paul is taking a professional development course and Barry and Lisa both suggested that they may be able to spend some time assisting Ruth at the field days.

14. Wetland OGW tenders

Paul informed the committee of the NRM Board recently announcing \$390,000 in funding for wetland on-ground works for 2009-10, to be spent by 30th June 2010. Paul suggested that the BBLAP committee should consider applying for:

- New aluminium carp screens at Beldora / Spec Lakes as the original galvanised screens have all rusted away. The same issue is occurring at Overland Corner though not as rapidly as they have not been submersed in water.
- 2 New aluminium carp screens at the Main Control Weir into Mussel Lagoons (six culverts and only 4 screens exist!
- Control of artichoke weeds in spec lakes creek – major infestation has occurred over last few years
- Upgrade of structure at Blackfellows creek crossing at Loveday
- Excavation of Blackfellows Creek to allow pool level flows into Loveday Basin South

The committee generally agreed with applying for the OGW tenders Paul mentioned. However, the committee were not in favour of the plan for dredging at Blackfellows Creek and expressed their disapproval.

The committee also discussed the spread and presence of artichoke weed across the region.

15. Any other Business

The committee briefly discussed the impending AGM and the possibility of having a guest speaker. It was generally felt that a guest speaker was not necessary and that an informal BBQ may be the best way to hold the AGM.

Meeting close: 8:20