



Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee - 2017 Annual General Meeting

28th of September 2017 at 5pm

The Arts House
West Cape Howe Winery
14923 Muir Highway
Mount Barker WA 6324

Minutes of Meeting

Present:

John Rodgers (Chair)
Leon Delpech (Treasurer)
Laura West (Secretary)
Shaun Ossinger (Project Officer)
Frank Hancock (Management Committee member)
Jenny Henzell (Committee member), Friends of Mondurup Reserve)
Arthur Patterson (Committee member)
Sue Patterson (Committee member)
Peter Caron (Representative, Shire of Denmark)
Steve Edwards (Contractor, pest management)
Diane Harwood (Denmark Weed Action Group, contractor)
Donna Carman (Denmark Weed Action Group, contractor)
Karen McKeough (Dept. of Water and Environmental Regulation)
Elke Reichwaldt (Dept. of Water and Environmental Regulation)
Justin Bellanger (South Coast NRM)
Brett Dal Pozzo (South Coast NRM)
Sheryn Prior (South Coast NRM)
Rob Stewart (Shire of Plantagenet)
Margaret Rodgers
Jenny Loveland
Kathy Collins (Friends of Mondurup Reserve)
Kevin Collins (Friends of Mondurup Reserve)
Carl Dusenbergl
Tony Pedro
Alison Vangel
Melissa Howe
Chris Vogel



1. Apologies

Shaun McHenry (Deputy Chair)
Iain Marshall (Management Committee member)
Basil Schur (Committee member)
Loris Wilson (Management Committee member)
Lynn Kelly-Stothard (Committee member)
Bill Hollingworth (SCNRM)
Carolyn Lindberg
Ian King (SCNRM)

1a. Amendment to agenda: Call for new WICC members

The following new members were voted in:

Marg Rodgers
Melissa Howe
Chris Vogel
Dave Rogers (not present)
Kathy Collins
Kevin Collins
Tony Pedro
Steve Edwards
Sheryn Prior

Tony Pedro took the opportunity to express that Shaun Ossinger's work for WICC is the reason for the high number of new members.

Motion: That the above persons be endorsed as new members of WICC
Moved by Arthur Patterson, seconded by Frank Hancock - **Carried**

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (3rd of October 2016)

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2016 were accepted as true and correct.

Motion: That the minutes of the previous AGM be accepted as true and correct

Moved by Leon Delpech, seconded by Frank Hancock - **Carried**

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report was tabled:

Chairperson's Report

I can report that the past year has been very successful for the Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee (WICC). You only have to look at the cover of this Annual General Meeting report to get an idea of our many projects and field days. All of these were well attended and relevant to our catchment.



At our last AGM I reported that we had the foundations in place for a strong and relevant future. This has proved to be the case with our projects running very smoothly with only minor hold ups. After a financial review with our auditors, Equitas Accounting Service, WICC put in place a revised and improved system to make it easier to adhere to updated audit requirements. This has in turn made the reporting of progress on our projects to our funding providers easier for all concerned.

There have been some staff changes during the past year. Our bookkeeper Melissa Weir retired from the position early in the year. WICC wishes to thank Melissa for her great work with WICC and wish her well in the future. WICC then appointed Heather Carter of Equitas Bookkeeping & BAS Services as bookkeeper. This has worked well especially with the updating of our financial transaction reporting procedures.

Our part time project officer and secretary, Jenni Loveland, was successful in gaining full time employment with neighboring Natural Resource Management groups and resigned from her position with WICC during the year. It was great to see the enthusiastic and positive Jenni gain full time work in her chosen field.

Laura West who was our secretary a few years ago was reappointed and has again fitted into the WICC team and has carried out her work in a very professional way.

WICC would like to express our appreciation to Corrina Ossinger (Shaun's wife) for her skills in producing advertising posters and brochures for our many events during the year. Your work has received many positive comments from the public and committee members.

Your committee is once again very impressed by Shaun's dedication and commitment in carrying out his duties as our project officer. We now have our planning meetings in Denmark and have increased our presence substantially in this shire due mainly to Shaun's enthusiasm and proactive approach to his work with WICC.

WICC receives financial support and assistance from many groups. These include; South Coast Natural Resource Management, Shire of Plantagenet, Shire of Denmark, Department of Water, Lottery West, State and Federal Government, Department of Parks and Wildlife and local businesses. Their assistance is greatly appreciated by our committee. Our committee wishes to acknowledge and thank our working partners, the Shires of Plantagenet and Denmark, Denmark Environment Centre, Greenskills, Gondwana Link and the Department of Agriculture & Food WA.

In closing I would like to thank and acknowledge my fellow committee members (both community and ex-officio), our secretary, treasurer and our staff for their great effort during the past year. Your commitment and preparation for meetings was very much appreciated.

John Rodgers
CHAIRPERSON
WILSON INLET CATCHMENT COMMITTEE



John Rodgers took the opportunity to thank his wife Marg Rodgers for the five years during which she has assisted him in his role as Chairman for WICC. Marg has been there, day and night, as a private secretary and an organiser.

He also expressed his thoughts on some aspects of WICC's work:

- a) In order to maximise the benefits of the work WICC is carrying out, WICC should best keep its work to within the boundaries of the catchment. Work outside of those boundaries should be avoided.
- b) Weeds and nutrients are the main problems of the catchment area, with nutrients leaking into waterways, and weeds moving quickly through the landscape. One local Denbarker family has been particularly proactive in weed management, including that of Sydney Golden Wattle, where they were pioneers, and combating, pig eradication, and in lobbying with politicians. John Rodgers expressed his gratitude to Darrel and Val Drage and family for their enthusiastic contributions.

Arthur Patterson took the opportunity to congratulate Shaun Ossinger and John Rodgers on the achievements and the running of WICC.

Motion: That the Chair's report be accepted

Moved by Arthur Patterson, seconded by Frank Hancock - **Carried**

4. Project Officer's Report

The Project Officer's report was tabled. Please refer to WICC's annual report for 2017.

Shaun Ossinger took the opportunity to thank the following:

- Denmark Weed Action Group for doing a great job in hand weeding
- Carl Dusenberg for chemical weed control in the upper catchment, and Kevin Collins for his involvement with the Mondurup Nature Reserve
- the 30 attendees of the meeting for coming and showing their interest

Karen McKeough asked why WICC utilised so much of its National Landcare Program (NLP) funds on revegetating and fencing off the waterways around Parry Inlet with the current REI focus on Wilson Inlet.

Shaun Ossinger replied that Parry Inlet, according to data from Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, is the most nutrient enriched in our catchment. Spending some NLP funds there seemed to make a real difference. Shaun checked with WICC and SCNRM before allocating these funds to ensure that this was acceptable.

Justin Bellangier (SCNRM) mentioned that the late Jean Brenton of Parryville had done a lot of historical work around Parry Inlet, although not much had been done in recent years.

Karen McKeough commented that Parry Inlet does tend to be forgotten at times and can be a bit of an 'orphan inlet'.



Tony Pedro expressed the opinion that as much remnant vegetation as possible should be saved, even though the work required would be above average. If no attention were paid to patches of remnant vegetation, stock would turn it into grazing land. An incentive were needed for the protection. Shaun Ossinger replied that the current funding is running out, but WICC is in talks with South Coast NRM, who again depend on funding from the government. Any available funding will quickly be gone; however, remnant vegetation is a priority.

Brett Dal Pozzo asked for an update on the Lindesay Link Conservation Action Plan (CAP) program.

Shaun Ossinger replied that WICC contracted the Aboriginal Green Army Team and Steve Edwards to initiate camera trapping to identify Black Glove Wallaby habitat. 21 Cameras are currently deployed. WICC has been working with the community to initiate 1080 baiting on probable habitat for the wallabies and honey possums, identified as Proteacea rich communities. Within the framework of the program, WICC has to date received 44 expressions of interest for participation in the baiting program and submitted 28 baiting applications. There is a delay in approvals, as the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development can take up to 4 months to process applications.

Australian Blue Gum Plantations (ABP) have contracted WICC to bait. In general, baiting will not be carried out on isolated single locations, but far more in a central area, from where the baiting effort will move outwards. Cats will be targeted at high density areas such as tips.

Karen McKeough asked what Lindesay Link is.

Shaun Ossinger replied that Lindesay Link is part of the Gondwana Link project, which stretches east to Esperance with habitat links all the way. In this area, 6 ecological indicators have been chosen as parameters for measuring the condition of the system, as monitoring needs to have a focus. If those six indicators are protected, the system will largely be protected.

Tony Pedro asked what other action priorities there were, apart from fox baiting.

Shaun Ossinger replied that fire and Phytophthora were serious aspects, although difficult to act on. These matters also have to be handled at state government level.

Motion: That the Project Officer's report be accepted
Moved by Melissa Howe, seconded by Marg Rodgers - **Carried**



5. Audit Report

Leon Delpech tabled the audit report from Auditor Lachlan Shaw. Please refer to WICC's annual report for 2017.

Leon Delpech stated that the report was a good paper to refer to when seeking future funding, as the Auditor had expressed his satisfaction with the way funds are being spent.

A new reporting system allows for an overview grant by grant.

Project expenses total AUD184,506. Profit for 2017 is AUD8,387.53, which indicates that funds are both sufficient and spent.

Peter Caron asked if depreciation of WICC's equipment were considered. Leon Delpech replied that this was less the case in the balance sheet, as items are too small. They are still kept in the books, but not in the balance sheet.

Tony Pedro asked if WICC would see any value in having an office in Denmark.

Shaun Ossinger replied that the current Mount Barker office costs WICC 1 AUD/annum. As Shaun Ossinger is carrying a mobile phone and available to take calls at most times, and often out in the field, and as WICC would prefer to use any funds to maximise on-ground works, an office in Denmark is not a priority.

Tony Pedro asked if the Denmark Bulletin were used as an advertising tool, as he would consider it useful. His view is that WICC is getting to 'green leaning farmers', but also need to reach the rest.

Leon Delpech replied that one idea was to place signs on farms which are participating in WICC projects with information along the lines of: "We are funded by WICC".

Shaun Ossinger replied that WICC in general are looking for public endorsement from high profile farmers, using techniques WICC has learned through their recent Community Based Social Marketing training under the Regional Estuaries Initiative program.

Chris Vogel mentioned that much of Denmark River, through the work of among others Basil Schur and Diane Harwood, has already been fenced off as far up as to McHenry's property.

Movement: That the Auditor's Report be accepted

Moved: Arthur Patterson, seconded by Tony Pedro - **Carried**

John Rodgers recommended that Equities Accounting/Lachlan Shaw be appointed as auditor for the coming financial year.

Moved by Marg Rodgers, seconded by Frank Hancock - **Carried**



6. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation Update

Karen McKeough, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER), gave the following update on the Regional Estuaries initiative (REI):

Regional Estuaries Initiative

The Regional Estuaries Initiative is a \$20M 4 year project designed to protect and manage six estuaries in the south west that are at risk from nutrient pollution.

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) has granted funds to WICC to deliver on-ground works to protect waterways with fencing to exclude stock and revegetation.

DWER has increased its monitoring work in the catchment and the inlet. We are testing the water quality fortnightly for nutrients, salinity, pH, dissolved oxygen. This data will be used to build models for both the catchment and Inlet.

The catchment scale hydrological and nutrient model is being developed to achieve the following objectives:

- Providing input data to the Wilson Inlet estuary model
- Estimating sources of runoff, nitrogen and phosphorus from land uses and catchments that drain to the Wilson Inlet
- The model will be used to test a range of scenarios, such as climate change, farm fertiliser management, fencing etc.

The model requires considerable input data to drive the model and observations of flow and water quality to drive the model. The department is in the process of obtaining and finalising these input datasets, which are listed below:

- Landuse data
- Climate data (rainfall, potential evapotranspiration, evaporation)
- Soil and land characteristic data
- Elevation
- Farm and urban nutrient survey data

The catchment model will be developed in 2018 in parallel with the estuary model. Outputs the catchment model will be used to inform management of the Wilson Inlet and its catchment, including the development of a Water Quality Improvement Plan for the catchment.

An estuary model is also being developed. We are still in the data collection stage which will extend until February 2018. Model building and scenario testing will run for 7-8 months. The estuary model will be a useful tool to assist with the management of the Wilson Inlet sand bar. The data being collected is being loaded onto the REI website. Lots of resources and information is now available at <https://rei.dwer.wa.gov.au/>



Karen McKeough introduced Elke Reichwaldt (DWER) as their new scientist who will be monitoring the Wilson Inlet and Oyster Harbour, in particular the water pollution.

Arthur Patterson enquired about the funding structure.
Karen McKeough replied that the funding goes through to 2020.

Tony Pedro asked if any modelling had been done in the past, in particular a summary on phosphorus?

Karen McKeough replied that she wasn't sure about the trends, but that it appeared that highest levels were found in the upper Sleeman River. She encouraged interested persons to come along to a community meeting soon to be held in Denmark on these issues.

John Rodgers thanked Karen McKeough for her contribution.

7. South Coastal Natural Resources Management (SCNRM) Update

Justin Bellanger started out acknowledging John Rodgers and his contributions to WICC's progress. Shaun Ossinger was also acknowledged. Justin Bellanger gave the following update:

WICC's funding situation looks good and effective. Funding from SCNRM to the National Landcare Program is around 500,000 AUD, shared between several groups. WICC has been strong in this program, which covers fencing, revegetation, pest management, and the like. The Aboriginal Green Army has been working with WICC.

A new program is on its way; the current program invests 1 billion AUD over a period of 4 years. The new program will offer 1.1 billion over 5 years, reducing the annual investment by approx. 20%. SCNRM hopes to be able to absorb (some of) the reduction in funding in order to maintain current funding levels. Most of the groups involved are down to what they do need for their work, with WICC sitting in a good position. The application procedures are competitive, and the players are not yet known.

Elements of the future program will be less on sustainable agriculture. Further details will be revealed at a briefing sessions in Perth in a few weeks, and the information will flow back to WICC.

The Southcoast Snapshot was published a few months back, with an initial 1,000 prints. It will now go into reprint. It contains a lot of data, using key indicators.

John Rodgers took the opportunity to thank SCNRM for long term collaboration and funding, good results, educational programs, updates and more.



8. Nominations and Elections of Management Committee

Chairman John Rodgers is stepping down, and therefore at this point is able to take on the role as Returning Officer.

The following positions are open:

Chairperson - Shaun McHenry has accepted in absentia nomination

Deputy Chair – Iain Marshall has accepted in absentia nomination

The position as Secretary is currently filled by Laura West, who took on the role between AGMs. As a formality, her nomination needs to pass the AGM.

The call for nominations for the three positions were made, with no further candidates nominated.

Motion: That Shaun McHenry be elected Chairman of WICC

All in favour, moved by Frank Hancock, seconded by Arthur Patterson -

Carried

Motion: That Iain Marshall be elected Deputy Chair of WICC

All in favour, moved by Marg Rodgers, seconded by Sue Patterson -

Carried

Motion: That Laura West be elected Secretary of WICC

All in favour, moved by Melissa Howe, seconded by Tony Pedro - **Carried**

Nominations for the Management Committee:

Frank Hancock nominated by Arthur Patterson, seconded by Tony Pedro

Melissa Howe nominated by Sue Patterson, seconded by Frank Hancock

John Rodgers nominated by Laura West, seconded by Sue Patterson

All nominations endorsed by the General Meeting - **Carried**

9. General Business

John Rodgers expressed his thanks to Shaun Ossinger and Laura West for the work with running WICC.

He also thanked Jenni Loveland and Melissa Weir, WICC's contractors, and Shaun's wife Corrina Ossinger for their contributions.

Meeting closed at 7pm

Laura West, 13.10.17