

MINUTES OF THE SHOALHAVEN NATURAL RESOURCE & FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 6 June 2017
Location: Seven Mile Room, Nowra Administrative Centre
Time: 4.10 pm

The following members were present:

Clr Amanda Findley - Chairperson
Clr Nina Cheyne
Clr John Levett
Clr Patricia White
Mr David McCorkell
Mr Duncan Marshall
Mr Ian Stewart
Dr Michael Brungs
Mr David Reynolds
Mr Brett Stevenson
Mr Chris Grounds
Mr Mike Clear
Mr Matt Carr
Mr Jason Carson
Mr John Murtagh
Mr John Bucinkas
Mr Jillian Reynolds
Ms Kay Lenton
Mr Bill McInnes
Ms Helen Moody
Mr Russ Pigg – General Manager – arrived 4.20pm

Others present

Mr Warwick Papworth - Acting Director Planning Environment and Development
Ms Kelie Clarke - Environmental Services Manager
Mr Alasdair Stratton – Acting Natural Resources and Floodplain Unit Manager
Mr Ray Massie – Coast and Estuaries Officer
Mr Ali Sevenler – Senior Floodplain Engineer
Mr Mir Abdus Subhan – Floodplain and Stormwater Quality Engineer
Ms Robyn Flack

Note: Ms Robyn Flack was asked to leave the meeting until the Committee had voted on SN17.1 Vacant Community Member Position.

Apologies / Leave of Absence

Apologies were received from Dirk Treloar, Annie Boutland, Kaye Milsom, Paul Beckett, Allan Lugg and David Zerafa

Confirmation of the Minutes

RESOLVED (Clr White / Mike Clear)

That the Minutes of the Shoalhaven Natural Resource & Floodplain Management Committee held on Tuesday 29 November 2016 be confirmed.

CARRIED

Declarations of Interest

Nil

REPORTS

SN17.1 Vacant Community Member Position

**HPERM Ref:
D17/168184**

Ms Kelie Clarke advised that Ms Jessica Zealand had resigned from the Shoalhaven Natural Resources and Floodplain Management Committee.

Clr Findley advised that there were now two community membership positions to fill. The Committee agreed that both vacancies could be filled by Peter Hanson and Robyn Flack.

Ms Kelie Clarke also advised that Ms Jessica Zealand had suggested that her position be filled by another Oyster Farmer.

Recommendation

That

1. Mr Peter Hanson be appointed as a Community Member on the Shoalhaven Natural Resources and Floodplain Management Committee, filling the current vacancy on the Committee.
2. Mr Hanson be notified of his appointment and be invited to all future meetings.
3. That the ten (10) other persons who applied for the position be thanked for their applications and interest in the Committee.

Recommendation (Clr White / Mike Clear)

That

1. Mr Peter Hanson and Ms Robyn Flack be appointed as a Community Members on the Shoalhaven Natural Resources and Floodplain Management Committee, filling the current vacancies on the Committee.
2. Mr Hanson and Ms Robyn Flack be notified of their appointment and be invited to all future meetings.
3. That the ten (10) other persons who applied for the position be thanked for their applications and interest in the Committee.

4. A further report be submitted to the SNRFMC to consider another Oyster Farmer / Primary Industry Producer representative.

CARRIED

SN17.2 Update on the status of the Broughton Creek and Shoalhaven River water quality buoys

**HPERM Ref:
D17/79973**

Ms Kelie Clarke provided an update regarding the water quality buoys that are being purchased from Parramatta Council for \$5,000 each. It was noted that these water quality buoys are an addition to those that were previously gifted.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

1. That an update of the functions of remote sensor water quality buoys installed in the Shoalhaven River and Broughton Creek be received for information.
2. That Council consider allocating to Environmental Services budget for the ongoing maintenance and repairs of the two existing water quality buoys located at Shoalhaven Heads and Broughton Creek to allow the program to continue.

RESOLVED (By consent)

1. That an update of the functions of remote sensor water quality buoys installed in the Shoalhaven River and Broughton Creek be received for information.
2. That Council consider allocating to Environmental Services budget for the ongoing maintenance and repairs of the two existing water quality buoys located at Shoalhaven Heads and Broughton Creek to allow the program to continue.

CARRIED

Note: Allocation of funding was considered at the Extra Ordinary meeting of Council, Tuesday 13 June 2017 see CL17.154 - Chapter 5 Integrated Strategic Plan-Budget and Capital Works (MIN17.529).

SN17.3 Update on the certification process for the draft CZMP and update on the development of the new Coastal Management Plan

**HPERM Ref:
D17/159762**

Note: Russ Pigg arrived, the time being 4.20pm.

Ms Kelie Clarke provided an overview of the report.

Recommendation

The Committee recommend to Council that:

1. Allocate \$40,000 from the 2018/19 coast and estuary budget, as its 50% contribution, towards the development of the Coastal Management Plan subject to the Coastal Management Act being enacted; and
2. Allocate \$30,000 from the 2018/19 coast and estuary budget to update three (3) estuary health report cards to inform the development of the Coastal Management Program.

Recommendation (By consent)

That The Committee recommend to Council that:

1. Allocate \$40,000 from the 2018/19 coast and estuary budget, as its 50% contribution, towards the development of the Coastal Management Plan subject to the Coastal Management Act

being enacted; and

2. Allocate \$30,000 from the 2018/19 coast and estuary budget to update three (3) estuary health report cards to inform the development of the Coastal Management Program.

CARRIED

SN17.4 Update on the Lower Shoalhaven River and St Georges Basin Flood Risk Management Study and Plan

**HPERM Ref:
D17/164327**

Ms Kelie Clarke provided an overview of the report.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Shoalhaven Natural Resources and Floodplain Management Committee receive the report for information regarding the status update of the review of the Flood Risk Management Study and Plan for the Lower Shoalhaven River and St Georges Basin.

RESOLVED (By consent)

That the Shoalhaven Natural Resources and Floodplain Management Committee receive the report for information regarding the status update of the review of the Flood Risk Management Study and Plan for the Lower Shoalhaven River and St Georges Basin.

CARRIED

SN17.5 Shoalhaven River Levee Repair Works Update

**HPERM Ref:
D17/164448**

Council invited tenders on 21 March 2017 to select a suitable contractor to conduct the restoration of Shoalhaven River levee damages that occurred during August 2015 and June 2016 floods including the high priority levee audit defects that were identified prior to August 2015 flood. The tender closing date was 18th April 2017.

The tender evaluation is underway and Council will receive a tender evaluation report from the NSW Public Works. The tender evaluation report will be submitted directly to the Ordinary Council Meeting pursuant to Clause 3 of Council's "Acceptance of Tenders – Reports to Council" Policy. It is anticipated that Council will be in a position to engage a contractor during July 2017.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That Committee receive the report on the Shoalhaven River Flood Levee Works Update for information.

RESOLVED (By consent)

That Committee receive the report on the Shoalhaven River Flood Levee Works Update for information.

CARRIED

SN17.6 Shoalhaven dredging monitoring update and Rescuing Our Waterways Program Funding update 2017**HPERM Ref: D17/165042**

Note: This matter was dealt with in conjunction with Addendum Report - SN17.9 Shoalhaven Dredging.

Chris Grounds provided an overview of his report and the concerns outlined. Mr Chris Grounds also advised that lessons require documenting.

The Committee discussed the following points:

- There is no cost benefit analysis provided in the report in relation to the cost compared to the actual benefit of the dredging.
- The economic sustainability and false sense of safety after dredging in the community
- Council has not dredged in the last 25 years
- The cost of dredging is a reoccurring cost.
- The erosion restoration works on the foreshore near The Haven, and beach nourishment at Mollymook, were good outcomes of the programs as sand was used to undertake these works.
- The marine rescue at Sussex Inlet sometimes cannot get over the bar due to the tides if leaving from Sussex, therefore must leave from Ulladulla. The Committee discussed the time lag this causes.

The General Manager, Mr Russ Pigg advised the report states in relation to Sussex Inlet and Lake Conjola almost 50% of the sand is back in the channel. Dredging is of a temporary nature but at times is required to be done for means such as navigation purposes and funding is only available for navigation purposes.

Lessons were learnt from 25 years ago including:

- In relation to the flow study, locations moved with sand
- There were positive outcomes including Mollymook Beach Nourishment
- It was not a viable option to sell the sand as this was not support by Crown Land, and was not found to be viable for Commercial Operators due to the environmental impacts.

Clr White advised that Council receives expert consultant reports and staff reports. These can drive Council's decisions. Clr White would consider dredging again. Clr White agreed with some of the points made by Mr Chris Grounds and also added the danger at Lake Conjola where children were swimming in the Lake with motorised boats.

Please note if there is any other feedback to be included please email Ms Kelie Clarke.

It was noted that the feedback received should be weighted accordingly, quantified and be of a scientific basis.

Ms Kelie Clarke advised she would need the Shoalhaven Natural Resources and Floodplain Management Committee's assistance to engage with community and encourage further feedback.

Recommendation

The Committee receive the dredging monitoring report for Lake Conjola and Sussex Inlet and the Rescuing our Waterways Program funding program update for information and consideration.

RESOLVED (By consent)

That

1. The Committee receive the dredging monitoring report for Lake Conjola and Sussex Inlet and the Rescuing our Waterways Program funding program update for information and consideration.
2. A further report be provided to the Committee collating positive and negative feedback about the dredging program from the communities where the dredging took place.
3. Accept the feedback in SN17.9 and the email from Dirk Treloar regarding the Lake Conjola

experience and they be included in the report in 2. above as “community feedback”

4. All members of the Committee be invited to provide feedback

CARRIED

Note: Robyn Flack will provide a presentation to the next Shoalhaven Natural Resources and Floodplain Management Committee meeting representing the Shoalhaven Heads Estuary Taskforce.

SN17.9 Shoalhaven Dredging**HPERM Ref:
D17/180864****Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)**

That this item be dealt with in conjunction with SN17.6 Shoalhaven dredging monitoring update and Rescuing Our Waterways Program Funding update 2017.

RESOLVED (Chris Grounds / Mike Clear)

That this item be dealt with in conjunction with SN17.6 Shoalhaven dredging monitoring update and Rescuing Our Waterways Program Funding update 2017.

CARRIED

**SN17.7 2016 East Coast Low Storm Damage Remediation review
May 2017****HPERM Ref:
D17/165314**

Note: Ms Kelie Clarke thanked Mr Ray Massie for his extensive work on this project. Council has now created a reserve fund therefore if there is an event, funding can be allocated from this reserve fund. The reserve fund can also be accessed to undertake coastal protection works at priority locations.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that Council receive the report for information and make the following recommendations, subject to funding being allocated in the 2017/18 Budget to progress the coastal erosion remediation projects:

1. Council proceed with detailed design, Review of Environmental Factors, Aboriginal Heritage assessment for coastal erosion management works at Currarong including a trial geotextile sand groyne and sand nourishment and protection of the Beecroft Avenue precinct subject to undertaking the necessary consultation and obtaining the necessary permits and approvals. That further community consultation be undertaken as part of this process.
2. Council seek advice from NSW Office of Environment & Heritage about the potential development of an emergency action plan or interim management plan for the South Mollymook coastal protection structure as an interim measure until a long-term management strategy is developed as a result of the cost benefit analysis and impact assessment.

Recommendation (By consent)

That Committee recommends that Council receive the report for information and make the following recommendations, subject to funding being allocated in the 2017/18 Budget to progress the coastal erosion remediation projects:

1. Council proceed with detailed design, Review of Environmental Factors, Aboriginal Heritage assessment for coastal erosion management works at Currarong including a trial geotextile sand groyne and sand nourishment and protection of the Beecroft Avenue precinct subject to undertaking the necessary consultation and obtaining the necessary permits and approvals. That further community consultation be undertaken as part of this process.

2. Council seek advice from NSW Office of Environment & Heritage about the potential development of an emergency action plan or interim management plan for the South Mollymook coastal protection structure as an interim measure until a long-term management strategy is developed as a result of the cost benefit analysis and impact assessment.

CARRIED

SN17.8 Environmental Strategy and Planning**HPERM Ref:
D17/114940**

Ian Stewart advised that he believes there needs to be a review undertaken of what is being done and there is a need for a strategy. A strategy complete with principles that are clear to all, will help shape future decisions.

Staff advised that this is being done as part of the Community Strategic Plan. It is part of a four year plan. It attempts to balance the communities' wants and needs and protecting the environment. This feeds into this process, we are not there yet but on the way.

Clr White advised she voted against due to legislation reasons.

Recommendation

That Council review and develop its current approach to align vision, values, principles, priorities, guidelines, strategies and plans for strategically managing the natural environment.

Recommendation (By consent)

That Council review and develop its current approach to align vision, values, principles, priorities, guidelines, strategies and plans for strategically managing the natural environment.

Note: Clr White voted against the Motion

CARRIED

ADDENDUM REPORTS**SN17.9 SHOALHAVEN DREDGING****HPERM REF:
D17/180864**

Item dealt with earlier in the meeting.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS**SN17.10 Crookhaven Heads - Erosion Behind the Training Wall**

The Oyster Farmers recently met with Ms Kelie Clarke (Environmental Services Manager), and previously with Mr Ben Stewart (Director Assets and Works), Mr Russ Pigg (General Manager), Mr Jason Carson, Mr Allan Lugg and a member of Riverwatch. They raised concern over the erosion behind training wall at Crookhaven Heads. This is not a Council managed asset. The erosion may impact the integrity of the training wall.

Recommendation (By consent)

That Council write to Crown Land and request an investigation be undertaken in relation to the erosion behind the training wall and what restoration work is required.

CARRIED

SN17.11 Thank you to Tim Fletcher, Isabelle Ghetti and Ailsa Schofield

The Committee expressed its thanks to Tim Fletcher previous Director Planning Environment and Development Group, Ms Isabelle Ghetti previous Natural Resources and Floodplain Unit Manager and Ms Ailsa Schofield previous Senior Floodplain Engineer; for all their work with the Committee and efforts.

RESOLVED (By consent)

That the Committee write expressing its thanks and appreciation to:

1. Tim Fletcher previous Director Planning Environment and Development Group
2. Ms Isabelle Ghetti previous Natural Resources and Floodplain Unit Manager
3. Ms Ailsa Schofield previous Senior Floodplain Engineer

CARRIED

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 5.48pm.

Clr Amanda Findley
CHAIRPERSON