

WILSON INLET MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 16 MARCH 2005 AT THE DENMARK ENVIRONMENT CENTRE AT 1.00PM

PRESENT: George Ebbett, Colleen Donnelly, Zac Launay, Diane Harwood, Brad Kneebone, John Xanthis, Sandra Shakespeare, Matt Thomson, Brett Ward, Geoff Findlay, Jason Froud (1.15pm)

In Attendance: David Rushton, Emma Huxley

The Chairman opened the meeting at 1.10pm and welcomed all to the meeting.

1. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

Case Koning. Thanked Dave Rushton for good information and spending time clarifying matters relating to the operational plan.

Mr Koning referred to item 4.6 on the agenda – WIRG proposal at Poison Point. He attended Council meeting on 22 February whereby council made a decision to (1) refer the proposal to WIMAG for comment and (2) to identify and consider other possible sites. Mr Koning noted that it did not include Poison Point and Cr Atkinson requested an alternative that only deep water be considered. Mr Koning met with Denmark Shire Council (DSC) CEO and discussed the development of a fishing and recreational facility for elderly and disabled and it was clear that Poison Point would be suitable. Mr Koning stated that it was not an item to be built entirely within the year and could be a staged development initially with a jetty, parking and toilets for disabled and the rest to occur over a period of time. He stated that in considering other areas, Poison Point was one place where people could wet a line and catch fish. The Chairman asked Mr Koning his opinion of the impact on that particular location given it was the most exposed area on the estuary. Mr Koning stated that with the technical knowledge available the jetty could be constructed to sustain waves or winds.

Mr Gerry Hughes advised that Council had constructed a road and subsequently banned it to non professionals. The Chairman clarified that the road was closed as 2 x wheel vehicles had to be rescued. Mr Hughes supported the construction of the fishing facility at the Poison Point site.

Mrs Shakespeare was of the opinion that it was the most inaccessible place on the inlet.

Bobby Wilson. Re lights on Wilson Inlet. Ms Wilson tabled a paper outlining her requirements to reduce the intensity of flashing lights for navigation and the mussel farm and spoke of her research following the previous WIMAG meeting. Ms Wilson had spoken to the relevant authorities about her request and approval had been given.

Mr Case Koning referred to the minutes of the 19 January 2005 under matters arising, the channel scouring discussion and the statement that “further investigation should be conducted before a proposal of this kind is implemented”. He queried what further investigation should be conducted and who the lead organisation would be and the time frame. He went on to say that it was a hydrodynamic issue, tied in with the opening of the bar and the hydrodynamic studies referred to it, therefore it should be studied.

Discussion took place as to the interpretation of the paragraph and Mr Koning stated that many times he has been to the WIMAG meetings and items are not actioned.

Mr Rushton noted that the Action Plan states that it should be looked at, however, no time was nominated. He undertook to discuss further with the Dept, also the time frame and the scope to address in the budget as every action in the plan is to be in order of priority.

Mr Koning stated that the current channel configuration is not as referred to by Neville Boughton, at this time the channel pinch points are no longer available and it is the channels that he is interested in.

Gerry Hughes. Deep Sewerage. Mr Hughes referred to and tabled a letter he had received from the Hon Nick Griffiths after he had voiced concern about deep sewerage stopping at Little River. Mr Hughes stated that since 1994 when the priorities were established, the area from Little River to Ocean Beach Caravan Park had significantly increased in population and it was vital that the area be deep sewered. He asked if he could expect WIMAG to continue the push for this to happen.

The Chairman responded that it was already in place and the shire had been involved for a number of years. Progress was being made albeit very slow.

Open forum closed 1.40pm.

Chairman referred to the previous discussion re navigation lights on Wilson Inlet. Discussion continued and members agreed to the proposal that Dept for Planning and Infrastructure trial the reduction in lighting and intensity. Mr Findlay stated his Dept would not compromise safety on the inlet, however, are willing to carry out a trial.

2. APOLOGIES

Nil.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of meeting held on 19 January 2005.

Moved: Colleen Donnelly

Seconded: Diane Harwood

That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2005 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Carried

Mr Xanthis apologised for not attending that particular meeting as he had not received the papers, Mrs Shakespeare apologised as she was moving house on the day.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Weed Strategy. Matt Thomson.

Following a recommendation to Council to develop an overall weed strategy for road reserves Ms Huxley has completed and tabled a report to Council resulting in a recommendation to seek funding to develop a weed strategy for the shire. This issue to be approved at the next Council meeting. Ms Huxley undertook to email the report to Mr Rushton for distribution with the minutes.

4.2 WIMAG Review – David Rushton.

Mr Rushton to address on behalf of Mr Gunby in the agenda.

4.3 Fisheries Researcher to present to Council in April – Jason Froud.

No firm date as yet. Members encouraged to attend when presentation takes place.

4.4 Rivermouth Caravan Park Foreshore Management plan

Mr Thomson to address in the agenda.

4.5 DoE Representative address to Denmark Shire Council

Mr Malcolm Robb's update of the latest water monitoring data and interpretation indicates that there is no deterioration or improvement in the inlet. In addition, Mr Neville Boughton has provided data on some of the health indicators to be looked at and the Dept will continue with this. Mr Rushton also stated that he wished to tap into the local knowledge of the inlet and for information to be passed on to him.

Mr Xanthis noted an invasion of black sea slug in the inlet and requested information on them. Mr Rushton advised that the Fisheries Dept can have them identified.

4.6 Poison Point Fishing Facility for Aged & Disabled - WIRG proposal – George Ebbett/Matt Thomson
Referred to WIMAG for comment and the following points raised.

- . A lot of development required for roads.
- . Weigh up value of development versus environmental cost.
- . Consider what Denmark wants or accepts re developments on the foreshore and how many are needed.
- . Difficult to cost out without detailed design – estimate \$100,000.
- . Aboriginal heritage issues.
- . Existing professional fishing sign only as track difficult for 2 x wheel vehicles. Unreasonable not to let locals, ratepayers and tourists through.
- . Legal implications.
- . Change sign to 4 x wheel drive or professional fishermen only to prevent usage as access is difficult and proposed development likely to be lengthy.
- . Best location to shelter from wind and deep water.
- . Concern as to environmental damage as considerable vegetation removal required to put in car park and road.
- . Board walk would destroy aesthetics.
- . OK to have development provided it is managed.
- . Area not suitable for disabled.

It was agreed that Matt, George, Diane, David, Colleen, John, Emma, Zac to assess and carry out site visit on Wednesday 23 March at 3.00pm.

5. WIMAG REVIEW

- 5.1** Outcomes from first meeting of the Review Sub-committee and WIMAG members to provide additional comment. Minutes sent to subcommittee and Mr Rushton highlighted points.

Members provided the following comments.

- . Recreational boating facilities and navigation aids important.
- . Letter written to Hon Cheryl Edwards re roles of members and Chairman – referred to Verity Allan and a Code of Conduct developed, to be sent to all committees as a guide in the absence of meeting protocol agreement. Mr Ward clarified that DoE were given one late last year, however, Verity stated that until the Board of the W & RC had introduced a general code of conduct then existing partnership agreement would be used. There is a generic code that WIMAG works from and Mr Ward undertook to circulate to members as soon as possible. He noted that there was no formal constitution for WIMAG and agencies and procedures were informal and is the reason why some issues are missed i.e. response to Mr Koning.
- . Weakness – All management groups downgraded across government and now an advisory group.
- . Statutory authority carries baggage and better to be not so structured.
- . Gives local endorsement of department policy.
- . Weakness. Members of public cannot attend meetings. (May hold members back from speaking out and agreed issue may be addressed if media release available following meetings. Public can also come into office for information, minutes and questions).
- . Clarification required as to where referrals to go to i.e. WIMAG or DoE. – Continue to send to WIMAG.
- . Spell out role of WIMAG.
- . Next WIMAG Review meeting to be held on 5th April.

Mr Rushton to action a media release and seek approval from Chairman, Regional Manager and DoE. It was suggested that article include details of WIMAG as community are unaware of what or who WIMAG are.

6. RIVERMOUTH DREDGING PROPOSAL

- 6.1** Preliminary results of recent Acid Sulphate Soils (ASS) - Matt Thomson
Rivermouth dredging proposal to accommodate yachts. Formal results indicate Acid Sulphate Soils and Council liaising with Dept for Planning & Infrastructure to overcome the situation.

6.2 Details of Foreshore Management Plan for Rivermouth Caravan Park

Agreement with caravan park owners that a gravel footpath be constructed 1 – 1 ½ metres off the boundary of the caravan park and council to take responsibility for maintaining the inlet foreshore side of the path. Mark Parre to re-establish some of the areas that become degraded. Mr Thomson agreed to send a copy of the map indicating where the path is going for inclusion into the minutes.

7. NRM CONFERENCE

- 7.1** Members invited to contribute ideas for a presentation at the State NRM Conference – George Ebbett. The presentation to link catchment, ocean and health of inlet. Chairman noted conference to be held over 3 days, 4-6 October and suggested a working group consisting of 3 members from WIMAG and 3 from WICC. It was an opportunity to highlight action plan, WICC and WIMAG.

Suggestions as follows:

- . Key note speakers from Fisheries (Rob Lenanton to show linkage with water quality and fish), DoE, (Malcolm Robb on water quality and NEMP studies) and UWA.
- . Incorporate field trip
Zac Launay's mussel/oyster project

Dave, Diane, Emma agreed to be on working group. Colleen to assist if the WIMAG review has reached a conclusion. Meeting set up for 5th April at 10.00am.

8. WILSON INLET NUTRIENT REDUCTION ACTION PLAN

- 8.1** Update Report for the Wilson Inlet Management Advisory Group. Paper dated 16 March 2005 tabled for members' information. Mr Rushton noted that this would be a regular report.

8.2 Register of Interest – SCRIPT

Chairman tabled Register of Interest to enable SCRIPT to compile a data bank of human resources that can be used with implementing the various projects and programs as part of the investment plan to distribute Envirofunds.

