

**WILSON INLET MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 8 DECEMBER 2005 AT THE DENMARK ENVIRONMENT CENTRE  
AT 1.00PM**

**PRESENT:** George Ebbett (Chairman), Brad Kneebone, John Xanthis, Geoff Findlay, Diane Harwood, Zak Launay, Colleen Donnelly, Rob Wooley (proxy for Pascoe Durtanovich)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Chris Gunby, Steve May, David Rushton, Emma Huxley

**APOLOGIES:** Jason Froud, Pascoe Durtanovich

The Chairman opened the meeting at 1.10pm

**PUBLIC OPEN FORUM**

Mr Basil Schur gave background of Green Skills application to become part of network of NGO Global Fund for Nature and stated it was an opportunity for a local organisation to link in with other organisations caring for estuaries and lakes. The benefits will link through science, joint conferences and seminars. It will also assist in networking and give prominence to Wilson Inlet and highlight a caring community and important wetland.

Mr Schur noted that WICC had endorsed a letter of support for the application and he requested feed back and if WIMAG prepared to also endorse.

Members discussed and agreed to support the application.

**RESOLVED:**

***WIMAG support Mr Schur's request.***

Mr Gunby advised that a letter from DOE could be provided stating that the issue has been discussed at this meeting and WIMAG supported in principle.

Mr Steve May stated that he was employed by DOE to work on the Wilson Inlet Nutrient Reduction Action Plan and Torbay Inlet. Working 3 days in Albany, 2 in Denmark also working with WICC, other agencies, State and Shire to help with some of the actions. Previously worked in catchment management in Perth

*Open forum closed 1.20pm*

The Chairman introduced Mr Rob Wooley – new Shire Engineer.

**3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Minutes of Meeting held on 21 September 2005 - Accepted.

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

4.1 Proposal to review Denmark Foreshore Management Plan. It was noted that the management plan was not current. Ms Harwood and Ms Huxley have highlighted items that have been carried out in the recommendations and those that have not. It was agreed that a new plan was not required but required updating and to go to the public as it was apparent that the community were not aware of a management plan. Discussion took place and if necessary to re-address items such as values for inlet as people want grass, picnic tables, heavy machinery for fire access. Mr Ebbett noted that the Denmark Shire was responsible for the reserve. It was noted that the management plan supported the concept of retaining natural vegetation on the foreshore and was an opportunity to raise awareness to the community, real estate agents and Shire of the values.

Members agreed that a review be undertaken by the working group (identified at last meeting) with appropriate community consultation and to include the suggested changes as already provided. Also update all relevant documents related to the DFMG and the new WIMAG, DOE and the Shire of Denmark to be signatories to the document.

4.2. Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme – status of Poddy Shot funding application.  
Mr Xanthis advised that the boat launching area required excavation to remove sand from one corner to avoid boats running over the sandbank.

Mr Gunby stated that there was no objection to maintenance dredging as it was minor works, however

approval was required. The request to be put in writing and Mr Rushton to identify obvious acid sulphate soils and supervise excavation.

Mr Wooley to organise through the Denmark Shire, Spoil may be able to be used at Rivermouth reclamation site.

- 4.3 Inlet foreshore degradation at Hay River resulting from vehicle access.  
Ms Huxley advised that old tracks would be blocked off and bollard off sedges and rushes. Signage to be installed to say that track is under water in winter therefore no access. Funding available from Coast Care project.
- 4.4 Phytoplankton cell densities in the inlet – update.  
Mr Rushton gave an update and tabled results from recent mussel analysis. Mr Launay noted that the media release was misleading and could be a problem in the future if there was to be a real outbreak as people were still eating the mussels. The Health Dept needs to clarify the situation.

## **5. DENMARK RIVERMOUTH**

- 5.1 Discussion pertaining to progress of development on Crown Reserve 14376, including foreshore landscape plan and outcome of meeting on 21 November 2005 regarding the Classic Boat Associations mooring requirements.  
Mr Ebbett gave an update. He felt the meeting was not productive and felt that Angling Club were reluctant to relinquish their leases. CEO of Denmark Shire advised that leases will be used if there is a requirement. Mr Findlay advised that the recreational facilities grant was for recreational boats and had concerns if funding for recreational facilities is used for commercial facilities as this would not meet the aims they were trying to achieve. It was noted that the working group is still working through the issues.
- 5.2 Mr Rushton advised that following a site meeting with Mark Parre (Shire), a comprehensive landscaping plan will be submitted to the DoE for assessment and approval. A licence is required under the Waterways Conservation Act before reclamation of the inlet foreshore can begin.

## **6. APPLICATION TO VARY AQUACULTURE LICENCE**

- 6.1 Mr Launay advised that he had applied to move his lease from the eastern side. He has changed lines and all organisations have been notified. Dept of Fisheries were requesting feedback. Mr Findlay noted that from a boating aspect it concentrated everything to one area.  
Consensus from members that it was a good outcome and proposal accepted.  
It was also agreed that the aquaculture plan did not need to be reviewed.  
Mr Findlay expressed concern re the mooring on a purpose built craft at the Rivermouth.

## **7. WIMAG REVIEW**

- 7.1 Mr Gunby noted that responses had been received from agencies involved and (2) from the public. Key agencies supported the terms of reference. Water Corp did not respond in writing, however, advised of support and would attend important meetings. Mr Gunby highlighted and tabled the responses.  
It was agreed that the situation would be re-assessed in 12 months time and all members to have input but selection panel to make the decision on the recruitment process.  
It was expected that funding would be available for work around the inlet and to be negotiated on an annual basis with WICC and other government agencies. The new group to commence in January and Mr Gunby would make changes and circulate to members for comment at next meeting. Also to circulate to members when terms of membership expire. Members endorsed the changes to the terms of reference.

## **8. COASTAL CONFERENCE**

- 8.1 Mr Ebbett and Mrs Donnelly gave an overview of their attendance at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Western Australian State Coastal Conference in Mandurah, Bunbury and Busselton.

## **9. WILSON INLET NUTRIENT REDUCTION ACTION PLAN**

- 9.1 Mr Rushton tabled update progress report for WINRAP. Advised of appointment of Mr Steve May and intention to attend some WIMAG meetings in the future.

## **10. MEMBERS REPORTS**

Rob Woolley. Nil.

Geoff Findlay. Having a blitz on marine safety for both recreational and commercial fishers. Albany Office has a guide for those requiring further information. Shire also has some limited information.

Zak Launay . Has started oysters and lots of larvae to put into water in January. Growing in hatchery in Albany. Will undertake regular monitoring to satisfy QA requirements.

Dave Rushton. Centre for Sustainable Living currently working on a biofiltration wetland project on site to deal with storm water coming off road and buildings before it enters Denmark River. Further information available on request. Also, have received a copy of a letter from Water Corp following correspondence from WISE requesting input into bar openings. It was agreed to their attendance as they may be able to contribute on community facilities and amenities.

Colleen Donnelly. Nil.

Diane Harwood. Nearly completed Coast Care funding on weeding. Complaints received from some residents and expectation for weeds to be removed from individual houses. Suggested that the Denmark Foreshore Management Plan to go public again to raise community awareness.

Emma Huxley. Nil

Brad Kneebone. Raised issue of Springdale development (pines) as it was a large development and requirement to carry out base line sampling before nutrients go into the inlet. Recommended that WIMAG endorse the use of ATUs only. Mr Ebbett noted that the rezoning had already occurred and there were no further opportunities for comment. Mr Ebbett supported that suggestion for bench mark monitoring on the waterway traversing the site.

John Xanthis. Took new engineer Rob Wooley on site visits around the inlet, Rivermouth development and projects that the former engineer had been involved with.

Chris Gunby. Dept undergone a restructure and moving away from a district to program approach. Chris will be assisting Mr Rushton on Wilson Inlet issues and Mr Brett Ward continuing with catchment issues.

George Ebbett. Attended a workshop on marine test management. Referred to a project generated from the marine working group to carry out a stock assessment and environmental impact on fish on 5 major estuaries on the South Coast and Wilson Inlet included. The project has been approved and funding and tenders accepted.

Mr Rushton advised that Mr Jason Froud was still in the process of obtaining written information from Mr Rob Lenanton's talk to the Shire of Denmark.

The Chairman thanked all members for their contribution over the years and on behalf of the community thanked agency staff for their support and liaison.

A special thank you to Margaret Edwards for minute taking.

Meeting closed 3.40pm

**Next meeting 15 February 2006.**

Venue: TBA