

WILSON INLET MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 30 AUGUST 2006 AT THE SHIRE OF DENMARK RECEPTION ROOM AT 1.00PM

PRESENT: George Ebbett, John Xanthis, Geoff Findlay, Diane Harwood, Pascoe Durtanovich, Dave Rushton, Helen Heydenrych, John Jamieson, Basil Schur,

IN ATTENDANCE: Steve May

The Chairman opened the meeting at 1.10pm

1. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

An open forum session was not required.

2. **APOLOGIES** Colleen Donnelly, Danny Burkett, Brad Kneebone, Zak Launay, Jason Froud

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st June 2006 were confirmed as a true and accurate record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES AND CORRESPONDENCE

4.1 Correspondence from the Shire of Denmark advising that the proposal to change areas of Wilson Inlet foreshore currently unallocated crown land (UCL) to an appropriate reserve status has been deferred to the September meetings pending further investigation on the impacts of management options and discussion with stakeholders.

4.2 Correspondence from the Shire of Denmark requesting attendance by a representative from WIMAG to a meeting to discuss Denmark's possible nomination to host the WA State Coastal Conference in 2007.

4.3 Correspondence to Mr Owen McIntosh in response to his request for a trial of eastern openings at Ocean Beach dated 4th June 2006.

5. WATER SOURCE PROTECTION & ALLOCATION PLANNING FOR THE DENMARK RIVER

Members were provided with a document outlining a number of projects focused on water resource planning for the south coast region. These include a Water Source Protection Plan for the Denmark River to protect the quality of water in the Denmark River and an Allocation Plan which will investigate the current ecological, social and economic requirements of the Denmark River and specify sustainable limits on future demand. These initiatives are components of an overall strategic plan aimed at ensuring a secure water supply for the environment and communities across the South Coast Region in the long-term.

Members were encouraged to contact the relevant officers at the DoW Albany office for further details. Additional information in relation to this will also be presented at future WIMAG meetings as it becomes available. Furthermore, because consultation is integral to the water resource planning process, relevant stakeholders including the Shire of Denmark will be given an opportunity for input at the appropriate stage.

6. PROPOSED ESTUARINE ADVISORY GROUP FOR WILSON, PARRY AND IRWIN INLETS

George Ebbett notified the group of a proposal to include Parry and Irwin Inlets as part of WIMAG's management area. George explained that with little extra effort WIMAG could become a broader estuarine advisory group to help guide management of these systems in addition to Wilson Inlet

Support for the idea was given in principle by the members, subject to endorsement of a revised Terms of Reference document for the new group. Dave Rushton will consult with Chris Gunby, Pascoe and George regarding the required changes prior to further discussion at the next meeting.

7. GREEN SKILLS PROJECT FOR WETLANDS IN THE WILSON AND PARRY INLET CATCHMENTS.

Basil Schur provided an overview of a research project he is currently involved with looking at hydrology, flora and fauna for a number of wetlands in the Wilson and Parry Inlet catchments. The study area includes swamps near Crusoe Beach and at the back of Morley Beach as well as swamps near Nenamup Inlet and Lake Saidie. Within the Parry Inlet catchment the project will focus on Lake Eyrie, Lake Barnes, Lake Mowilylip, Quenchinup Swamp and a group of lakes and wetlands around Pardelup Lagoon, as well as wetlands within the William Bay National Park with Lake Byleveld being the main wetland of interest.

Anyone seeking further information regarding this research should contact Basil on 98481019.

8. RESERVE 23579 – HAY RIVER MOUTH

Brad Kneebone and George Ebbett conducted a site visit for the purpose of investigating and assessing the impact of camping, boat launching and general recreation on the 'A Class' Reserve at the mouth of the Hay River. They observed damage to the access track, degraded and receded foreshore vegetation, vehicle induced erosion, rubbish dumping, fire damage from camping activities as well as disturbance of shorebird habitat.

Following group discussion in relation to these issues it was suggested a number of appropriate management actions be recommended to the relevant authority for consideration. To facilitate this, the Shire of Denmark shall approach the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) to request that the following points be addressed.

- Camping to be disallowed in the part of the reserve south of the highway. Formal removal of 'Camping' from the reserve's purpose would be required to legally support any on-site notice disallowing camping.
- Boat launching to be disallowed. Users to be referred to an existing site 50m upstream from the South Coast Hwy bridge.
- Appropriate signage be installed at the track entrance to provide information regarding the reserve's conservation value, in particular its value as migratory shorebird habitat.
- Track entrance off South Coast Hwy to have gates and bollards with the gate to be locked during periods of inundation.
- Where necessary, repair main access track with lime rubble.

9. REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE COMMUNITY FORUM

A community forum will be held on Wednesday the 15th November to bring together those involved in the management of Wilson Inlet and its catchment as well as interested members of the public. This event is expected to provide information on a range of topics covering the different areas of interest and involvement in protecting the inlet and to promote the work being done by agencies, community groups, landowners and local government. The forum will be co-hosted by WIMAG and the Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee (WICC). The forum will coincide with the official launch of the Report to the Community No.8 document, which will focus on inlet and catchment water quality data collected since 2001.

Further details regarding this event will be provided following confirmation of guest speaker availability. In the meantime, please contact Steve May at the Department of Water on 98481866.

10. WILSON INLET NUTRIENT REDUCTION ACTION PLAN

Steve May tabled a WINRAP implementation progress/update report primarily focusing on initiatives throughout the Wilson Inlet catchment area during June, July and August 2006. Copies of the report are available at the Dept of Water/Dept of Environment office on Strickland Street, Denmark.

11. MEMBERS REPORTS

Diane Harwood – Volunteers from the Denmark Weed Action Group are working with Phil and Margaret Cocks to trial a combined herbicide/hand removal method of controlling *Dipogon lignosus* within an area of inlet foreshore below their property. This site had been used by previous owners as a garden refuse burn pile and has an assortment of garden escapees growing there, including Lantana and Arum lily. Asparagus scandens have also taken hold at this site and will hopefully be a target area when the new Department of Environment and Conservation Asparagus scandens control program gets underway. Other landowners in this vicinity (near Poddyslot) have not been so considerate of the foreshore vegetation, eg. Young Marri trees have been lopped to provide a view of the inlet. The cuttings have been left lying on the remaining native vegetation adding a considerable amount of fuel. Landowners with properties along the the inlet need to be reminded of their obligation to keep their pruning activities to within their legal boundaries.

Geoff Findlay – Nil

Basil Schur – WICC AGM will be held on 26th October. Walk of Heritage trail on 29th August reiterated the need for financial support from the Shire of Denmark for on-going weed control along the trail, particularly for arum lily. Pascoe confirmed \$10,000 contribution for implementation of weed strategy.

John Jamieson – example of land swap in Lake Seppings case study (?). Unauthorised extension of Morley Road into crown land will have implications for future management of Morley Beach.

John Xanthis – bar opening meeting 29/08/06 resolved that preferred sandbar opening date will be 26th or 27th September (ideal tidal conditions) depending on inlet level. Yesterday's meeting also included discussion regarding interference with the floodgates. Continued concerns regarding jetski activity on the inlet. Fish cleaning bay planned for the Denmark Rivermouth.

Helen Heydenrych – meeting with WIRG members in relation to history of the inlet, WIRG contributions and proposals (dredging, etc). Research - winter sampling period complete. Reiterate findings from 29/08/06 walk along the Heritage Trail, particularly with regard to unauthorised drainage from private farm land through reserve land into Wilson Inlet. South Coast Marine Working Group field trip scheduled for 15th September 2006.

Pascoe Durtanovich – WIRG proposal suggesting improved access to Poisson Point. Estill Consultants were successful tenders for Denmark Boating Strategy.

Dave Rushton – need to replace Phil Shephard as City of Albany representative although will delay approach to Robert Fenn until development of the terms of reference for the new Denmark estuaries advisory group is complete.

George Ebbett – hosting Iraqi fisheries officers

NEXT MEETING – 18th October 2006