



# Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands Community Liaison Committee

## Draft Minutes of 7 December 2005

### 1. Attendance

Will Steele - Chair (Melbourne Water)	Sean Dooley (Birds Australia)	Charles Smith (BOCA)
Ken Carney (AGRA)	Graham Malcolm (AGRA)	Jenny Symons (Frankston City Council)
Alison Kuitert (Seaford Community Group)	Les Williams (Friends of Edithvale Seaford Wetlands)	Joanne Greenwood (Melbourne Water)
Damian Magner – minute taker (Melbourne Water)		

### 2. Apologies

Greg Bain (Melbourne Water)	Salyana Williams (Melbourne Water)	Elli Hunt (Melbourne Water)
Joanna Thomson (TBLD – Melbourne Water consultant for Wannarkladdin project)	Mike Carter (Birds Australia)	Belinda Ainley (Kingston City Council)

### 3. Actions Arising from Previous Meetings

Note: numbers below correspond to action items in meeting minutes of 28 September 2005.

#### 1) *Edithvale Wetland Bird Hide pump*

An on-site meeting was held with Sam Mizzi from the Infrastructure Group of Melbourne Water, attended by Greg Bain & Les Williams. Will advised that the power will be reconnected (to allow pump operation and for the Bird Hide) in the next 4-6 weeks.

#### 2) *Kangaroo Mgt Plan*

Note from last minutes regarding collection of skulls is on going.

Will advised that the Mgt Plan development is still on-going and if any CLC members have comments on the proposed plan, to provide these to Greg Bain. Les stated that he observed 6 joeys on 6/12/05

#### 3) *Wannarkladdin Wetlands naming*

Official naming is still with City of Kingston to pursue. An update is to provided at the next CLC meeting.

*4) Wannarkladdin Wetlands – revegetation prescriptions project*

Covered as a separate Agenda item later in the meeting.

*5) Rezoning of land – 44 First Ave Chelsea*

Will advised that Greg has spoken to Kate Kinsella (MW – Land Development Team) – the soil surveys are still not available. An update is to provided at the next CLC meeting.

*6) Edithvale Common*

Joanne Greenwood advised that she met with David Digby from Kingston City Council. Subsequently, Kingston City Council has been supplied with a base map and is now working on zonings for the site. A draft of the zonings map will be brought to the next CLC meeting. Zonings may reflect management issues such as different mowing regimes, revegetation opportunities and public use of the site. Les stated that he believed the habitat value of the land should be given the highest priority. Les also noted that the Friends are very keen to do a project there, and this should be included in the plan.

*7) ESW Discovery Centre*

Covered as a separate agenda item later in the meeting.

*8) Austin Road properties*

Jenny advised that Frankston Council had spoken to the developer. He is willing to sell the 2 easterly blocks (which can't be developed) once he's sold the other blocks. Jenny will provide further updates as information becomes available. Alison asked if Frankston Council had allowed for the purchase of the two eastern blocks in next year's budget. Jenny thought this would be the case.

*9) Review of CLC*

Covered as a separate agenda item later in the meeting.

*10) Wannarkladdin Wetlands bird data*

Will checked with Peggy Mitchell for any bird data she may have had – she had none that specifically covered the Wannarkladdin area. Will has also asked other people, but it appears information/data would be very difficult to obtain or is non-existent.

Alison asked whether Melbourne Water would consider funding a person for a short period to collect and collate historical bird count data and other useful information from long time residents, Chelsea Historical Society and libraries.

*11) Edithvale Common – water quality wetland proposal*

It was emphasised that the water quality wetlands was only an idea at this stage. The CLC discussed issues around habitat values of a constructed water quality wetland system as opposed to a more natural ephemeral system (that may develop if mowing was reduced and other management undertaken). The question was also raised as to whether the site could accommodate both – water quality wetlands as well as natural wetlands? Will asked Les to put his ideas in writing so that these could be considered by Melbourne Water.

Joanne Greenwood to chase up with Melbourne Water stormwater quality team and pursue the idea of getting two management plans scoped as part of the Edithvale Common project with Kingston – one incorporating water quality wetlands and natural/ephemeral wetlands on the site; a second plan with no water quality wetlands.

12) *Kangaroo Mgt Plan – comments back to MW by 30 Nov 05*  
Actioned.

13) *Kangaroo Mgt Plan – copies of report*  
Actioned.

14) *ESW Discovery Centre – copies of report*  
Actioned.

#### **4. Update on Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands Wetland Discovery Centre**

Salyana Williams (Melbourne Water project manager) was unable to make the meeting, hence Will provided a status report on the project. Consultation briefings have been undertaken by MW and the design consultants to community groups. It was emphasised that the plans were all conceptual at this stage.

Les provided feedback that he has received from the Friends of ESW. Some stated there was too much focus on ‘people’ - the publicity/ education value of the centre - whilst not enough on habitat considerations. Les stated that several people from other groups also expressed concern to him.

Discussion by the CLC progressed around issues such as concerns over pathways disturbing birds and the proposed track through the southern part of the area – which is considered by some as a “sanctuary” from disturbance in other areas. The Ramsar plan notes most of this area as “core protection” zone.

Sean emphasised that he didn’t have a problem with the concept, but that ‘how it’s done’ will determine the effect. Les stated that the CLC and groups needed progress report and frequent opportunities to comment as the design progressed. He suggested Sean might speak to his Group or write a note for the Friends newsletter to allay their fears regarding the impacts on birds.

Ken stated that the Melbourne Water / consultant briefing was good. He said concerns were raised about how close the centre was being built to the water.

Sean made the point that the big issue re disturbance on birds (apart from during construction) is the random appearance of groups of people.

**ACTION:** CLC and community groups to be given progress reports and frequent opportunities to comment as the design progresses.

#### **5. CLC annual review – feedback from members**

Will outlined the Melbourne Water policy of reviewing groups such as the ESW CLC.

Prior to the meeting, a document was circulated to members entitled 'ESW Community Liaison Committee Review'. The meeting worked through the points on this document, as outlined below.

#### *Core Task of the CLC*

Consensus that it is appropriate. The group also thought it was appropriate that other nearby places (such as Wannarkladdin) be included in the group's discussions.

#### *Terms of Reference*

Consensus that they are appropriate.

#### *Committee Composition*

The idea of having indigenous representation was again raised.

Alison stated that she is hoping to have Seaford Wetland included within the boundary of the Mornington/Westernport Biosphere Reserve – if this occurs then someone from the Biosphere committee should be included on the ESW CLC.

The idea was raised to invite someone from the Peninsula Field Naturalists Club to be a member.

#### *Committee meetings/format*

Consensus that it is appropriate.

#### *Committee meeting frequency*

Consensus that every 3 months is appropriate.

#### *Meeting administration*

Will raised the point that the meeting Chair is always someone from Melbourne Water.

Charles: MW should continue to handle it, as one person/Chair may dominate with their own agenda.

Les: Chair needs to be focussed on keeping the meeting running and productive, hence MW should continue to do it.

General consensus was that the CLC was happy with Greg Bain to continue to act as the Chair.

#### *Minutes/notes/agendas/notifications:*

Consensus that MW does a good job in regards to these items.

#### *CLC communications*

Discussion revolved around ways to better communicate the CLC's outcomes in a more public friendly document (i.e. not the meeting minutes). Ideas included:

- Dot points could be produced for group's to incorporate into their own newsletters.
- Dot points could be put on the MW website.
- After every CLC, an ad could be put in the local papers summarising key outcomes. If people wanted further detailed info (e.g. about any plans being produced) people could go to the MW website where that info would be available.
- As well as minutes, it was suggested that a summary report or newsletter for the CLC with articles and links to the projects the CLC discusses could be circulated to assist in wider information dispersal.
- Point was raised that the availability of reports for relevant projects on the MW website needs to be improved, and communicated to CLC members when they are available.

- Suggestion that we look at how other CLCs are dispersing information to represented stakeholders.

Jo Greenwood outlined the new Community Programs Team that has been set up in the Waterways Group at Melbourne Water. This team may be able to assist with the resourcing of this need.

*Other things?*

Les suggested the CLC visit the sites on occasion.

It was suggested that at least one meeting per year was held in the evening, to allow one or two other members of the various groups to attend as guests.

It was suggested that each member (and their group) have a copy of the Ramsar Plan.

**ACTION:** MW to pursue the idea of having indigenous representation on the CLC.

**ACTION:** MW to pursue the idea of having Peninsula Field Naturalists Club representation on the CLC.

**ACTION:** Melbourne Water to investigate better ways to communicate the CLC's outcomes to the wider public.

**ACTION:** CLC members to undertake a site visit next year.

**ACTION:** CLC to have at least one evening meeting per year.

**ACTION:** MW to send a copy of the ESW Ramsar Plan to Seaford Community Group and AGRA.

## **6. Wannarkladdin Wetlands Vegetation Prescriptions Project**

The draft Issues Paper (prepared by TBLD) had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Jo ran through the Issues paper, covering the vegetation community mapping, hydrology review, issues and opportunities etc.

Les clarified that the Allocasuarina had been planted by the Society for Growing Australian Plants, not FoESW. He had collected the seed from trees in Werribee. Les noted that the Issues Paper was a very accurate and good document.

Alison asked whether we could establish a different type of habitat at Wannarkladdin to what we have at ESW, to ensure a diversity of areas in the region.

Jo informed people that there is still opportunity to provide written comments on the Issues Paper until December 15<sup>th</sup> 2005.

**ACTION:** Members still have opportunity to provide comments (to Joanne Greenwood) on the DRAFT Reveg Prescriptions - Issues Paper.

**ACTION:** Melbourne Water to provide an update at the next meeting on progress of the Wannarkladdin Wetlands Revegetation Prescriptions Project.

## **7. General Business**

No General Business was raised.

## **8. Next Meeting**

Date: Wednesday 8 March 2006

Time: 2.00 pm

Venue: Eastern Treatment Plant (ETP)

**Attachment 1: ESW CLC Action Sheet of 7 December 2005**

SERIAL	ISSUE	ACTION	ACTION BY	REPORT
1	Edithvale Wetland Bird Hide pump	Melbourne Water to keep FoESW updated on planned timing for replacement of the pump.	GB	Ongoing
2	Kangaroo Management Plan	Melbourne Water to be notified of any skulls, particularly those from kangaroos, found at Edithvale wetland. Any skulls found to be collected for assessment.	All	Ongoing
3	Kangaroo Management Plan	MW to provide an update on the Plans development at the next meeting.	GB	Next mtg
4	Wannarkladdin Wetlands naming	Kingston to provide an update at the next meeting on progress of officially naming the wetlands to Wannarkladdin.	Kingston	Next mtg
5	Rezoning of Land – 44 First Ave, Chelsea	Melbourne Water and Kingston City Council to report to next CLC meeting on status of application and results of acid sulphate soils survey if available.	KCC, GB	Next mtg
6	Edithvale Common	A draft of the zonings map will be brought to the next CLC meeting	JG	Next mtg
7	Edithvale Common	Joanne Greenwood to chase up with MW stormwater quality team and pursue the idea of getting 2 landscape plans done – one incorporating water quality wetlands and natural/ephemeral wetlands on the site; a second plan with no water quality wetlands.	JG	Next mtg
8	Austin Road properties	Jenny to provide further update re acquisition of the 2 easterly blocks.	JS	Next mtg
9	ESW Discovery Centre	CLC and community groups to be given progress reports and frequent opportunities to comment as the design progresses.	SW/MWater	On-going
10	ESW Discovery Centre	Melbourne Water to report to next CLC meeting on status of ESW Discovery Centre.	SW/MWater	Next mtg
11	CLC Review	MW to pursue the idea of having indigenous person representation on the CLC.	MW	Next appointment of CLC members

SERIAL	ISSUE	ACTION	ACTION BY	REPORT
12	CLC Review	MW to pursue the idea of having Peninsula Field Naturalists Club representation on the CLC.	MW	Next appointment of CLC members
13	CLC Review	Melbourne Water to investigate better ways to communicate the CLC's outcomes to the wider public.	MW	Next mtg
14	CLC Review	CLC members to undertake a site visit next year.	All	On-going
15	CLC Review	CLC to have at least one evening meeting per year.	All	On-going
16	Wannarkladdin Wetlands	Members still have opportunity to provide comments (to Joanna Greenwood) on the DRAFT Reveg Prescriptions - Issues Paper.	All	mid-December 05
17	Wannarkladdin Wetlands	Melbourne Water to provide an update at next meeting on progress of the Wannarkladdin Wetlands Revegetation Prescriptions Project.	JG	Next mtg