

**EDITHVALE-SEAFORD WETLANDS DISCOVERY CENTRE
TECHNICAL REFERENCE GROUP MEETING
10 July 2007 7:00pm, Edithvale Bowling Club**

MINUTES

Present:

Technical reference group members:

John Arup (Chair), Arup Environmental & Planning
Tania Ireton, Bird Observers Australia
Mike Walker, local resident
John Belling (for Caroline Briggs), Boonerwung Council
Les Williams, Friends of Edithvale-Seafood Wetlands

Wayne Charlton, Melbourne Water
Greg Bain, Melbourne Water
Pippa Stockfield, Connell Wagner (Project Management) - minutes
Paul Minifie, Minifie Nixon (architects)
Jen Wood, Minifie Nixon (architects)
Martin Stone, Curriculum Corporation (education interactive)

Observer:

Julianne Vines

1. APOLOGIES

Salyana Williams / Will Steele, Melbourne Water and Maria Tsemtsidis, Connell Wagner (project management)

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the previous meeting were not tabled. A copy of these has been requested from Melbourne Water and will be reviewed and any follow up actions noted by separate minutes.

3. PURPOSE OF MEETING

The primary purpose of the meeting was to present the draft schematic design for the Edithvale - Seaford Wetlands Discovery Centre (ESWDC) and seek comment from the Technical Reference Group prior to finalising the schematic design report and preparing the lodging of a town planning application.

4. PRESENTATION

4.1 The architect, Paul Minifie of Minifie Nixon, provided a presentation covering the following topics (refer also to the summary attached):

- 1.1 Introduction to the ESWDC project team;
- 1.2 Outline of the purpose of the ESWDC;
- 1.3 Previous activities undertaken in the Masterplanning phase;
- 1.4 Siting Considerations;
- 1.5 Vehicle Access;
- 1.6 Anticipated visitor usage;
- 1.7 Actions to minimise disturbance;
- 1.8 The vision for the visitor experience;
- 1.9 Proposed materials and construction method;
- 1.10 The exhibition and interpretative content;
- 1.11 Landscape design;
- 1.12 Environmentally sustainable design and services;
- 1.13 Proposed structure;
- 1.14 Geotechnical issues; and
- 1.15 Proposed timelines/program.

Extracts of the draft schematic design report were provided and can also be reviewed online by members.

4.2 Comments were then sought from the TRG on the information presented. Generally the sketch design for the building, carpark and landscape works were very well received. Specific items were noted as follows:

- 1.1 Six toilets was not considered adequate given the time that it takes to have get a large group of students to complete a visit to the toilet;
- 1.2 Storage for students' belongings should be located in a secure space and should not be co-located with the toilets (to minimise the time and distraction associated with students fetching items from school bags);
- 1.3 A space within the building where students can be seated to recap on what the students have observed during their visit should be considered;
- 1.4 Concern was raised about the long term durability of the geosynthetic liner to the wetlands. Clay was considered preferable;
- 1.5 The exit stairs need to be designed to be quiet;
- 1.6 The tree coverage between the existing nearby houses and the proposed carpark needs to be investigated.
- 1.7 Les Williams queried where visitors would be taken when they descend from the centre out into the wetlands area. Les advised that the eastern side of the wetlands provide good opportunities for visitors. A board walk/platform would be required in some areas. It was noted that the scope of the current project excludes walking trails however the location of the proposed board walk will be investigated by Minifie Nixon and the landscape architect, Oculus in order that it can be shown notionally on the plans.
- 1.8 A ceiling mounted projector would be useful for general use by presenters who wish to present information to the visiting students as part of the visit.

5. PROPOSED PROGRAM

5.1 Pippa Stockfeld presented the following timelines for the project:

Town Planning Application to be lodged: 27 July

Detailed design complete: 10 September
Town planning approval: November 2007
Documentation of the project to be completed by: November 2007
Project out to tender: November 2007
Award of building contract: December 2007
Construction to commence: March 2008
Construction to be completed: end of August 2008
Internal fitout to be completed: December 2008

5.2 Next Steps

- 1.1 It was confirmed that there is general support for the design concept for the ESWDC. Paul Minifie was complimented on the thoroughness of his presentation.
- 1.2 Melbourne Water is to now formally review the schematic design report and provide approval for the next phase of design works to commence.
- 1.3 The feedback received from the TRG as noted above in item 4.2 will be taken into consideration by the design team and any changes to the design noted and presented at the next TRG Meeting.
- 1.4 It was proposed that a follow up meeting regarding the constructed wetlands be held with Mike Walker given his background in horticulture and interest in the area.
- 1.5 It was also proposed that a follow up meeting with Julianne Vines be scheduled regarding the functionality of the design and interpretative content given her interest and experience as an educator.
- 1.6 A further meeting with the TRG as a whole is not required prior to submitting the town planning application.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next TRG Meeting will be scheduled to occur at the conclusion of the design development phase TBA