Minutes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title: | Koo Wee Rup Longwarry Flood Protection District Advisory Committee |
| Meeting date: | Thursday, 27 June 2019 |
| Meeting time: | 1.00pm -3.00pm |
| Location: | Melbourne Water offices, 334 Rossiter Road, Koo Wee Rup |
| Chairperson: | Bruce Turner |
| Attendees: | Bruce Turner, Robert Mure, Matthew Coleman, Con Raffa, Susan Anderson, Frank Rovers, Cr Ray Brown (CSC), Anna Zsoldos (MW), Tom Le Cerf (MW), Stuart Cochrane (MW), Cate Shaw (MW) Georgina Downey (MW) |
| Apologies: | Jo Fontana, Mark Howard (CSC), Ian Anderson, Evan Nisbett (BBSC), John Hobson |
| Note taker: | Georgina Downey |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Agenda item | 1. Welcome & apologies and items for General Business | Presenter | Bruce Turner |
|  | Bruce noted that this was the first meeting of the newly constituted Committee. One new member had been appointed – John Hobson, a landowner from Ballarto Road, Cardinia. Unfortunately, John was not able to attend the meeting due to prior arrangements. | | |
| Agenda item | 2. Actions from previous meetings | Presenter | Stuart Cochrane |
| Discussion | 12.1: Mark sought clarification prior to the meeting re what concerns are re Moody Street drain. Ray advised that the drainage is the issue and undertook to explain this to Mark between meetings. OPEN  13.2: Exceptions report for identifying hotspots – Tom said he had discussed the concept with Cardinia SC – Bunyip noted from community – New tools being developed to better assist with prioritising works, intention to role this out when available. OPEN  13.4: Contractors list – Stuart explained that WLO and CRO do not engage contractors to undertake works – this is handed over to delivery. MW has several panels for different types of work, but of little value to Committee to know who is on a panel. It was understood that the request came from concerns re losing that local knowledge and experience in managing drainage in the area. However, Stuart explained that there is also a recognition that things move on and MW do not believe that works will suffer due to engaging new contractors. CLOSED | | | |
|  | **New action 1.1:** letter of thanks to be sent to Bernie Dillon for his many years of service on the Committee and previous committees in the KWRLFPD. Invitation to Bus Tour to say farewell. OPEN | | | |
| Agenda item | 3. 3. Hydrology & Flood Warning presentation | Presenter | Paul Rasmussen | |
| Discussion | Matthew asked how trigger levels are set? - based on historic data and information  Frank asked if customers know that they are in a flood area and what levels. Paul said they should know. Frank pointed out that a flood warning for Cora Lynn means it is spilling, rather than flooding.  Matthew asked if monitoring information is available for the whole catchment. Paul said it will start in the urban areas but the idea is to eventually cover all catchments in MW’s area. Currently working with BoM to issue flood warnings etc. Working with Councils to get data out to their residents etc. | | |
|  | | | |
|  |  | | | |
| Agenda item | Action Plan update | Presenter | Tom Le Cerf | |
| Discussion See table below for record of update. | | | | |
|  | Additional notes:  Action 4: Susan reported that the South Gippsland Railway duplication project is keen to use a corner of one of her paddocks for a works site. She was concerned that it is now a sump and there’s a hole in the adjacent levee which means a flood could wash away equipment. It was agreed the assessment and management of this issue is the responsibility of the duplication project.  Matt asked how we can be sure the Seven Mile Road duplications won’t impact on drainage. Tom undertook to follow up. Frank noted other road improvements in the past had put the road a foot higher than surrounds, effectively creating a levee. Tom commented that VicRoads is conscious of and plans road levels carefully in relation to drainage impacts.  **New Action 1.2:** Tom to investigate whether or how drainage implications of Seven Mile Road duplication have been considered. | | | |
| Agenda item | Capital works & Maintenance | | | |
| Discussion | Stuart outlined plans for desilts - Soldiers Drain - October  16 Mile and 11 Mile Drain on list for desilt. Lots of fallen trees in waterways.  Weed control - Yallock, Deep Creek.  Robert asked if dead grass left in the drains caused problems downstream? Stuart said this should break up; fallen trees were more of a potential problem for drainage.  Capital works completed:  Cardinia Creek pipe at Ballarto Rd  Floodgate Inspections  King Parrott Creek rockwork - surplus rock from another job and did simultaneously creating efficiencies  Weed control on levee south of inlet with money from River Health program. Cardinia Creek Catch Drain to be assessed. Looking at formally reinstating access points. | | | |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Agenda item | Community Feedback | Presenter | ALL |
| Discussion | Ray asked who is responsible for a large cypress (80ft) on the edge of the South Boundary drain. He was concerned this tree might fall on his house. The response was that it depends on land ownership - MW owns the waterway; the bank could be Council/ VicTrack/ Crown land.  **New Action 1.3:**  MW to check the ownership of the land in question and the danger posed by the cypress tree, and involve Ray.  Ray reported locals asking him why they have to build to such a high level, clearly higher than existing houses in the surrounding area. Georgina explained the statutory planning requirements specified in the Special Building Overlay and Land Subject to Inundation areas. Frank commented that the levels changed in the 1980s.  Other matters discussed:  McNamara Road - tree down.  2019 Map - needs to be updated.  Capital Works & Maintenance Program update – circulate prior to meetings. | | |
| Agenda item | Bus Tour Planning | Presenter | ALL |
| Discussion | Date agreed on 15 August – meeting from 10am -11am – then tour until 3pm.  Bunyip Main Drain, Cora Lynn Ford and Ballarto Road were suggested as potential options for visiting | | |

**Meeting closed:** 2.50pm

**Next meeting**: Thursday 15 August 10.00am – 11.00am followed by Bus tour.

**Action Plan**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **#** | **Action Item** | | **Lead** | | | **Priority** | **Status** | | **Comments** | |
|
| **(1= 6 months, 2= 6 – 12 months , 3= 1 year +)** |
| **The area boundaries** | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Explore the opportunity to review (external provider) the KWR district boundary to ensure catchment and hydrology are equitable and climate change are taken into consideration. | | Sarah | | | 1 | Currently with pricing submission team at MW. Consultation to commence shortly | | Matt indicated he was happy to be an advocate to this revision | |
|
| **Flood protection / improved flows** | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Investigate the potential removal of pylons under the historic railway bridge crossing at Bunyip River to assist in flood conveyance | | TL | | | 1 | Feedback from Council heritage constraints on Bunyip River Bridge sought. | | Survey booked in as first step to understanding risk to flooding | |
| Looking to initiate investigation into risk of blockage, funding will be required. McDonalds Drain also to be considered | |
| 3 | Improve management of Bunyip Main Drain | | TL | | | 2 | New PM's to be set up for grooming of Melaleuca.  Additional works planned for levees. Investigation underway for how to improve the environmental management of the area. | | Ongoing improvements | |
| 4 | Are we getting development right? | |  | | | 2 | Key developments to be discussed as a part of this action item:  South Gippsland Railway Duplication Meeting attended Aurecon/Jacobs/McDonald together working on project. Many EPBC concerns with rail alignment - bandicoot, Grayling, Strzelecki Gum etc - concept design - then onto detailed design. MW confident that they will satisfy Commonwealth and State Depts and will take on comments from Project Group. Not anticipating objection. Further engagement needed during construction phase. | | | |
| 5 | Strategic land use planning – (Use of roads as drains is inappropriate in flood prone townships) | | TL | | | 2 | We need further information to improve understanding locally. Information to be shared with flood committee. | | KWR development guidelines to be completed will be forwarded once complete. | |
| 6 | Increase the coverage in monitoring flood protection | | TL | | | 2 | Hydro graphics team to presented in July key questions answered. | | Closed | |
| **Efficiencies** | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Provide greater clarity around ownership of drainage maintenance responsibilities between council, MW and private properties | | TL | | | 3 | One pager to be developed. Key information within customer charter. | | Cardinia Shire Weed Strategy also referenced as a key document. | |
| 8 | Explore the potential to improve work efficiency and work practices (i.e. spreading of silt), include efficiency reporting as a part of this | |  | | | 1 | Doing trial around works methods in Lower Bunyip to look at removing woody vegetation from within waterways. Packaging of desilt works Consider multiple machine desilts? One to dig and one to spread. | | **Ongoing part of practices.** | |
| **Communications and Technology** | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | Continue the annual committee bus tour of the KWR district | |  | | | 1 | Complete | |  | |
| 10 | Melbourne Water to improve knowledge sharing to the Advisory committee through guest speakers, subject matter experts on key topics with further input from Council. | |  | | | 1 | Complete | |  | |
| 11 | Reduce the use of paper based newsletters and communicate through other effective approaches (i.e. use of MW KWR committee webpage or email based) | | Georgina | | | 2 | Complete | |  | |
| 12 | Coordinate with the MW customer call centre to actively ensure that issues/concerns are managed appropriately – tracking and escalation process | | Sarah | | | 1 | Complete | |  | |
| 12 | Technologies to improve Advisory Committee communication in between meetings – e.g. access to website/portal that everyone can access | |  | | | 3 | Complete | |  | |
|
| **Habitat/environmental management** | | | | | | | | | | |
| 19 | Investigate blackberries/ weeds in areas across the flood district | | TL | | | 1 | Yallock No. 4 Drain to begin as pilot area.  Vegetation studies/management plans underway at Lower Bunyip and Yallock Outfall available shortly | |  | |
| 13 | Investigate the opportunity to create a corridor for nature and public use along Yallock outfall (eg bike path network) | | Council | | | 3 | Complete | | Not considered viable by Council | |
| 14 | Engage an ecologist/ specialist to provide advice on the management of blackberry (staged approach) to reduce the impact on Southern Brown Bandicoot (SBB) habitat and provide a monitoring program | | Stu | | | 1 | Complete | |  | |
| 15 | Monitor the effectiveness of the fox and cat control program through a program of works | | Stu | | | 2 | Complete | |  | |
| 16 | Improve management of litter within drains | | TL | | | 1 | Current policy is to only remove blockages, hesitant to divert resources away from primary purpose of drainage levee. Acknowledgement of larger issue. | | | |
| **Collaboration** | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17 | Ensure effective coordination of programs across organisations | | TL | | | 2 | Relationship between councils being strengthened. Recent collaboration around councils biolinks and weed management plan. | | Need for ongoing communication identified due to officer change over. | |
| 18 | Explore opportunities to work together with councils on drainage infrastructure projects | | Sarah | | | 2 | Living Rivers existing projects | | Complete | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | | Closed | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | | Underway | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | | Not progressing | |