
Minutes of the 18th meeting of the
Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee
Thursday 21st November 2013
Brooklyn Community Centre
2-4 Dangar Rd, Brooklyn

| Title | Family Name | Given Name | Representation | Present | Apologies | Absent | Alternate Rep. |
|-----------|---------------------|------------|---|---------|-----------|--------|----------------|
| Mr | ANDREWS | John | Mooney-Cheero Progress Association | X | | | |
| Cr | ANISSE | Antony | Councillor – Hornsby Shire Council | X | | | |
| Mr | ARNOLD | Robert | Community Representative | | X | | |
| Mr | BROWN | Warren | Gosford City Council | | X | | |
| Mr | BURNS | David | Community Representative | X | | | |
| Ms | BURTON | Tegan | Government | | X | | Vera Donovan |
| Mr | DUNLAVIE | Graeme | NSW RMS | X | | | |
| Mr | FENWICK | Andrew | Fenwicks Marina | X | | | |
| Mr | FISH | Mike | Community Representative | X | | | |
| Ms | FRATER | Ray | NSW Bridge to Bridge Committee | X | | | |
| Mr | GREEN | Marcel | Industry & Investment, Primary Industries Fishing & Aquaculture | | X | | |
| Ms | HOWARD | Mary | Community Representative | | | X | |
| Mr | KARCZ | Bronek | Community Representative | X | | | |
| Dr | LEONG | Lim | Community Representative | X | | X | |
| Mr | MACDONALD | Tim | Gosford City Council | X | | | |
| Ms | MARVELL | Cheryl | Sydney Water Corporation | | X | | |
| Ms | MCMURDO | Wendy | Community Representative | | X | | |
| Mr | MILES | David | Boat Owners Association | X | | | |
| Ms | MOOY | Rebecca | Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority | | X | | |
| Cllr | MORRIS | Hilary | | | X | | |
| Mr | MOXHAM | Rob | Commercial Representative | | X | | |
| Mr | PELOSI | Gus | Office of Environment & Heritage | | X | | |
| Mr | PHILIPP | Hjalmar | Community Representative | X | | | |
| Mr | PIGNEYGUY | Justin | Hawkesbury Cruises | X | | | |
| Emer Prof | RECHER | Harry | Community Representative | X | | | |
| Mr | REES | Stan | Land and Property Management Authority | X | | | |
| Mr | ROWE | Simon | Oceanwatch Australia | | X | | |
| Dr | RUBIO | Ana | Hornsby Shire Council | X | | | |
| Ms | SEGOVIA | Ingrid | Community Representative | | X | | |
| Ms | SHORTER | Cybele | Community Representative | X | | | |
| Cllr | STRICKSON | Jeff | Councillor - Gosford City Council | X | | | |
| Mr | TAYLOR | Chris | Roilat | X | | | |
| Cllr | TILBURY | Nathan | Councillor – Hornsby Shire Council | | X | | |
| Mr | VAN ZELEWSKI | Axel | Community Representative | X | | | |

1. WELCOME

Meeting opened at 6:14pm. Peter Coad explained that Cllr Anissee was running late and that he would Chair until Cllr Anissee arrived. Peter Coad welcomed the new Committee and thanked everyone for applying – old and new members. Peter introduced the guests:

- Dr Stuart Taylor – Geochemical Assessments
- Daniel Um – Advanced Analytical

Peter introduced the Hornsby Shire Council representatives (Kaylene Spencer and Ana Rubio) and then asked everyone to introduce themselves and say what interest they have in the program:

Ray Frater: Bridge to Bridge representative

Stan Rees: Crown Lands – interested in matters that may have an affect on Crown Lands

Chris Taylor: Council's Catchment Management Committee – has an interest in the future of the area

Bronek Karcz: Resident and member of the Dangar Island League. Interested in the preservation of Peat Island

Mike Fish: Mooney Mooney resident – Keeping the water pristine and keeping development down.

Vera Donovan: NPSW – care and management of National Parks (beach and bushland)

Graeme Dunlavy: RMS/Maritime Division – Managing waterways and keeping the area safe

Justin Pigneguy: Charterboat business – Eco based tours showcasing the waterways

Andrew Fenwick: Local resident and Marina operator – involved on a number of boating committees

John Andrews: Mooney Mooney resident – interested in river health and Peat Island development

Axel van Zelewski: Local resident – Vegetation mapping and water issues

Cllr Anissee: Councillor HSC – Identifying key issues and work actively

Cllr Strickson: Representing community who raise concerns especially regarding Peat Island

David Burns: Local community member and marine rescue member – as a recreational user of the river, keen to encourage sustainability

Tim Macdonald: GCC – interesting in strategic planning of the coastal zone and betterment of the environment

Hjalmar Philipp: Community member and interest in estuary issues

Cybele Shorter: Dangar Island resident – studying Environmental Science and Management at UTS and is interested in estuary issues.

Harry Recher: Local resident since 1969 / Environmental Biologist and Research – strong interest in the management and cleanliness of the area

2. **APOLOGIES:** Robert Arnold, Warren Brown, Tegan Burton, Marcel Green, Cheryl Marvell, Wendy McMurdo, Rebecca Mooy, Hillary Morris, Rob Moxham, Gus Pelosi, Simon Rowe, Ingrid Segovia, Cllr Nathan Tilbury.

3. **PRESENTATION** – Dr Stuart Taylor – Geochemical Assessments – Environmental Status of Sediments within the Lower Hawkesbury

Dr Stuart Taylor was engaged by Hornsby Shire Council to undertake a study following on from a study completed 6 years ago.

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- Objectives: Contaminant testing was completed in 60 locations
 - Assessment: small scale spatial variability
distribution of contaminants
quality of sediments
comparison to 2007 results
source of contaminants
 - Methods: sediment sampling completed in May & June 2013
whole sediment samples were taken and analysed
full suite and reduced suite of (over 300) analytes
no water sampling was completed
mud holds more contaminants than sand
 - Results: sediment grain size varied
very low variability in the study of contaminants (precise data)
mapped distribution (copper/zinc/TPH/TKN/TBT etc)
contaminants were higher around Berowra Waters area
the estuary is cleaner than most around Australia
 - Quality: ANZECC(2000) & ISQGL values
Guidelines are based on whole sediment samples not just the
proportion of the sediment with fines
high quality sediments in the Berowra catchment
some small localised areas exceeded previous data – Arsenic / silver /
DDT (this does not necessarily mean there are any impacts – but
further testing/follow up may be required)
Deep sites tend to be muddy
Shallow sites tend to be sandier
 - Temporal Changes: changes in Zinc/Lead represents a change in concentration in
comparison to testing 6 years ago
changes in concentration relates to changes in grain size, which has
changed over the period. Some locations are much sandier, resulting in
reduced contamination
significant temporal changes have occurred at Nth Gunyah Point –
increase in trace metals in 2013 / Sandbrook Inlet – decrease in trace
metals in 2013 / Mullet Creek marked decrease in trace metals in 2013
 - Possible sources: stormwater and urban runoff
discharges – commercial or rural activities
leachate from previous commercial sites
sewage overflow
atmosphere
recreational / commercial use
 - Recommendations: assess sites of concern – additional testing
assess size normalised concentrations
future investigations – concentrate on historical and contemporary
fluxes

Axel **van Zelewski** asked about concentrations in seaweeds – Dr Taylor advised these were not tested.

David **Miles** asked about stormwater outlets being potential sources – Dr Taylor advised that these are easy to trace back but sediment coring is required to answer this question

Peter **Coad** – these results are a credit to current Marinas’ management protocols and waterways users.

Daniel **UM** – This is the first time that a commercial laboratory has worked so closely with Councils and he hopes that other Councils are encouraged to do the same.

Cllr Anissee thanked Dr Taylor for the presentation.

4. THE LOWER HAWKESBURY ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Peter **Coad** provided a brief presentation on the program to the new members.

- Berowra Estuary Management Plan was completed in 1999
- Brooklyn Estuary Management Plan was completed in 2002-2006
- The Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Plan was adopted in 2009 – a partnership between Gosford City Council and Hornsby Shire Council
- The purpose of the committee is to oversee and implement strategies and actions within the plan. The committee can make recommendations to Council but can’t make decisions on behalf of Council.
- Meetings are held quarterly at Brooklyn, Peter is open to suggestions re topics/timings/tours and encourages individual meetings – please contact him in need.
- Program requirements: Funding / community support / political support / partnerships / staff
- Program deliverables: Capital works / compliance / education / planning / research.
- Projects (examples): Derelict boat removal at Sandbrook Inlet / foreshore cleanups / Parsley Bay sea wall and rain gardens / foreshore remediation / Crosslands Reserve / Seagrass marker buoys / education / research

5. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Peter **Coad** explained what Pecuniary Interests are - No pecuniary interests declared.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING AND CORRESPONDENCE

Matters arising from previous meeting, 22 August 2013:

ACTION 201306: Peter **Coad** called for **Committee members** to send him any suggestions on how to engage the community in using the website data – eg putting signs up / advertising it in industry newsletters? **Ongoing:** Members are encouraged to provide suggestions on how to engage the community in using the water quality data / swimming conditions map.

ACTION 201309: Peter **Coad** to consider installing a log book and sign asking users to note their details at the Kangaroo Point Pumpout facility. **Complete:** Decision made not to proceed as this cannot be supported with required resources and issues of data quality limiting its usefulness.

ACTION 201310: Warren Brown to let Peter **Coad** know the details of the next planting day at Richard Woodbury Reserve. Peter to pass this on via email to the group. **Complete:** Warren will enact the action when the next planting day is organised.

ACTION 201311: Peter **Coad** to email the link to the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority DVDs to the committee. **Postponed:** Unable to find the relevant link.

ACTION 201312: Members to be notified of membership by the Mayor. **Complete:** Members were notified by letter 2/9/2013 (HSC ref#D02439325)

ACTION 201313: Mary **Howard** to forward information from the NSW Water Services about environmental flows from Warragamba dam if required, to Peter **Coad**. **Completed:** NSW Water Services has been contacted – Environment Flows Options presentation was given to Council 23/10/2013.

David **Miles** referred to Harry **Recher's** minuted comments made at the last meeting re Dangar Island jetty. Peter **Coad** clarified that Harry brought this matter to the committee for information. Harry **Recher** responded by saying that the potential impacts need to be considered in the development process and clarified that there may be a risk of changes to water flow and sedimentation.

Correspondence:

- Letter from Dangar Island resident re education on Migratory Birds on Dangar Island. Discussion moved to General Business.

7. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee meeting, Thursday 22nd August 2013 were accepted.

MOTION 201314: That the minutes of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee meeting Thursday 22nd August 2013, should be accepted. Moved by David **Miles**, seconded by Harry **Recher**. Carried unanimously.

8. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE LOWER HAWKESBURY ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Ana Rubio – Hornsby Shire Council

Probe update

- Technical issues have been experienced recently
- Turbidity and chlorophyll at Gunyah Point was high during the period 19-31 October
- Mullet Creek probe was deployed one month ago – but the probe battery failed during the period 17-19 November so there is a gap in the data

POMS

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- Ana has been working with local oyster farmers and Sydney University on the POMS issue. POMS was detected in Mooney Mooney and Mullet Creek in January 2013, Porto Bay in February 2013 and Coba Bay in November 2013. Farmers are waiting for environmental conditions to see what changes come.

Water Quality

- Hawkesbury clean up – Summary of clean up sites – 2.2 tonnes of rubbish has been removed since August 2013. Thanks to Graham Johnston, Rob Moxham and the volunteers.
- Probe conditions after rain showed the water quality was stable till last week.
- Swimming Maps – A promotional video is on the HSC YouTube channel

Kangaroo Point Pumpout facility

- 156,132 litres this year / 914,657 litres since 2008. The facility was unavailable for a week recently due to maintenance.

Grants

- Seagrass Grant \$28k in total. This will be used to deploy lost, refurbish existing and purchase new buoys.
- Erosion Assessment of Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Shoreline Grant \$50k – for the Wisemans to Spencer area.

Estuary Regeneration sites

- Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn, Bar Island, Kangaroo Point, McKell Park, Berowra Waters Ferry.

Events

- Planting with kids from Brooklyn Public School, Bar Island Floating Landcare trip on 28 November 2013, Bushland team repaired damage to the boardwalk at Brooklyn Park, attended the Bushland Shire Festival at Fagan Park and the Brooklyn Spring Fair.

Tim Macdonald – Gosford City Council

Deerubbin Reserve

- Warren presented the design at the last meeting but there are a few changes to be made after the public exhibition. There will now only be 24 single carparks, and more trailer parks. Work is expected to start after Christmas.

Floating Landcare

- The first trip to Bar Island was successful and there is another coming up this week.
- Tim pointed out that Rebecca Mooy will now be representing Local Land Services following a change of name. Tim also mentioned the previous CMA funding continuing.

Estuary Clean Up

- McMasters Beach Surf Life Saving club has been doing work around Brisbane Waters. They recently received a Community Involvement award at the NSW Coastal Conference.
- Four beaches will be involved in the revisit of the Coastal Management Plan – details to be made public in coming months. 108 houses are at risk from coastal erosion.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

A) Correspondence from Dangar Island resident – Peter Coad

- There was a previous suggestion to develop a Migratory Bird flyer. Peter advised that the text and paintings have been proposed and the draft will be put to the committee for comment. Bronck suggested that the Dangar Island League would assist with Website / Mullet Mail / leaflet drop. Peter will respond to the letter.

ACTION 201315: Peter Coad to respond to the letter from Dangar Island resident re education about Migratory Birds.

- Peter advised they are working on a sign for Bradleys Beach – Dangar Island residents will need to be involved.
- Stan Rees asked about the Wildlife Refuge proposal – Peter Coad is working with Dangar Island residents on this matter.

B) Open Day on Dangar Island – Cybele Shorter

- Cybele advised that Dangar Island hold an open day on Australia Day – this would be a good channel to distribute the brochure. The Bowling Club social media could be another channel.

C) Commercial Fisheries – Mary Howard

- In Mary's absence, Peter Coad advised the group about the Warragamba Dam Environmental Flows flyer being available. Peter will send the web link to the group.

ACTION 201316: Peter Coad to email the web link to the Warragamba Dam Environmental Flows flyer to the group.

D) Other Matters – Peter Coad

- The Mayors Christmas Reception is coming up soon, Committee members are invited to join
- Office of Environment and Heritage – (Gus Pelosi) – apologised for not being able to attend and asked Peter to advise the group that the Hawkesbury Nepean Valley Flood Management Review is currently before Cabinet. There are a number of recommendations in it.

E) Future Meetings

Proposed dates for 2014 will be advised.

8. CLOSE

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:32pm