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Minutes of the 11th meeting of the  
**Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee**  
Thursday 22nd March, 2012  
Brooklyn Community Centre  
2-4 Dangar Rd, Brooklyn

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<b>Title</b>	<b>Family Name</b>	<b>Given Name</b>	<b>Representatio n</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Alternate Rep.</b>
Mr	<b>ANDREWS</b>	John	Mooney-Cheero Progress Association	X			
Mr	<b>BERGMAN</b>	Peter	Office of Environment & Heritage, NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service			X	
Mr	<b>BLACK</b>	Steve	NSW Transport Roads and Maritime Services		X		Darryl Lennox
Prof.	<b>BOOTH</b>	David	University of Technology Sydney & Sydney Institute of Marine Sciences		X		
Mr	<b>BROWN</b>	Warren	Gosford City Council	X			
Mr	<b>GREEN</b>	Marcel	Industry & Investment, Primary Industries Fishing & Aquaculture		X		
Ms	<b>COLLINS</b>	Emma	Community Representative			X	
Ms	<b>MARVELL</b>	Cheryl	Sydney Water Corporation			X	
Mr	<b>FENWICK</b>	Andrew	Fenwicks Marina	X			
Ms	<b>FIELD</b>	Melanie	NSW Food Authority		X		
Mr	<b>FISH</b>	Mike	Community Representative	X			
Ms	<b>FRATER</b>	Melissa	NSW Bridge to Bridge Committee		X		
Cllr	<b>FREEWATER</b>	Peter	Gosford City Council			X	
Ms	<b>HOWARD</b>	Mary	Community Representative	X			
Hon	<b>LLOYD</b>	Jim	Mooney-Cheero Progress Association		X		
Mr	<b>MACDONALD</b>	Tim	Gosford City Council		X		
Cllr	<b>MCMURDO</b>	Wendy	Hornsby Shire Council	X			
Mr	<b>MICHOS</b>	Arthur	Office of Environment & Heritage		X		
Mr	<b>MILES</b>	David	Boat Owners Association			X	
Ms	<b>MOOY</b>	Rebecca	Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority		X		
Mr	<b>NORINGTON</b>	Rolf	Hawkesbury River District Fishermans Co-operative	Observer – not attending			
Mr	<b>PIGNEYGUY</b>	Justin	Hawkesbury Cruises		X		
Emer. Prof.	<b>RECHER</b>	Harry	Community Representative	X			
Mr	<b>REES</b>	Stan	Land and Property Management Authority		X		
Mr	<b>ROWE</b>	Simon	Oceanwatch Australia	X			Andy Meyers
Ms	<b>RUBIO-ZUAZO</b>	Ana	Community Representative	X			
Cllr	<b>RUSSELL</b>	Steve	Hornsby Shire Council		X		
Ms	<b>SEGOVIA</b>	Ingrid	Community Representative	X			
Mr	<b>STUBBS</b>	John	Broken Bay Oysters Association	X			
Mr	<b>VON ZELEWSKI</b>	Axel	Community Representative	X			

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## 1. WELCOME

Cllr **McMurdo** welcomed Dr Melanie Bishop, Macquarie University.

## 2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from: David Booth, Marcel Green, Melanie Field, Melissa Frater, Jim Lloyd, Tim Macdonald, Arthur Michos, Rebecca Mooy, Justin Pigneguy, Stan Rees and Steve Russell.

## 3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

No pecuniary interests declared.

## 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING AND CORRESPONDENCE

### Correspondence:

Sydney Water Corporation notification of withdrawal of application to increase the nutrient levels discharged from the BWWTP (TRIM Ref D01852776).

### Matter arising from previous meeting, 24th November 2011:

**ACTION 201113:** That the minutes of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee meeting Thursday 22nd September 2011, should be accepted. **Complete**

**ACTION 201114:** Harry **Recher** to communicate the importance of the rocky spit at the easterly end of Mullet Beach, Dangar Island as a feeding and loafing area for waterbirds, including threatened migratory waders, to the Dangar Island League with the objective of obtaining community support regarding the erection of signage explaining the use of the spit by waterbirds and waders and requesting people avoid the area when birds are present. Harry **Recher** to report back to the committee at its first meeting in 2012.

**Ongoing** - Harry **Recher** to forward information to Peter **Coad** regarding a local bird information day coming up on Dangar Island.

## 5. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee meeting, Thursday 24th November, 2011 were accepted.

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**MOTION 201201:** That the minutes of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee meeting Thursday 24th November 2011, should be accepted. Moved by Mike **Fish** seconded by Ingrid **Segovia**. Carried unanimously.

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## 6. PRESENTATION

**Dr Melanie Bishop** - Ecological impacts of QX oyster disease and its strategies of management.

– Summary of findings of research by PhD candidate Emma Wilkie

1. In the Hawkesbury, low QX-mortality of wild Sydney rock oyster, and Pacific oyster abundances remain low
2. In an estuary where reproductive Pacific oysters have been farmed for many years, no evidence of increase in feral Pacifics

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3. Sydney rock and Pacific oysters appear to play a very similar ecological role in SE Australian estuaries
    - Discussion held regarding:
      - Research methodology and site selection
      - The use of past data from Port Stephens
      - QX prevalence in wild stock compared to farmed stock
      - Differences in tolerance to environmental stressors between Sydney rock and Pacific oysters
      - Future of farming QX resistant Sydney rock oysters
    - Copies of the presentation slides are available upon request from Peter Coad

## 7. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE LOWER HAWKESBURY ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

### Peter Coad – Hornsby Shire Council

#### Courangra Point probe redeployed

- Deployed Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March
- Notice put at Spencer local shop outlining the purpose of the buoys
- Not deployed in time to monitor the first Warragamba dam release

#### Probe data

- Freshwater from the Warragamba dam release was evident at the Gonyah Point probe within a day of the dam opening.
- Committee observation during the flood period:
  - Wendy **McMurdo** - obvious changes in water from heavy tannin stain to milky coffee colour.
  - Harry **Recher** - the water colour indicates the rubbish coming from upstream.
  - John **Stubbs** - All Broken Bay Oysters stock had been moved from Kimmerikong, Coba and Marramarra down to Porto and Mullet. No stock has been sold from the upper river since November 2011.
  - Harry **Recher** - give consideration to these weather patterns not being isolated incidents.
  - Mary **Howard** - trawlers that have been working for over 10 years know to wait out a high rainfall event. Trawlers can predict severe rain events as prawns disappear and this also indicates when the dams discharge. Large prawns leave the estuary and small prawns dig in to the sediments. There has been evidence of red spot on bream at the mouth of Berowra. In the 2007 flood events there were large quantities of bream with red spot. Bass are being found as low down the river as Laughtondale. Prior to the 2007 fresh over 15 trawlers were working above Windsor, some are now working down towards Berowra.
  - Darryl **Lennox** - Maritime is dealing with incidents right up to Yarramundi, with water still flowing at approximately 15 knots. The Nepean is around a meter higher than usual.
  - Harry **Recher** - wood and large logs are an important habitat component of the Hawkesbury and should possibly be left for natural processes.

#### OEH Grants submitted

- Kangaroo Point seawall and foreshore rehabilitation (\$80 000)

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- Kangaroo Point to Seymours Creek boardwalk (\$262 120)
  - Environmental status of sediments in the Hawkesbury estuary (\$70 000)
  - Real time estuarine health monitoring in the Hawkesbury (\$55 000)

#### Crossland Fish Walk

- Part of Council's Guided Bushwalks Program
- 15 participants
- Other walks include bird watching and photography around the estuary

#### Tim Silverwood – Take 3

- Take 3 is a clean beach initiative with the message: take 3 pieces of rubbish when you leave the beach, waterway or... anywhere.
- Held 12<sup>th</sup> January 2012 at Hornsby Library
- Approximately 45 participants
- Estuary and catchment remediation information was available

#### Floating Landcare, Bar Island

- Held 17<sup>th</sup> January 2012
- Supported by the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority
- Approximately 20 participants

#### Clean Up Australia Day

- Held 4<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at Parsley Bay
- Approximately 20 participants
- Great help from Asquith Boys High School Senior Prefects

#### Surf Lifesaving Clean-up

- 14 clean up days from Dec 2011
- Volunteers from:
  - Brisbane Water Secondary College 'Special Ed Unit' and 'The Croft'
  - Macmasters Beach Surf Life Saving Club
  - Terrigal High School Gold Duke of Ed
  - Rowland Hassall Special Needs School
  - Central Coast Surf Life Saving
- Support received from:
  - Hornsby Shire Council
  - Gosford City Council
  - Hawkesbury Nepean CMA
  - National Parks
  - Broken Bay & Brisbane Waters oyster farmers
  - Department of Sport and Recreation
- Locations visited include:
  - Patonga
  - Brisbane Waters
  - Parsley Bay, Dead Horse Bay, Sandy Bay, Gonyah Beach, Eleanor Beach, Spring Beach
  - Little Wobby
  - Cowan Creek

#### One World Multicultural Festival

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- Held 18<sup>th</sup> March 2012
  - Brochures promoting stormwater pollution awareness
  - Estuary pencils distributed to promote the estuary website and activities

#### Real time temperature, salinity and swimming mapping

- Interactive site operational
- Explanatory text being written
- Access to data from probes, rainfall and tide gauge

#### Climate Change Impacts on Estuarine Habitats

- Four different habitats assessed – seagrass, mangrove, saltmarsh and floodplain forest
- 2030 and 2050 scenarios considered
- Greatest change in inundation, depth, temperature and salinity at Brooklyn Oval, Cowan Creek, Pumpkin Creek, Propran Creek, Gentlemans Halt, Crosslands, Calna and Mullet Creek
- Each habitat had differing levels of risk being based on their exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity
- Recommendations:
  - more surface elevation data required
  - feasibility study for expansion of mangrove and saltmarsh habitats at sites for example One Tree Reach and Courangra
  - detailed study on seagrasses and the effects of current human stressors, particularly at Dangar Island

#### Kangaroo Point Pumpout Facility

- 606 263L pumped out since 2008
- 54 720L pumped out for this year
- Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 10am – 2pm fault with communications. Unable to acknowledge low flow alert (1 day outage)
- 5<sup>th</sup> January – hose broken under ramp (no outage)
- 30<sup>th</sup> January – reduced suction from water in pump (2 days outage)

#### Oyster Lease Clean-up

- 3 leases around Bar Island complete

#### Estuarine and migratory bird survey

- Field surveys to be undertaken by Peter and Judy Smith
- Includes low lying areas and more habitat mapping
- Will be going to mostly new sites

#### World Migratory Bird Day

- May 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> 2012
- 2012 theme is *Migratory Birds and People – Together Through Time*
- Potentially a walk and talk with representatives from the local Aboriginal community

#### **Warren Brown – Gosford City Council**

- A review of wetland management is being undertaken by Gosford Council
- The 1990 Wetland Management Plan is being reviewed and extended from just Brisbane Water to include whole local government area

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- All land tenures are to be included in the review
  - Wetlands are to be grouped by type
  - There is a significant amount of wetland under private ownership which poses management issues

**Rebecca Mooy – Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority**

Please see attached *March 2012 Meeting Update* for HNCMA progress report.

## **8. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **A. Brooklyn Dangar Island Waste Water Treatment Plant**

- Thank you letters to parties that contributed to the withdrawal of the proposal
- Harry **Recher** suggested that Sydney Water consultants be requested to present their research and results to the committee.

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**Motion 201202:** That the Team Leader – Estuary Management request Sydney Water present to the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee the results from the dye testing and the implications for plant design and performance. Moved by Harry **Recher**, seconded by Mike **Fish**. Carried unanimously.

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### **B. Water Keeper**

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**Action 201203:** That the Team Leader – Estuary Management request the Water Keeper present to the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee.

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### **C. Bar Island talk to year 6 students from Brooklyn Public School – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April**

- Currently looking for presenters to attend the day
- Committee members invited to attend and participate with the students

### **D. Continuation of the estuary program**

- Council's external services review is being finalised on March 29<sup>th</sup>
- The future of the program will be decided following the outcomes of the review

### **E. Other business**

Water quality monitoring for public health. Mike Fish asked if there is any monitoring of water quality around boat ramps and other recreational sites following the recent floods. Discussion was held regarding the difficulties in administering this.

Derelict Boats. Wendy **McMurdo** asked if any action had been taken in relation to two derelict boats in Brooklyn Harbour. Darryl **Lennox** noted that if a vessel is on a commercial mooring there is a commercial issue between the marina and the owner. Maritime will not remove a secured vessel if it is not a navigational or pollution hazard. Maritime is in negotiation with the marina operators and there is action being taken to manage the vessels.

Aboriginal carvings in Marramarra National Park. Mary **Howard** asked if there is any action being taken to preserve these carvings. National Parks manage indigenous artwork.

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Peter **Coad** to liaise with National Parks regarding the management of local Aboriginal artwork sites.

**ACTION 201204:** The Team Leader Estuary Management to request information from National Parks regarding the management of local Aboriginal artwork.

**F. Future Meetings**

The next meeting of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee will be held 6pm, Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2012, at the Brooklyn Community Centre.

Mike **Fish** - apologies for the next meeting, 24<sup>th</sup> May 2012.

**9. CLOSE**

Meeting closed at 8:30 pm