
Minutes of the 8th meeting of the
Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee
Thursday 19th May, 2011
Brooklyn Community Centre
2-4 Dangar Rd, Brooklyn

Title	Family Name	Given Name	Representatio n	Present	Apologies	Absent	Alternate Rep.
Mr	ANDREWS	John	Mooney-Cheero Progress Association	X			
Mr	BERGMAN	Peter	Office of Environment & Heritage, NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service			X	
Mr	BLACK	Steve	NSW Maritime Authority	X			
Prof.	BOOTH	David	University of Technology Sydney & Sydney Institute of Marine Sciences		X		
Mr	BROWN	Warren	Gosford City Council		X		
Mr	GREEN	Marcel	Industry & Investment, Primary Industries Fishing & Aquaculture		X		
Ms	COLLINS	Emma	Community Representative		X		
Ms	MARVELL	Cheryl	Sydney Water Corporation		X		
Mr	FENWICK	Andrew	Fenwicks Marina		X		
Ms	FIELD	Melanie	NSW Food Authority		X		
Mr	FISH	Mike	Community Representative	X			
Ms	FRATER	Melissa	NSW Bridge to Bridge Committee		X		Ray Frater
Cllr	FREEWATER	Peter	Gosford City Council		X		
Ms	HOWARD	Mary	Community Representative	X			
Cllr	LATELLA	Terri	Gosford City Council			X	
Hon	LLOYD	Jim	Mooney-Cheero Progress Association	X			
Mr	MACDONALD	Tim	Gosford City Council	X			
Cllr	MCMURDO	Wendy	Hornsby Shire Council	X			
Mr	MICHOS	Arthur	Office of Environment & Heritage			X	
Mr	MILES	David	Boat Owners Association	X			
Ms	MOOY	Rebecca	Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority		X		Bill Dixon
Mr	NORINGTON	Rolf	Hawkesbury River District Fishermans Co-operative	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		
Ms	RUBIO-ZUAZO	Ana	Community Representative	X			
Cllr	RUSSELL	Steve	Hornsby Shire Council		X		
Ms	SEGOVIA	Ingrid	Community Representative		X		
Mr	STUBBS	John	Broken Bay Oysters Association	X			
Mr	VON ZELEWSKI	Axel	Community Representative	X			

1. WELCOME

Cllr **McMurdo** welcomed Bill **Dixon** of the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority and Ray **Frater**, Start Coordinator for the annual Bridge to Bridge Water Ski Classic.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from:

David Booth, Warren Brown, Marcel Green, Emma Collins, Cheryl Marvell, Andrew Fenwick, Melanie Field, Melissa Frater, Peter Freewater, Rebecca Mooy, Harry Recher, Simon Rowe, Steve Russell, Ingrid Segovia.

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

No pecuniary interests declared.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING AND CORRESPONDENCE

Action 201101: That the minutes of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee meeting, Thursday 25th November 2010, should be accepted. Complete.

Correspondence

Notification received from Simon **Rowe**, OceanWatch, that a volunteer has been identified to work with Mary Howard on her educational game plan. Mary **Howard** noted that an application had been submitted to the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, Environmental Trust Grant Program, to fund the project.

5. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee meeting, Thursday 31st March, 2011 were accepted.

MOTION 201102: That the minutes of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee meeting Thursday 31st March 2011, should be accepted. Moved by Jim **Lloyd** seconded by David **Miles**. Carried unanimously.

6. PRESENTATION

Mr Bill **Dixon**, Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority (HNCMA).
Future directions for the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority

Revision of the HNCMA Catchment Action Plan

- The Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Action Plan (CAP) is due for review.
- The CAP is a 10 year plan that requires a review each 5 years.
- The review will start in January 2012 and should be complete by December 2012.
- HNCMA has advertised for nominations from community members to participate in Community Reference Groups to assist in the review of the CAP.
- Members can access information regarding Community Reference Group via the HNCMA website <http://www.hn.cma.nsw.gov.au/>.
- Applications close in June 2011.

HNCMA Partnerships with Office of the Hawkesbury Nepean (OHN).

The Office of the Hawkesbury Nepean River Recovery Project received substantial funding from the Commonwealth, approximately \$77 million. Some of the funding has been used for infrastructure upgrades. The HNCMA has been working with OHN and primary producers to reduce nutrient loads entering the waterway. This project is due to finish in September but may take slightly longer to finalise.

Aquatic Weeds

OHN is the agency that is legislatively required to manage aquatic weeds. OHN and HNCMA have been working with Hawkesbury City Council to address weed issues in the upper Hawkesbury Nepean River. Funding for weed management is now distributed by regional committees.

Diversifying Funding Sources

There has been a general decline in funding for environmental projects at the local level. Commonwealth funding is prioritised on a national basis which makes it difficult to match with local priorities. HNCMA are continuously applying for grant funding but are now looking at the corporate sector for funding. HNCMA has developed a prospectus to encourage additional investment from the corporate sector. For a copy of the prospectus or additional information contact Bill Dixon, Partnerships Coordinator, bill.dixon@cma.nsw.gov.au.

Coastal communities and coast care recognised by caring for country funding, 5 coastal CMA's have bid for coastal funding which covers the entire coast line of NSW so there is potential funding for new projects and stage 2 funding for current projects.

River Keeper Position

The commonwealth funding received by OHN is not available to support a River Keeper position. There has been interest from the University of Western Sydney to develop this position. There is no longer a River Keeper position on the Georges River.

ACTION 201103: Mary **Howard** to provide the committee with an update regarding the University of Western Sydney proposal to establish a River Keeper position on the Hawkesbury River.

General discussion regarding the role of the CMA in local issues such as dredging, monitoring development, the sale of land by the state government, weed management and monitoring environmental flows. HNCMA are not the lead agency for managing these issues but may be involved through collaborative on ground projects.

7. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE LOWER HAWKESBURY ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Peter Coad – Hornsby Shire Council

Probe Data

- Summer stratification in the estuary has moved into well mixed winter waters
- Overnight cooling is making water dense, subsequently sinking to mix the estuary
- Rolf **Norington** noted that Berowra Creek had low temperatures and most prawns will burrow into sediment for overwintering. The data generally corresponds with what trawlers are seeing

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- Data available from <http://mhl.nsw.gov.au/projects/berowra/latest.php>

Kangaroo Point Pumpout Facility

- 489 603L pumped out since 2008
- 57 736L pumped out in 2011
- No scheduled maintenance since the last meeting

Estuarine and Migratory Bird Surveys

- Field surveys completed by HSC and UNSW Australian Wetlands and Rivers Centre
- 5 ground surveys completed
- 5 boat surveys completed from September 2010 – March 2011
- This project is currently being finalised
- Mary **Howard** noted that there are currently migratory birds in the mahoganies at Laughtondale, they were missing for a season.

World Migratory Bird Day

- 14-15th May 2011
- Displays in the Hornsby, Epping, Pennant Hills and Berowra library branches.
- Awareness raising for the plight of migratory plans
- An international program initiated by the United Nations
- www.worldmigratorybirdday.org

Estuary Management Program Media Campaign

- Commenced in January 2011
- Advertisements are run in the Bush Telegraph and all 3 council columns; Hornsby Advocate, Hills News and Northern District Times
- Upcoming themes include:
 - o Parsley Bay seawall
 - o Estuary Management Program website
 - o Bush regeneration in estuarine areas
 - o Estuary Management Program Annual Report

Seagrass Boat Stickers

- Stickers identifying the location of shallow seagrass areas are printed and available for distribution
- Marina and boat hire operators will have stickers mailed to them
- Committee members are requested to assist with the distribution of stickers where possible

Land Capability Assessment

- Modelling is complete
- Final report currently being prepared
- Model outputs will inform planners on how strategic planning decisions will impact estuarine assets as defined within the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Plan
- Expected completion date is June 2011

Parsley Bay Seawall

- Stages 1 and 2 are complete
- Sandstone biodiversity friendly seawall installed around the southern and western foreshore of Parsley Bay

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- 4 rain gardens are currently being installed to filter runoff from the carpark
- Underwater Sydney
- Collaborative project with the Sydney Coastal Councils Group
 - Underwater photographers visited the Hawkesbury in April 2011 to capture images of local aquatic animals
 - These images will be used on the Underwater Sydney webpage that is being developed <http://underwatersydney.com.au>

Impacts of Climate Change

- Industry and Investment NSW and Hydronumerics (University of Western Australia) have been engaged
- No further progress to report

Real-time temperature, salinity and swimming maps

- Couple of months away from the webpage being active
- New data server to support the webpage is being tested at Manly Hydraulics Laboratory (MHL)

Tim Macdonald – Gosford City Council

- Management of Brisbane Water and coastal lagoons
- Gosford City Council has a priority sewerage program that includes Bar Point, Little Wobby and Patonga.
- Consultants are currently undertaking a strategic options study which will look at the options of making no change, centralising or decentralising sewerage management systems at priority locations.
- Tim Macdonald will request a presentation to the committee of the findings as the project progresses
- Warren **Brown** will be undertaking foreshore inspection with the Land and Property Management Authority NSW to remove waste and derelict infrastructure

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Broken Bay Oysters Environmental Management Systems Launch

Congratulations to OceanWatch and Broken Bay Oysters Association (BBOA) for a successful launch of their Environmental Management System, with the Honourable Dr Mike Kelly, Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. The EMS and photos of the launch can be viewed on the BBOA website www.brokenbayoysters.com.au.

B. Bridge to Bridge Water Ski Classic

With regards to Action 201017, NSW Maritime will take over the role as the lead agency to address issues of concern regarding the annual Bridge to Bridge Water Ski Classic.

ACTION 201104: Steve Black of NSW Maritime to organise a meeting with race organisers and interested members to come to an agreement regarding the protection of seagrasses during the Bridge to Bridge Water Ski Classic.

C. Mapping Trawl Grounds

Marcel Green, Industry and Investment NSW, has provided locations of open and closed trawl grounds. Council will map these areas in consultation with Hawkesbury River District fishers.

D. Landline Presentation

The Landline Source to Sea documentary filmed on the Hawkesbury River is available via <http://www.abc.net.au/landline/content/2010/s3174898.htm>

E. Support for derelict oyster lease cleanup

Mike **Fish** noted that at a public meeting held at Mooney Mooney prior to the state election, Mr Chris Holstein made a verbal commitment to support the clean up derelict oyster lease infrastructure in the Hawkesbury River.

F. Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee will be held Thursday **22 September 2011**, at the Brooklyn Community Centre.

9. CLOSE

Meeting closed at 8:00pm