

Mallee and Coorong Advisory Committee

Draft Minutes

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and water we live and work upon, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and respect the deep spiritual connection and relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to Country.

Meeting Title: Meeting No 8			
Date: Thursday 12 August 2021			
Start Time:	10:00am	Finish Time:	2:30pm
Location:	Murray Bridge	Room:	Board Room, Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board
Attendees	Roger Wickes (Chair), Andrew Hansen, Daridyn Hayward, Andrew Biele (Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board), Louise Kluge Landscape Staff: Denise Fowles (Committee support), Miranda Leckie (Minutes), Samantha Blight (Coorong Tatiara LAP), Hannah Spronk (via MS Teams), Russell Norman		
Apologies:	Carolyn Shaw		

1. Welcome	
1.1	The Chair welcomed all present, acknowledging the traditional owners of the land where we meet. The Chair introduced Lucy Kluge as a potential new committee member.
1.2	Minutes of previous Mallee and Coorong Advisory Committee meetings held 19 July 2021, 30 June 2021, 19 April 2021 and 22 February 2021 were held over to the next meeting.
1.3	Business and Actions arising from the minutes: Actions from meeting No. 7 – 19 July 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda Item 2.3 – No update. • Agenda Item 4.1 – Completed.
2. Updates	
2.1	Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Andrew Biele updated the committee. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two new members have been appointed to the Board. Caroline Phillips, Mayor of Karoonda East Murray District Council and Sandy Iosefellis, RDA Board member. • Goat policy and deer compliance were discussed at the last Board meeting. • The Board's 5 year strategic plan has been submitted and finalised and is on the website. • Encouraged MCAC members to sign up to the Board's E-newsletter. It contains information about what is happening with the Board and projects.

	<p>Action: M Leckie to email communications team and add MCAC members to newsletter distribution list.</p>
2.2	<p>Regenerative Ag project update and discussion</p> <p>Tony Randall, Team Leader Sustainable Agriculture gave an update to the Committee on the Regenerative Ag project. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of regenerative farming. • Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitators. • Low rainfall farming areas and what we could do in this space regarding regenerative Ag. • Companies and industry are starting to set the agenda on this and are demanding it. • What are people's opinions and why they think what they think? E.g. if they think it's not a good idea then why? <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is confusion between conservation farming and regenerative farming. Need to clarify what regenerative farming is. • Rewording sustainable has people thinking about it more. • Farmers can have a negative effect on soil carbon when they become more productive. • The policies are ahead of the research. How can you guarantee that carbon that you've locked up in the soil can stay there? Can it be used in a carbon trading system? • Biggest barrier is what does all this mean to a farmer and how do they do it? • The calculations and equations for measuring and monitoring carbon keep changing. It's very seasonal and the standards might not be right for each season. • A case study would be good for farmers. • There is an opportunity to do something around co designs of species. Mixed plantings of native and pasture. What is complementary? • The committee's role is to educate on this topic. • Concerned that this project would be a preaching process and we don't want that. <p>Action: R Wickes to talk to CSIRO about carbon and regenerative farming.</p>
2.3	<p>Pest Weed Priorities</p> <p>Hannah Spronk, District Manager, Riverland provided an update to the Committee on pest weed priorities. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The last review was conducted in the late 2000's. • Decided to use the expertise of in house staff to run a new pest review. • This document will guide where to put efforts, where to spend funding and the work of the district team. • The review is nearly completed and will be finalised within the next couple of weeks. • Started as a desktop review by the District Officers. Other teams within the Board were also given the opportunity to have their say as well as Council works staff. • From this review the team narrowed down which species they would focus efforts on. • Scoring system was used to score the weeds using criteria such as: Is it in our region? Have we worked on it within the last 5 years? Is it an alert weed? • District staff and PIRSA attended a 2 day workshop and assessed the weeds using the SA weed risk management guide.

- A key discussion topic was budget and resources. Some scored quite highly but realistically with the budget and staff the team has, it would not be able to maintain the level of work required to control it.
- Went through the draft weed priorities document which included objectives and actions.

Discussion:

- Input from industry – this was picked up through what industry has previously flagged with the team as an issue.
- Not much in the document for crop and pasture weeds.
- Next steps - The District team will share it with this committee and councils. Will use media campaign to get information out there.
- There is confusion for some landholders between what council do and what we do.
- Propose that we run workshops with council staff when we send this document out.

Council pest projects (Coorong / Southern Mallee and Karoonda Council collaboration)

Russell Norman, Senior District Officer gave a presentation on the Southern Mallee and Karoonda council pest project. Presentation attached.

Samantha Blight, Coorong District Council updated the committee on the Coorong District Council pest project. This included:

- Funding in round 1 - \$300,000. Ran it like a grant scheme to landholders. Up to \$2000 per property. Uptake of 40 landholders.
- Round 2 - \$500,000. Mail out to all rural landholders. Uptake of 80 landholders.
- The first round was limited to only private land. Second round was public land as well.
- Engaged contractors, purchased plant and equipment, bait layers – given to the Board to hand out to landholders.
- Purchased roto wiper units – specific weed control unit to work on lovegrass and spiny rush. Purchased trailers to go with these units. Will be administered by the Board.
- African lovegrass on roadsides – those landholders who were controlling it on their property were able to engage contractors to do the work alongside roadsides.

Discussion:

- Disappointing that not all council areas went in for this project.
- Have received positive feedback – the project inspired another farmer to undertake rabbit control, including contacting his neighbour to do some rabbit control. This stems from the ripping done with this project.
- Were there any problems with infrastructure underground when doing the ripping? No there wasn't.
- Follow up will be the issue as this comes back to funding. This is round 2, so could be classed as follow up. Not likely there will be a third round.
- There are a lot of farmers with good intentions but never get around to it. This project has helped them get around to doing it.
- Unfortunately if it stops here a lot of the good that has been done will be non-existent in 10 years.

2.4

3. For Discussion

3.1	<p>Committee Workplan</p> <p><u>Upcoming meetings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 30th <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change the meeting to the 23rd September at Murray Bridge and will meet with Board first Threatened native birds and abundant species Finalise the 2022 Ag Forum planning. <p><u>2022 LG Forum topics</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pest priorities Council weed projects – Southern Mallee / Karoonda DC and Coorong Council. <p><u>2022 Ag Forum topics and speakers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carbon farming and Regenerative Ag. <p><u>2021-22 Mallee and Coorong Advisory Committee Work plan</u></p> <p>The 2021-22 work plan was discussed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove the December meeting January meeting will finalise the Ag Forum.
3.2	<p>Outcomes of Local Government Forum</p> <p>The committee discussed the trail bike issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The only way of reducing the issue is to provide something else to take its place. Southern Mallee Council have information about where people can go riding and have opened up areas. This is not advertised however. Needs to be made more public. Morgan quarry has been funded by the Mid Murray Council to use. R Wickes discussed the discussion paper. Came up with 3 recommendations to go to the Board and LG. Committee agreed to send the paper on to the Board. <p>Action: D Fowles to send to Helene for inclusion in the Board papers after Rocky provides his comments.</p>
4. For noting	
4.1	<p>Reports:</p> <p><u>Roger Wickes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have prepared a trail bike discussion paper for the Board, as discussed at agenda item 3.2. Paiwalla Wetlands Habitat trust has received a \$12,000 grant to get a boat with a spray unit to spray African Lilies. <p><u>Stephanie Evans:</u> R Wickes provided an updated on behalf of Stephanie Evans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MMLMG has recently received a linking landscape grant to protect Mallee Fowls. Their AGM is on the 28th August. <p><u>Andrew Hansen:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has been involved with carbon accounting with the LAP. This came through MLA. They have pilot programs scattered throughout Australia. Integrity Ag have devised templates to ascertain the carbon footprint. Issues – templates are set up

more for tropical beef grazing and don't align to us. Now looking at doing templates for South Eastern Australia. We are getting involved to have some input and knowledge on carbon accounting. The project is looking at ascertaining what our carbon footprint is and what is contributing to it.

Daridyn Hayward:

- The rabbit ripping project has been quite successful and has inspired farmers to get on top of their rabbit issues.
- Motorbikes – overheard the Southern Mallee have tied in with a motorbike club to do up a motor bike track.

Carolyn Shaw: Apology.

Yvonne Smith: Not present.

Coorong Tatiara LAP (Samantha Blight): Turtle Sanctuary project Narrung narrows:

- Turtle nesting hotspot with foxes destroying the eggs and nests.
- Received funding for a fox exclusion zone and have built 6 foot electrified fencing that encompasses 4 hectares of land.
- Strath naturalists have been involved in the project and have provided the labour
- 1 season in place so far and no nests dug up. Very successful.
- Had cameras and the landholder observed turtles hatching.
- This is a good pilot project as there is nothing else like this throughout the river.

Coorong Lap supports the Farm Forestry Landcare Network group:

- They have received an Ag Knowledge Grant and GRG to hold field days in Meningie and Karoonda. They were well attended and had a Master Forester to attend to talk about farm forestry.
- Karoonda had a mobile milling machine on site to demonstrate.
- Ag communicators came and did filming and interviewing. The video is on the lap website.
- Have received another Ag Knowledge grant to hold a field day at the Monarto trial site and the next stage of videos.

Tree planting:

- Have completed tree planting this season with 15,000 trees being planted with landholders and community groups.
- Have received a grant from the Landscape Board for replanting project on Lake Albert to mitigate erosion on a 1km stretch. Will do some measurements of carbon sequestration as a result of the reeds there. Potentially looking at how we can monitor how the reeds reduce evaporation where they are. Plenty of scope across Lake Albert and Lake Alexandrina to do this work.

Denise Fowles:

- The soil your undies project packs have been packed and sent out around the region. They will be used to measure soil microbial activity and tests how active your soil is.
- PIRSA have finalised the goat policy and have put it out. Landscape Boards are discussing a joint goat project.

- Accommodation – Builders are working on the new Berri site. Murray Bridge – signed a lease for Sturt reserve road property. Access soon and lease starts in November. Rent starts in March 2022.
- WAC has a new chair, Don Plowman. New member for the committee is Samantha Blight.
- Tony Randall has resigned. Danielle Dutschke and Christina Liapis have resigned from the Education team. Amy Goodman has resigned and is going to CIT.

5. Close

Any other business

Membership: Steph Evans has put in her resignation. Discussed this issue and the issue of getting new members. Discussed calling Steph. The quorum is an issue.

Advisory committee to the Board: The committee discussed how the information they send the Board is discussed at their Board meetings and how this is fed back to the committee.

The Board discussed this and they decided that they would acknowledge the input from this committee. The Board has the minutes and report in their papers. D Fowles also talks to this. The Board does use the information. The committee is the eyes and ears in the community.

5.1

The committee would like to thank Tony Randall for his support and input over the years.

Report to the Board:

- Trail Bike paper
- Regenerative farming at Ag Forum
- Carbon accounting – talk about what the LAP is doing. That it is an issue and start getting farmers to think about it
- Council pest projects
- Priority weeds needs to be sold to the community and LG
- Work plan

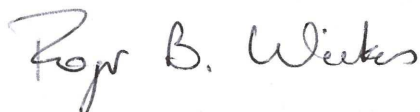
5.2

Next meeting details

Thursday 23 September 2021 in Murray Bridge

Meeting closed at 2:30pm

ENDORSED



Roger Wickes

Chair

Mallee and Coorong Advisory Committee

Date: 23 Sept 2021

Agenda
Item

Actions

Timeframe

Person
Responsible

Completed

Meeting No. 7 – 19 July 2021

2.3	Contact Emily Morgan and Gary Flohr regarding membership		Andrew Hansen	
Meeting No. 8 – 12 August 2021				
2.1	Email communications team and add MCAC members to newsletter distribution list.		Miranda Leckie	
2.2	Talk to CSIRO about carbon and regenerative farming.		Roger Wickes	
3.2	Send trail bike discussion paper to Helane for inclusion in the Board papers after Rocky provides his comments.		Denise Fowles	

