

# Meeting Minutes

Meeting title: Mallee and Coorong Advisory Committee (MCC)

Meeting number: 1

Date: Wednesday, 21 October 2020

Time: 10:20pm to 03:10pm

Location: Karoonda Landscapes Office      Rooms: Karoonda Council Chamber

Meeting type: Advisory Committee Meeting

Attendees: **Mallee & Coorong Advisory Committee:** Roger Wickes (Chair), Stephanie Evans, Andrew Hansen, Daridyn Hayward, and Yvonne Smith.

**Board Member Representative:** Di Davidson

**Landscape staff:** Denise Fowles (Support & Minutes); Amy Lee, Eilidh Wilson, Sandy Gunter (for Forum discussion via MS Teams)

Apologies: Carolyn Shaw; Andrew Biele,

## Agenda Items

- 1 **Open and acknowledgement of country**
- 2 **Confirmation of previous minutes**

The Mallee and Coorong Advisory Committee resolved that the Mallee and Coorong NRM Group minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 March 2020 were a correct record with the following amendment:

Steph Evans wanted an amendment to her report:

- Grants are needed for landholders with HAs
- Suggest research is needed for Ag to determine if the application of stronger concentration of glyphosate is having a production and biodiversity impact.
- Increased trail bikes are causing roadside damage, erosion and drift.
- Bernie Lehmann from Browns well – has strategies to control feral goat incursions from Sunset National Park.

### 3 Business arising

Actions from the last meeting

Action item	Details	Mtg #	Who	By when
1	Contact Tony Randall about updating the Landholder Responsibilities Factsheet.	122	Kylie Moritz	Take forward and review
2	Incorporate land management into district plan 2019/20 FY in either <i>People</i> or <i>Collaborate with Partners</i> section.	122	Kylie Moritz	Completed
3	<b>Work Plan 2019/20</b> Discuss cancelled November native grasses meeting with Eliza.	124	Kylie Moritz	take the native grasses forward
4	Fisheries Research and Development Corporation – Carp update – draft circulating in Agencies. Wait for release.	125	Roger Wickes	Completed – Roger advised it was <i>in the Commonwealth</i>

### 4 Landscape Update (Di Davidson)

- Di suggested the acronym for the committee be MCC
- Motorbikes are a difficult issue – spoken to Native Veg Unit and Coorong District and Mid-Murray Councils.
- Have established Water Advisory Committee (WAC) – Greg McCarron is Chair and members cover the range of water users – it is not an irrigator's lobby group. Want to include a Mallee water user on WAC.
- Have secured sitting fees for the Board committee's with the Minister
- Important for this committee to bring up issues to ensure Board get feedback from community; would encourage the committee to recruit another member
- Local Government (LG) meetings run by this committee are highly regarded. Board would like to have all Councils attend. Topics developed by Councils encourage attendance.  
**Action:** MCC to include running another LG meeting in the MCC workplan.
- Want to link up with Councils (met with 7 or the 8 in the region so far) and Landcare groups. Coorong District Council see importance of working across boundary with Limestone Coast Landscape Board. Appreciate the work of Tracey Strugnell.
- Jason Size and Di working on strengthening ties between Riverland Landcare groups.
- ELMA users is another group of people the Board want to work with.
- Water and Coorong to be part of this committee's area of interest – it is of importance to the Board. Project Coorong – seeking a person to be connected with this work; Jim Rowntree or Hannah Dabinett may be an option.  
**Action:** MCC to include meeting with Project Coorong in the MCC workplan.
- Board interested in developing water literacy in the region
- New General Manager (GM), Andrew Meddle, starts 9 Nov. He will attend a meeting on 30 Oct – MCC members are invited to afternoon tea that day at Murray Bridge Community Club.
- Board will hold Board meetings around the region to connect more broadly.
- Di attended SAWDAG (SA Wild Dog Advisory Group) yesterday and is looking for a person who broadly understands the issue to attend future meetings. Suggestions welcome.
- Funding is tight.

## 5 **Update on staffing arrangements** (Denise Fowles)

- In addition to new GM, there have been a few other changes.
- Helene Norman will be admin support for MCC and Denise Fowles will be technical support and attend meetings (and do minutes / notes of meeting). Other staff from across the region can be brought in to support MCC for relevant topics.
- Regional Management team has reduced from five to three.
- Sonia Dominelli's move to NPWS saw her teams move to Sustainable Landscapes
- Claire Stephenson's departure means the Communications and Engagement staff move to the Planning and Evaluation team under Amy Lee / Amy Goodman

## 6 **Landscape Planning process** (Amy Lee and Eilidh Wilson)

**Action:** provide copy of new M&R region boundary to MCC

- Amy outlined the changed Board boundary, the planning framework, development of the landscape plan. There are five key priorities (Sustainable Production, Biodiversity, Water Resources, People and Partnerships, Adaptive Capacity) underpinned by focus areas and five Landscape SA reform directions.
- How do we do things differently to better connect to community under Landscape SA?
- Who does this committee work with?:
  - Board
  - Community Local Government
  - Industry Groups and Networks (Ag Bureaus, Irrigation Trusts, Farming Networks)
  - Environmental Groups – LAPs, DEW (Parks), Landcare
- What is the role of this committee?:
  - engaging (Connecting between groups)
  - information sharing
  - Eyes and ears of the Board (listeners, report to Board, influence)
  - Educating
  - Promoters of Board's work and priorities
  - Influencers on local issues of concern
  - Conduit and support for compliance issues
- What is the area this committee covers?
  - important not to split Mallee up
  - preference for whole region excepting pastoral / Rangelands
- What is the scope of this committee
  - current skills sets will influence
  - should biodiversity be a focus too
  - would be good to broaden areas of interest

## 7 **Work Planning session** (Amy Lee and Eilidh Wilson)

**Action:** Provide hard copies of Business Plan (Amy Lee)

What are we doing?

### Sustainable Production

- Forum in partnership with others
- identifying a local issues and connecting to a technical expert for advice / discussion
- links to biodiversity (native grasses for grazing)

### Water

- Education (Water Literacy) – irrigators, WAPs, Water for the environment (committee want to understand it better, to be a good communicator)
- Examining water availability and wells in the Mallee
- Role in WAP reviews – Peake, Roby Sherlock and Mallee WAPs

### Pest Animal and Plant Management

- review brochure on land management responsibilities – consider adding feral cats?; could work with LG for promotion; focus on hobby farmers; consider how to connect / promote
- carp virus – keep up to date with proposals – interest is river ecology / use of pests as a product
- keep connections with district team re pest areas and link to LG for education / action
- understand pest management; options available; promote education, citizen science, feral scan

### Biodiversity

- raise threat to biodiversity through motorbikes
- promote biodiversity assets
- Coorong – identify who is involved, what are they doing, funding; where can this committee add value?
- should access information on threatened mallee birds - including Mallee fowl
- should access information on turtles and frogs
- Seek information from Wetlands team on environmental water to Tolderol

**Action:** send out YouTube video of Coorong done for National Science week (Amy Lee)

### People and Partnerships

- Local Govt connections and relationships – meet regularly with Councils, add in Riverland Councils; revisit list of topics to discuss with Councils; developed leaflet for Local Govt on quarries and weeds, which was successful; raise trail bike damage to native veg on roadsides
- host a local Government meeting in March 2021
- recognition event for landcare groups – how can this committee help? small grant scheme?
- be knowledgeable about funding sources and pathways
- consider opportunities for events to connect through

Meeting schedule:

- take account of when members are busy; likely to be approx 9 meetings per annum

## **8 Forum planning**

Sandy Gunter joined meeting at 2:05pm

Members decided:

- Forum Location: Parilla
- Timing Feb 2021; fit around GRDC updates (early March)
- Roger will talk to Tanja from MSF about running the forum jointly. Need to clarify the roles.

Topics ideas:

- soils / organic carbon on pastures / methods for achieving (trials?)/ humates for water & fertilizer retention (Brian Dzoma);
- livestock;
- previously run Smart Farm grants projects
- **Action:** Sandy to Email Smartfarms grants list from the last couple of years
- weed management without chemicals
- what's the future for genetically modified crops – what attributes can we look forward to?
- Roadside pest control project in Southern Mallee (Russell Norman)
- What can Landscapes do for you?
- Feral Scan
- using drones on farm – where it is suited and where satellite is better (GRDC?) / broadacre and horticulture

Can get speakers to attend virtually if in person is an issue.

MCC need to identify a list of what is needed and expected costs. Sandy can assist with promotion / communications.

Can use MS Teams to progress planning discussions

## 9 Membership

- Carolyn has moved to Mypolonga – this is still within the area covered by the committee
- Daridyn to speak to Hannah Dabinett re her interest in being on the committee (Mallee Wells area); Roger can follow up with her if she wants more info
- Roger to talk to Wade Nicholls from Pinnaroo and follow up with Rachael Dittrich once her details are provided; Elizabeth Moyle may be another candidate

### Next meeting

- December (evening potentially)- Via MS Teams to develop forum and discuss Board focus areas; want to involve Tanja
- Thursday 21 January, Murray Bridge Board room – in person

APPROVED / NOT APPROVED



Roger Wickes  
Chairperson

Date

23 Nov 2020

### Action Items summary:

#	Details	Mtg #	Responsible	By when
1	<b>Work Plan 2019/20</b> Discuss cancelled November native grasses meeting with Eliza.	124	Kylie Moritz	take the native grasses forward
2	<b>Review Landholder responsibility Fact Sheet</b>	124	MCC	Next meeting
3	Include running another LG meeting by MCC in MCC workplan	1	MCC	
4	Include meeting for MCC with Project Coorong in MCC workplan	1	MCC	
5	Send copy of new M&R region boundary to MCC	1	Amy Lee	Completed
6	Provide hard copies of Business Plan	1	Amy Lee	
7	Send out link to YouTube video of Coorong done for National Science week	1	Amy Lee	Completed: <a href="https://youtu.be/XQ99sl9t_p0">https://youtu.be/XQ99sl9t_p0</a>
8	Email Smartfarms grants list from the last 2 years		Sandy Gunter	