Northern and Yorke Landscape Board

Minutes

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians whose ancestral lands we are meeting upon here today. We acknowledge the deep feelings of attachment and relationship of Aboriginal peoples to Country. We also pay respects to the cultural authority of Aboriginal peoples visiting / attending from other areas of South Australia

Meeting Title: Board Meeting		**NY Landscape Board Meeting # 6**	
Date: 14 December 2020			
Start Time:	1042	**Finish Time:**	1515
Location:	Gawler	**Room:**	Conference room, The Gawler Council 43 High Street, Gawler
Attendees:	Caroline Schaefer (Presiding Member), Sarah Barrett, Geoffrey White, Phillip Heaslip, Peter Angus and Sam Germein (Community Board Members)		
Staff:	Tony Fox (General Manager), Rebecca Howard (Manager Business Services), Terry Boyce (Landscape Operations Manager), Chris Martin (Business and Finance Services Coordinator) and Rosemary McDowell (Regional Executive Support Officer)		
Visitors / Guests:	Dr Matt Ward, Director Doreen VonLinde, Coordinator Faye McGoldrick, Coordinator Kathy Whitta, Coordinator		Landscapes Services (DEW) Barossa Bushgardens Mt Pleasant NRC Gawler Environment Centre
Apologies:	Anna Baum (Community Board Member)		

Item	**Meeting Standing Items**
1	**Welcome, apologies and agenda check**
1.1	**Conflict of Interest Disclosures** Nil
1.2	**Minutes from the previous meeting** The minutes from meeting No 5 held on 28 September 2020, were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting with a slight amendment to item 2.1. P Heaslip / S Barrett **CARRIED**

1.3	**Action List** Reviewed and updated
1.4	**WHS** Nil to report – next meeting of the nnn
1.5	**Board Projects status** Nil to report

2. Deputations and Presentations

2.1 Guest Speaker
Dr Matt Ward – Landscape Services team, DEW.

An update on the structure and role of the landscape services team was presented.

- The relationship model displayed did not include a link between the Landscape Chairs and the Landscape Services team. Matt noted this a potential amendment.
- Review of the *Landscape SA Act* is required by 2022 and board elections are proposed for November 2022.
- Landscape Priority Fund bid process was outlined, with single year and multiple year streams.
- State Landscape Strategy – it was suggested this document will nominally sit above the regions strategic plan and a short discussion ensued.

3. Strategic Items

3.1 **Workshop – Regional Strategic Plan with Tony Fox and Jennifer Munro**

A one page document was presented with the Region's five priorities which capture high level focus areas relating to the Strategic Plan.

- Each priority includes draft focus areas within the five priorities and offers some alternate wording. Board members are requested to review the proposed and alternate wording to develop the final focus areas for inclusion in the Plan
- The Strategic Plan is to be written by the end of March 2021
- A draft cut of the focus areas is to be presented to the Minister prior to completion to ensure the region is on track

A short discussion followed on the key measurables that derive from the actions of a plan.

Action
All members are to review the documents for the draft Strategic Plan and are encouraged to send any comments to T Fox and C Schaefer. A dedicated morning workshop is to be held at the February 2021 meeting.

3.2	**Presentation by Natural Resource Centres** **Each NRC was invited to give a 15 minute presentation on their individual NRC to the Board** Kathy Whitta, Coordinator, Gawler Environment Centre • Open 20 hours per week • 2,417 attendees at workshops and events in 2019-20 • More than 50 volunteers (1,877 volunteer hours) • Annual plant sale, webinars, working with volunteering groups, exhibitions and various community engagement projects funded by grants. Doreen VonLinde, Coordinator, Barossa Bushgardens • A seed orchard was first established in 2001 • 78 registered volunteers • 6,690 volunteer hours in 2019-20 • Working with 22 community groups and 12 schools and childcare centres • In-kind support and funding from the Barossa Council and Green Adelaide funding support the organisation. Faye McGoldrick, Coordinator, Mt Pleasant NRC • Operates four days per week and employes staff • 71volunteers of diverse backgrounds • 40-50 various workshops per annum • Established the successful farmers market in Mt Pleasant.
	Break for lunch 12.53 to 13.39pm
4	**Items for Decision / Discussion**
4.1	**Finance Presentation – Business and Finance Services Coordinator** A presentation of the financial income and expenses for the period ending 30 November 2020. All non-project expenditure by activity groups are showing progress but are below budget to date apart from 'Water Management'. The present carryover is from the last three financial years and is mainly from salaries and wages from unfilled positions. **That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board** • ***note and accept the November 2020 YTD financial analysis report.*** G White / S Barrett **CARRIED**
4.2	**Marna Banggara Predator Fence Update – Manager Landscape Operations** A verbal update on issues facing the construction of the Marna Banggara fence and the request for an approval of $60,000 to complete the fence build. It was suggested that the fence will be completely built including gates installed by March 2021. Board members were invited to comment on the request for further funds and a discussion followed.

	Action A board member sought clarification regarding the landholder agreements along the fence alignment. The question was taken on notice and information will be provided "out of session". **That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board to:** • ***note the information provided through this briefing about the progress of the construction of the Marna Banggara Predator Fence*** • ***approve an additional allocation of $60,000 to complete the fence construction.*** P Heaslip / S Germein **CARRIED – All in favour**
4.3	**Funding Support for Stringybark Dieback Project** A brief discussion on large seemingly healthy trees that have been lost due to issues with dieback. The University of Adelaide and Trees for Life have requested the Board consider contributing in-kind or financial support towards the proposed project. It was discussed that a project to research Stringybark Dieback has not previously occurred and any contribution will not commit the Board to any future funding requests. **That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:** • ***to note the report on dieback of Stringybark's*** • ***approve funding of $2,000 to support the project*** P Heaslip / P Angus **CARRIED All in favour**
4.4	**Pest Control pricing schedule** The pricing for fox baits is set regionally, however, it is favourable to align the annual financial increase with that of other regions. It is at the Board's discretion to allocate free baits to landholders. ***That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:*** • ***approves the recommended pest plant and animal pricing schedule, applicable from 14 December 2020*** • ***authorises the Landscape Operations Manager to apply a reduction or waiver of the scheduled bait fees payable in response to natural disasters*** • ***supports the notion of a state-wide policy being developed*** G White / S Heaslip **CARRIED All in favour**

4.5	**Sponsorship for BIGG** A request to sponsor the BIGG e-newsletter was received. It was noted the Board'.l,;.l;s logo would be included in the newsletter and future working partnerships with BIGG. **That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:** • ***approve $3,000 sponsorship of the e-newsletter for the Barossa Improved Grazing Group (BIGG)*** P Angus / P Heaslip **CARRIED** **Note - S Barrett abstained from voting due to her involvement with BIGG**
4.6	**Compliance Policy** A brief discussion on the proposed process for handling compliance. The proposed policy and procedure are both clear and precise and provide good governance and guidelines for staff to follow. The compliance review panel will be the General Manager, Operations Manager and, at this stage, a senior compliance officer from Green Adelaide. **That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:** • ***approve the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board Compliance Policy and Compliance Procedure;*** • ***note the summary of active compliance orders and notices;*** • ***consider exploring alternative options for the provision of support services for escalated compliance matters under the Landscape South Australia Act; and*** • ***request the General Manager negotiate with DEW about its plans for the delivery of phase 2 of the CMIS database to support record keeping and management of compliance cases by landscape board staff.*** S Germein / P Angus **CARRIED All in favour**
4.7	**DEW fire management program** This is the first of two approvals requested of the Board for the landscape staff to continue to support DEW resources in fire management. An approval for an interim agreement for this support to continue is now required. A short discussion ensued on how much staff time is allocated to fire duties. • The interim agreement provides for the Board to incur costs for standard time worked, but DEW will be required to cover overtime or penalty rates. • The number of days that are worked in fire operations is to be determined, with a suggestion of a 6 or 10 day cap • There are significant WHS considerations which will be addressed in the next agreement to be presented • A change of approval to release staff to assist in fire management with volunteer fire groups will also be addressed • A formal protocol will be presented to the Board at a future meeting.

	That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board: • *notes the significant and long-standing contribution from landscape board staff to the DEW fire management program, and the Minister's expectations that this arrangement continue and be supported through a formal protocol* • *notes that any operational and administrative issues that arise before endorsement of the protocol by all parties, will be addressed between the DEW fire management program, General Managers and board Chairs as required* • *endorses the Operational Protocol that outlines arrangements for the continuing involvement of landscape board staff in the DEW fire management program* • *endorses that the Chair's signature be applied to the final version of the protocol on behalf of the Board, once endorsed by all parties.* G White / P Angus **CARRIED**
4.8	**New Policy** The Board was asked to adopt the policy as presented. *That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:* • *consider and adopt the Conflict of Interest and Lobbyist Policy for Landscape Boards; and* • *note that this policy will be reviewed and updated, where required to meet the ongoing needs of the Board* G White / S Germein ***CARRIED***
4.9	**Annual Report 2019 – 2020** The staff were congratulated on their achievement in regards to the recent Audit which reported no audit findings. **That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:** • *note the Annual Report process;* • *receive, and endorse the Northern and Yorke NRM Board's Annual Report for 2019-20;* S Barrett / P Angus **CARRIED**
4.10	**Board Committee recommendations** All recommendations were approved. **That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:** • *note and approve the recommendations of the Planning and Performance, the Governance and Finance and the Aboriginal Engagement Committee meetings held on 26 October 2020 and 12 November 2020* G White / S Barrett **CARRIED**

4.11	**Board meeting schedule 2021** **Action** It was proposed that a visit to the Barossa Bushgardens be coordinated for the February 2021 board meeting ***That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:*** • ***adopts the Meeting Schedule for 2021 for the Board and Board Advisory committee meetings;*** • ***endorse the January 2021 committee meetings be moved to the first Monday of February*** • ***endorse the September board meeting be moved from the fourth Monday to the third Monday of the month to avoid school holidays*** • ***endorse the 2021 meeting schedule be available on the Board's website*** P Angus / G White ***CARRIED***
4.12	**Board calendar** A request by P Heaslip to attend agricultural meetings representing the Board was noted and approved.
5 - Items for Noting. The Board to note information papers in this section are to be carried as one motion only	
5.1	**SAWDAG report**
5.2	**Climate Projections** The NY is the region that is predicted to have the greatest decline of rainfall.
5.3	**Goyder Line – Building Drought Resilience** Congratulations were expressed to the staff of the NY region for their successful application for funding. It was noted it was the only successful grant application in South Australia from the Federal Government's Future Drought Fund.
6 – Standing Items for noting (to be discussed only if required)	
6.1	**Presiding Member report**
6.2	**Board Member reports**
6.3	**Communication and Engagement Report**
6.4	**Correspondence**
6.5	**RMT report** The Landscape Priorities Fund was briefly discussed. The Board is urged to provide a 'big ticket' item and preferably a multi-year project to include other stakeholders including councils. A proposed working group will be initiated and all board members are welcome to be actively involved.

6.6	**District Reports** **That the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:** • ***note items 5.1 to 6.6 inclusive*** ***as presented to the NY Landscape Board Meeting of 14 December 2020*** P Angus / P Heaslip **CARRIED**
7 - In Camera Session (if required)	
	Nil
8 - Meeting Closure	
8.1	Invitations for next meeting
8.2	Next meeting details – 22 February 2021, in Tanunda
8.3	Meeting closed 1515pm

Signed

Caroline V. Schaefer

Caroline Schaefer
Presiding Member