

FILE NO: 064/036

**MINUTES**

**Rehabilitating Roe 8 Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Thursday 13 August 2020, 2pm-4pm**

**Wetlands Centre Meeting Room**

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Advisory Committee Attendees:

Felicity	Bairstow	FB	Wetlands Centre Cockburn
Ted	Griffin	TG	Community
Diana	Corbyn	DC	Wildflower Society
Jozina	De Ruiter	JDR	Hamilton Hill Community Group
Catherine	Prideaux	CP	Department Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
Bruce	Webber	BW	Western Australian Biodiversity and Science Institute
Angela	Jakob (Chair)	AJ	Coolbellup Residents Association
Rachel	Standish	RS	Perth Urban Restoration Science Advisory Committee
Kim	Dravnieks	KD	Community
Phoebe	Corke	PC	Save Beelias Wetlands

**Other attendees:**

Linda Metz (LM) - Rehabilitating Roe 8 Project Manager (City of Cockburn)

**Apologies**

- Heidi Mippy-Aboriginal Reference Group (Cockburn)
- Lou Corteen- Cockburn Community Wildlife Corridor
- Tim Barling-Conservation Council WA
- Catherine Baudains- Australian Association of Environmental Education
- South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council

## 1. Welcome and Apologies

## 2. Observance of Acknowledgement of Country

## 3. Minutes from previous meeting

Minutes from July meeting: Meeting minutes accepted moved by CP and seconded by AJ.

## 4. Conflict of interests declaration

Nil

## 5. Restoration objectives presentation

Presentation from Rachel Standish on the need to revise the restoration goals based on vegetation monitoring that has recently been completed. RS addressed litter variables for the first time in this report.

Recommendations: Need for on-going weed control especially in Banksia Woodland ecosystem types.

Benchmark reference sites fell into two categories; in good condition and suitable as reference sites and more degraded reference sites that are considered too weedy to be used. There are not enough high quality reference sites within the corridor so looked for broader reference sites within the Beeliar Regional Park and found a number of plots to get good reference data for Banksia woodlands but three sites that they were not able to get good reference sites for which are Banksia/Woody Pear, Coastal Blackbutt/Banksia and Holly-leaved/Banksia.

Discussion point: Do we continue reporting against these specific ecosystem types or report against more general Banksia woodland type.

An option to benchmark against highest quality Banksia Woodland on the Swan Coastal Plain (SCP).

Suggest split between Banksia woodlands on Spearwood and Bassendean soil types. As a first point distinguishing between the two different soil types is appropriate. RS looked at Department Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions dataset.

TG asked about using floristic community types.

RS agreed that vegetation mapping has been conducted differently across the SCP (Beard vs Keighery) and that Emerge have picked a very specific way of mapping the ecosystem types in the corridor. The question is do we stay locked into reporting on those types. We can continue to record the presence or absence of target species such as Woody Pear without using this species to define the ecosystem type.

KD asked how this would impact our reporting in the long term. RS suggested we would have a simplified reporting model referring to Banksia Woodland on the Spearwood/Bassendean system for example and then would report on whether specific species coming back such as Woody Pear, Coastal Blackbutt etc.

Or do we go as far as we need to get the high quality reference site but this may be 50km or more away from the site. RS expressed concerns over geographical climatic impacts such as changes in rainfall between

sites (local vs more distant).

AJ noted that occurrence of Woody Pear communities in Kwinana at base of Pinjar Plain.

KD asked can we still achieve good restoration outcomes.

DC felt it is very important to have the distinct local vegetation community types and recognize them, noting that some are at the extent of their range (*E.toditana* at it's southern extent) and that is what makes the corridor unique. FB noted that this wouldn't be lost it's just considered at a different level.

RS noted we can still report on each one of them just it's what we compare them to.

TG noted that the vegetation community types are not typical of their normal range anyway(rare) and so to try and reference it to a site where it grows more commonly is troublesome. To focus on what we know was here prior to clearing is more robust. TG noted that the *E.toditana* is the local one not one that's in Wanneroo.

TG commented on merits of using vegetation composition. He noted there is no indication in the Rehabilitation Management Plan on how closely the composition of the rehabilitation compares to the pre-disturbed community. Suggest that vegetation composition dissimilarity as an option –point to be discussed.

CP enquired which DBCA datasets from the SCP were looked at. CP suggested that Swan Regional Ecologist is available to assist to find suitable reference sites.

LM noted that this work may need to be outsourced to consultants.

LM requested an out of session meeting with TG and RS to resolve this.

KD enquired why Banksia woodland was not recovering and what can be done to address this. RS noted that many plants have been installed that are generally available and now there will be a whole range of species that are not easy to restore.

LM notes there will need to be a focus on trying to source more diverse species. LM noted also that time is a factor and that natural regeneration is occurring. FB queried about sourcing more difficult species using different propagation techniques.

LM noted that a recommendation was made about including vegetation structure as an objective. The trajectory as shown by E-mapper indicates recovery. E-mapper can also pick up height in its analysis so adding this as a measure would be feasible.

AJ queried on the deadline for finalizing the changes to the RMP. LM noted that it's more important that we agree on the objectives and get that right as they will be the objectives reported on over time.

TG asked about if there are any of the restoration objectives are unachievable or would change so slowly that they aren't worth reporting on or using as an objective.

RS indicated that viewed singularly each objective doesn't provide a full snap shot of recovery but viewed together they do. However RS did note that the recruitment objective may need to be reconsidered. Reporting on recruitment was good to look at in the initial phase but as time from disturbance increases recruitment may be less. It is difficult to monitor especially with new seedlings being installed and that it was

hard to distinguish between them. It might be more informative to report on survival of seedlings. RS will do this with students.

LM noted that intent of the recruitment objective was to indicate if the system was becoming self-sustaining such as setting seed, flowering etc. The number of planted seedlings will diminish over time too. And so don't want to set up targets that are inherently short term rather than setting longer term targets.

Summary: Do we benchmark restoration success against high-quality banksia woodland growing nearby, despite the absence of rare target species such as Woody Pear, as opposed to using data from distant and therefore ecologically-distinct banksia woodlands to benchmark success?

Do we retain Goal 11.4, which is to provide a 'Count of native flora species recorded as naturally recruited individuals' or review goal to be expanded to include other demographic processes such as flowering, seed production, seed viability, and survival of the planted seedlings.

Vegetation structure is not listed as a Restoration Objective in the Rehabilitation Management Plan but contributes to fauna habitat and ecosystem function and should be considered for inclusion.

**Action: LM, RS and TG to discuss out of session, options for what data can be used to reference restoration objectives for Banksia community types.**

**Action: LM and RS to discuss revising Goal 11.4**

**Action: LM to include vegetation structure as objective in RMP review.**

**All actions require reporting back to committee for endorsement.**

## **6. Business arising from previous meeting**

### 6.1 Norfolk Island Pines Signage

**Action: Carry forward**

6.2 Community Science Conference –LM confirmed venue has been secured for the conference- Keiran McNamara Conservation Science Centre, DBCA Kensington for the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021. LM has spoken with caterers. Need to now re-engage with speakers. LM requests that any members who may like to speak at the event. Perth Region NRM has submitted a paper. It is to showcase any community driven projects, learnings, and traditional owner involvement. TG asked about posters and stall space. LM confirmed that this should be available within the foyer or within the room.

**Action: LM to organize speakers and continue scheduling**

6.3 Annual review- LM still needs to review the restoration objectives. Otherwise most of the review has

been completed.

**Action: LM to finalise updates to RMP with particular reference to restoration objectives.**

- 6.4 Membership Beeliar Regional Park Community Advisory Committee (BRPCAC)- FB indicated that it was discussed at the BRPCAC. Outcome was not clear.

**Action: LM to contact secretary of the BRPCAC and confirm outcome.**

- 6.5 Governance Committee meeting- LM reported that meeting was held on 31<sup>st</sup> July with governance committee. At this meeting LM presents information on preceding six months and forward six months. Much of the discussion focused on the Ministerial Statement 1008. Main Roads made it clear that they are ultimately responsible for meeting the conditions of the Ministerial Statement but that they are happy with the current arrangement and have confidence in the current process. The governance committee however did not support fox control as part of the project works. Other issues raised at this meeting included the key performance indicators with regards to Aboriginal and traditional owner engagement. The KPI's in the service agreement are set at traditional owners having 75% satisfaction with the project. However this measureable was not achieved and was difficult to report against as the level of Aboriginal respondents in the community questionnaire was too low to be considered representative. As such a better way to capture engagement and support for the project from the Aboriginal community needs to be built into the reporting system. The Rehabilitation Management Plan does not have numerical KPI's around Aboriginal satisfaction and is more engagement driven.
- 6.6 Terms of Reference revision- update to clause 6.11 Withdrawal from the Committee. The changes relate to expanded how the committee members are able to provide information and input into the meeting and how regularly.

#### Current wording

#### 6.11 WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COMMITTEE

If a group, organisation or individual wish to withdraw from the committee they will be required to provide notice in writing which will be tabled at the next scheduled committee meeting.

Where groups, organisations, or individuals are absent for three consecutive meetings the Project Manager through the Chair will be requested to write to them to confirm their desire to continue to be represented on the committee.

Representatives absent for more four than consecutive meetings will automatically have their membership to

the committee cancelled.

Proposed new wording

If a group, organisation or individual wish to withdraw from the committee they will be required to provide notice in writing which will be tabled at the next scheduled committee meeting.

Member groups, organisations or individuals are required to attend or have input (written or by any other means) into committee meetings.

If no contribution has been made for six consecutive meetings the Project Manager through the Chair will be requested to confirm their desire to continue to be represented on the committee.

Representatives who have not attended nor had any input either through written correspondence, by other means into committee business for eleven sitting sessions shall have their membership suspended and subject to review by the committee.

Motion moved by KD and seconded by JDR.

Motion: to approve changes to clause 6.11 in the terms of reference.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Action: LM to update terms of reference to reflect agreed changes.**

6.7 Path network Plan-LM would like to put a brief together to put out to a consultant. Acknowledge that this plan will require a lot more community consultation and will be more complex. PC noted that in the Draft Animal Management Plan there is a reference to include the road reserve within the management areas. TG requested that the brief be made available to the committee for input. LM noted there is a budget for a high level of community consultation. KD noted that hiking strategy has been released and focusses on having a lot more paths and trails for local people and cultural tourism.

**Action: LM to prepare draft consultant brief to be reviewed by committee prior to release.**

## 7. Correspondence

Outward	Nil
Inward	Nil

## 8. Project update from Rehabilitating Roe 8 Project Manager –update provided to committee.

LM to send out July-August Project Manager report to committee and paper on insect journal article.

LM reported that limestone has been installed in two access locations along Forrest Rd North to facilitate safe entry of water trucks for tubestock watering. One full round of watering has been completed in the corridor. Aboriginal monitors and project archaeologists were out during planting in Hope Rd North and did find some artifacts. LM continued appointment to the Project Manager role for another 12 months. Committee feedback that tubestock planting looks great.

## 9. Other business

- 9.1 New member-Phoebe Corke representing Save Beelihar Wetlands replacing Alison Wright.
- 9.2 Aboriginal Archaeological Survey scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> August being conducted by Archae-aus with monitoring support from the South West Aboriginal Land Sea Council. TG queried if that is the extent of involvement. LM indicated that once date has been confirmed then contact will be made to other community members who have expressed interest in attending the dig, specifically local Whadjuk community members. LM has made a submission to DBCA for disturbance and is awaiting approval. TG enquired if this is a male/female area. LM indicated that this hasn't come up as yet but believes it's a female site.
- 9.3 LM presented to the Beelihar Regional Park Advisory Committee on the 30<sup>th</sup> July. LM gave this presentation to committee-LM to provide this presentation (electronic pdf version) to the RR8AC.

Much of this information will be presented in the annual report.

**Action: LM to provide copy of presentation to all members**

## **10. Committee member report**

FB-Wetlands Centre works on-going

JDR-Hamilton Hill Community Group-Community membership is increased. Improved facebook and social platforms- easy to read, clear and more engaging.

AJ-Coolbellup Community Association –impressed with signage plan and encouraged. Working on getting more of a hub happening in the community space.

DC- Update from Cockburn Community Wildlife Corridor bushcare group-weeding on Saturday morning in Stock Rd West targeting Stinking Roger.

PC-Save Beeliar Wetlands-Section 46 enquiry seeks to achieve an amendment to the proposal that no road to the west of Bibra Dr was approved, this means there that there is no ability to build the road from this approval.

## **11. Information sharing**

## **12. Appointment of Chair for next meeting**

Catherine Prideaux appointed as chair for September meeting.

Meeting close: 4:00 PM

## **13. Next Meeting**

Thursday 10 September 2020 2pm-4pm at Wetlands Centre and via video link option