

FILE NO: 064/036

**MINUTES**

**Rehabilitating Roe 8 Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Thursday 9 September 2021, 3-5pm**

**The Wetlands Centre Meeting Room**

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**Advisory Committee attendees:**

Felicity	Bairstow (Chair)	FB	Community
Diana	Corbyn	DC	Wildflower Society
Phoebe	Corke	PC	Save Beeliiar Wetlands
Lou	Corteen	LC	Cockburn Community Wildlife Corridor
Angela	Jakob	AJ	Coolbellup Community Association
Cho	Lamb	CL	Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions

**Other attendees:**

Isabella Streckhardt (IS) – Acting Rehabilitating Roe 8 Project Manager

**Apologies:**

Tim	Barling	Conservation Council WA
Catherine	Baudains	Australian Association for Environmental Education WA
Kim	Dravnieks	Community
Jozina	de Ruiter	Hamilton Hill Community Group
Mitchell	Garlett	Traditional Owner
Heidi	Mippy	Aboriginal Reference Group Cockburn
Catherine	Prideaux	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
Jaye	Snowden	Aboriginal Reference Group Cockburn
Rachel	Standish	Perth Urban Restoration Science Advisory Committee
Bruce	Webber	Western Australian Biodiversity and Science Institute

1. **Welcome and Apologies**
2. **Observance of Acknowledgement of Country**
3. **Minutes from previous meeting**

Minor adjustments to meeting minutes from 12 August 2021. PC moved, DC seconded.

#### **4. Conflict of interest declaration**

nil

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

##### **5.1 Action items arising from previous meeting**

Progress of items arising from previous meeting were briefly discussed with no further questions from the committee.

**Action: IS to forward folder with Norfolk Pine island stumps information so members can pursue this outside of the committee**

Committee members discussed their support for the Wetlands Centre to re-join the advisory committee. IS shared that Tom Perrigo had advised that he saw no value in being on the committee and that this decision was up to the Wetland Centre's board.

##### **5.2 Path Network Plan – brief update on proposed 2021 works**

IS shared mobility access option for Malvolio road, while all other access points would remain hop-overs. IS touched on issues around tracks that have been closed off in Stock Road West.

**Action: IS to meet with residents to assess vandalism in Malvolio on newly rehabilitated tracks**

##### **5.3 \$3m Beeliar Wetlands election commitment – Cho Lamb (DBCA) to provide update on how DBCA and RR8 Advisory Committee will liaise**

CL provided the following update:

- DBCA's landscape architects are currently developing a concept plan for North Lake Reserve to guide the works as part of the election commitment proposals.
- DBCA will circulate the draft concept plan to stakeholders for comments and suggestions, and will present this plan to the committee when complete.
- A boardwalk has been considered through the alignment where it remains wet for majority of the year.
- Construction of a boardwalk at this location has significant constraints given the access track is required to be maintained for vehicles for management, emergency access and access for maintenance of the powerlines.
- To provide for this, the boardwalk would need to be constructed at a high trafficable specification that would be cost prohibitive and not good overall value for money. Most of the funds from the \$3Million commitment would need to be spent on the boardwalk.

- DBCA believes a greater range of recreational infrastructure can be delivered across North Lake Reserve which will provide better overall value to the community.

DC noted that the community is desperate to see action around weed management in North Lake reserve. IS wondered whether the current track between Bibra Drive and Hope Road could be maintained as is, due to it being cost-prohibitive to construct a board walk that could support heavy machinery access for powerline access, however an additional pedestrian-only boardwalk could weave through the section to allow connectivity in winter.

CL advised that Tim Fisher would like to meet with the committee once the proposal from landscape architects is ready to present. IS re-iterated that the committee would like to become involved at an early stage. CL shared that Tim Fisher would hopefully join the next meeting and information material would be distributed to members prior to the meeting.

FB raised concerns about the focus around recreation and noted that that while people needed to get near nature to gain appreciation for it, there was perception from the community that DBCA's focus on recreation is outweighing focus on conservation.

CL noted that Regional Parks in particular focus is on multiple objectives of both recreation and conservation, while the focus in National Parks and nature reserves is quite different and clarified that Tim Fisher is referring to passive recreation.

LC wondered why resources were being spent on proposals before seeking initial input from the community and raised that there was a big difference between 'We've got x amount of money, what do you think we should do' vs. 'This is what we want to do, what do you think?'. LC acknowledged that DBCA had a lot of knowledge, however highlighted that collectively the committee also held a lot of knowledge.

IS noted that the press release around the funding suggested that monies were going to be used to protect Roe 8; FB agreed. PC suggested tree houses for people to enjoy and appreciate bushland from a different perspective. DC noted that there was substantial need for weed control. FB noted that weed control should be core business of DBCA, not the outcome of election commitment. CL noted that while weed management and revegetation was core business, budget is limited. CL reiterated that plans would be only be concept plans and open for discussion.

IS asked CL to please provide the committee with notice of Tim Fisher's attendance and distribute concepts prior to meeting.

DC shared that there was a mount spring site in North Lake reserve, which was witnessed during demonstrating. AJ noted that it has not been recognized as one. FB also touched on Roe Swamp and potential of freshwater spring.

IS thanked CL for filling in for CP.

**5.4 Bushland News cover story on passed MRS (Beeliar Wetlands) Bill 2021 and implications of changed zoning**

CL advised of upcoming article. IS shared that she had initially been approached to write an article on this, however found that it was not RR8's place to speak on the zoning change and that IS therefore only provided short project update to accompany the article.

CL shared that she was still looking for input, particularly around success stories. CL said she was open for someone else to write on banksia woodland restoration and noted that it was a 'hot topic', with a lot of banksia woodland restoration projects not tracking well. AJ pointed to scientific information from RS.

FB noted that early weed control was crucial, particularly in wetland section, which bounced back by themselves, while upland was struggling more and acknowledged that watering helped.

IS noted that the project might not directly compare to other project areas that have been left in a degraded state for a long time and then purchased as off-sets. LC noted that S7 had most of the seedbank removed. LC shared that keeping herbicides out of S7 had made an incredible difference to the understory in terms of density and diversity. LC also highlighted benefits of fringing vegetation.

PC enquired around hand spreading mulch after clearing on Turtle Corner and wondered whether there had been many or an benefits.

The zoning change and potential completion criteria that may need to be met before handing land over after the RMP finished were briefly discussed, particularly for borders that are currently not actively restored. IS also mentioned that the article should steer away from evoke the impression that the entire corridor was protected, as the section from North Lake Road to Stock Road West will continue to be classed as road reserve.

LC enquired what parameters were on the election money and CL noted that monies were dedicated to improving or enhancing the area.

**5.5 Upcoming Community Events – discuss promotion of Citizen Science project**

IS asked members to promote the nature journaling workshop and citizen science bird monitoring kick-off event.

## 6. Correspondence

<u>Outward</u>		<u>Nil</u>
<u>Inward</u>		<u>Nil</u>

## 7. Project Manager Update

IS provided project update, and briefly touched on the erosion issue in Sebastian Crescent bushland that is being remediated. IS advised that the first community turtle information session held in collaboration with City of Cockburn was well attended. IS noted that weed control is delayed due to very wet winter and contractors being at capacity, completing grass weed control, commencing geophyte control and then moving on to non-selective weed control. LC noted that spraying grass weeds in S7 early on in the season this year has had positive outcome. There were no other questions regarding the Project Update.

## 8. Other Business

### 8.1 **Tree guard trial**

IS advised of the monitoring areas, which RS will be monitoring with students to compare seedling height and survival rates between seedlings with cardboard guards, plastic guards and no guards. 16 species are to be monitored in spring and again at the end of summer / early autumn.

### 8.2 **Annual Report - in progress**

IS shared that the Annual Report is in progress and will be circulated for feedback prior to the next meeting.

**Action: IS to circulate Draft Annual Report to committee**

## 9. Committee member report and information sharing

PC / Save Beelihar Wetlands – Planning of Beelihar Bill celebration in progress. PC shared that she recently visited Garden Island and was surprised by the large amount and high density of Arum lilies.

AJ / Coolbellup Community Association - Festival on Saturday 27 November 2021, similar to last year.

FB / Community - 'Animal footprints' being installed on footpaths in the eastern part of Bibra Lake to encourage kids to walk to school.

DC / Wildflower Society – upcoming guided walk in Malvolio bushland. Fortnightly weeding

events continue in S7.

LC / CCWC – Blackwood Ave planting is proving challenging due to weed density and hydrophobic soil conditions. LC raised concerns about the decline of orchids in the herbicide-use areas in Stock Road West, however acknowledged that weeds such as Black flag and Freesias needed controlling. The Bridal creeper rust fungus workshop was well attended and enjoyed by all, with positive feedback received.

The committee briefly touched on the new Forest Management Plan.

PC / on behalf of Hamilton Hill Community group. Community managed to save two Tuarts on the Healy Road block, as well as having 8% of the block handed over to public open space. Movie night on 4 December at Baker's Square.

Committee members raised that several members have not attended meetings for extended periods of time and that there is an expectation to attend.

**Action: IS to touch base with members who have not attended several meetings in a row.**

**Action: Zoom option to be offered again – FB to set up**

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

PC appointed as Chair.

#### **11. Next Meeting**

Thursday 14 November 2021 3-5pm at The Wetlands Centre, Cockburn.

Meeting closed at 4:35pm