

SHIRE OF MT MARSHALL



Natural Resource Management Committee

**Minutes of the Natural Resource
Management Committee meeting held on
Wednesday 20 April 2011
In Council Chambers,
80 Monger St, Bencubbin,
Commencing at 10:40 am.**

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1.0 Declaration of Opening / Announcement of Visitors

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 10:40 am and welcomed all those present.

A special welcome was made to Brett Clark, the newest member of the committee, to his first Natural Resource Management Committee Meeting.

2.0 Record of Attendance/Apologies

In Attendance

Cr Paul Gillett	Chairman / President
Mr Nick Gillett	Committee / Deputy
Cr Christopher Kirby	Committee Member / Councillor
Mr Robert Grylls	Committee Member
Mr Bob Huxley	Committee Member
Mr Brett Clark	Committee Member
Mr Matthew Gilfellow	Committee/Acting Chief Executive Officer
Mrs Lisa Clark	Committee/Natural Resource Management Officer

Cr Michael Hogan Observer

Apologies

Cr Des Miguel	Committee Member / Councillor
Cr Robert Breakell	Committee Member / Councillor

3.0 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings

3.1 Minutes of the Natural Resource Management Committee Meeting 1 December 2010

NRM2011/011 COMMITTEE DECISION/OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Natural Resource Management Committee held 1 December 2010 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceeding.

Moved Mr Robert Grylls Seconded Cr Christopher Kirby Carried 8/0

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4.0 Petitions/Deputations/Presentations/Submissions

4.1 Discussion by Next Gen Tour 2010 Attendees

Unfortunately only one delegate from the 2010 Next Gen Study Tour group contacted the Natural Resource Management Officer to confirm that he was unable to attend.

There were no delegates present so the discussion could not take place.

No further arrangements will be made to hold a 2010 Next Gen Study Tour group attendee discussion with the committee.

5.0 Reports of Officers

5.1 Natural Resource Management Officer

5.1.1 NRM Officer Update

LOCATION/ADDRESS:	Mt Marshall District
NAME OF APPLICANT:	Nil
FILE REFERENCE:	A4/10
AUTHOR:	Lisa J Clark – Natural Resource Management Officer
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	No Interest to Disclose
DATE:	8 April 2011
ATTACHMENT NUMBER:	5.1.1 NRM Officer Report – April 2011
CONSULTATION:	Nil
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:	Nil
POLICY IMPLICATIONS:	Nil
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:	Nil
STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:	Nil
VOTING REQUIREMENT:	Simple Majority

NRM2011/012 COMMITTEE DECISION / OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That the Natural Resource Management Officer report be received.

Moved Mr Nick Gillett

Seconded Mr Matthew Gilfellon

Carried 8/0

BACKGROUND:

Please read attachment NRMO Report April 2011.

COMMENT:

Nil

ATTACHMENT 5.1.1

NRMO REPORT APRIL 2011

Since the last NRM Committee meeting I have been very busy with several grant applications for the shire and individual farmers. I have also attended several field days and training courses, and visited several farms to plan future projects.

Due to our NEWROC and Caring for Our Country commitments I have been busy with project site visits, several meetings, writing grant applications, and I managed and planned a Soil Health Forum in Merredin.

I applied for and received funding from Wheatbelt NRM Community Grants to digitise the Mt Marshall Herbarium and format a book and database. The project will commence very shortly. After Easter the herbarium will start to be scanned by the Beacon Resource Centre. A workshop will also be held to discuss and plan the final format of the book and database and learn about the history of the herbarium.

Future plans are to have the digitised data from the herbarium published with the help of the State Herbarium and the Department of Agriculture and Food. The data will also be used to promote our local wildflowers and conduct water wise gardening workshops with the Mukinbudin Windbreakers Nursery. From the water wise gardening workshops we will also produce a book on how to establish and create your own waterwise garden in the Central Wheatbelt. This part of the project will also help to promote our shire and the towns of Beacon and Bencubbin.

I applied for funding to improve the facilities at Marshall Rock Reserve. By placing markers along designated vehicle and walking tracks and providing signage to indicate where BBQ and camping areas are situated as well as the walking tracks and granite outcrop landmarks. I also applied for a shelter with a rainwater tank to place the signs Kevin Trustum (past NRMO) created and had placed at the entrance (they currently are too high and you can't read them and they are full of valuable information). I have not yet heard if this application has been successful.

I completed five funding applications for local land holders who wanted to apply for remnant vegetation fencing. No one has contacted me to let me know if they were successful or not, I am not aware if applicants have been notified yet.

I planned and managed a successful Red Card for Fox and Rabbit Shoot. The community really enjoyed the event and I had nothing but positive feedback and people were really grateful that I had organised the event. There was a great turn out to the muster and breakfast by participants and supporters.

The event was organised so people could enter and have fun at little personal cost. The breakfast was sold at cost price and the Shire donated \$200 toward prizes. This ensured local businesses were supported and not asked for donations after a dry and difficult season.

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I worked with the local Police to ensure a safe event and cover any liability issues with any accidents. We put in place a safety meeting and every entrant had access to a WA Firearms Safety and Usage guide. We identified group leaders and they were responsible for all group members to receive a copy.

The Red Card for Fox and Rabbit shoot culled 88 foxes, 11 feral cats and 293 rabbits from our shire, which was a fantastic effort. There was no faults with the event except one team dumped their kill outside my house without organising for it to be taken to the muster to be counted (it wasn't left within eyesight of the house). Unfortunately that cull was not included in the event.

Bencubbin won the Sharp Shooting Town award with 1655 points and Beacon made 910 points. Stockbrands donated \$495 to RFDS due to the number of cats and foxes that were culled during the event.

With NEWROC we have applied for Next Gen Funding to run another tour. This tour will fly to Sydney then onto Dubbo where we will visit a University and attend a Climate Change conference, then by bus we will visit Narromine and visit a Perennial Forage and No Kill Method Farmer, then move onto Nyngan and visit farmers with the same climate, rainfall and soil type as us and see how they farm. We will be visiting two very large farmers and a couple of average size farmers and look at surface water control methods, crop rotations, chick peas etc. We may even visit the National Flock of Sheep breeds, then head back to Dubbo and Sydney and home again.

I have also completed an Expression of Interest for Forage Shrub Trial Sights around the shire. I have five sights already picked out as the farmers have come to me for advice and I have been lucky enough to fit them into the one project. They will be trial sights for the community to learn from if approved. The sights have wind eroded upper slopes and in the mid slopes and valley floors in close proximity there is salinity occurring. The project aims to manage the wind erosion, salinity and provide stock feed by revegetating the areas with fodder shrubs.

I have then also met with Bob Huxley and Ros Macpharlane and worked on the proposed Sandalwood Project, which will be presented today for your input.

I have also attended a Strategic Extension Planning for Impact course at the Department of Agriculture in South Perth. The course has helped me immensely on how to plan and manage projects in regards to getting data out to the public from projects. This includes new ideas such as workshops being held online for younger farmers, new avenues of distributing data instead of hand outs at field days and how to include more people involvement in projects. The herbarium project was used in many workshop examples and I came away from the course for many new ideas for the project and how to best present the data to the public.

I also travelled to Quairading with Katherine Andrews who represented Beacon Progress Association to attend a Project Writing course. The course has helped me greatly in regards to project planning, making sure the projects are correctly planned and set out before applying for funding. The course coordinator also provided many templates to help with project management and a few new web sites with new funding bodies.

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I have also attended several NRM ROC and NRM NEWROC meetings. For the NRM ROC Caring for Country project I organised and managed the Soil Health Forum in Merredin with the help of Tobias Vudzijena (Merredin NRMO) and Kara Hatch (former Westonia/Yilgarn NRMO). The event was a success with many farmers attending.

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5.1.2 Proposed Mt Marshall Sandalwood Project

LOCATION/ADDRESS:	Mt Marshall District
NAME OF APPLICANTS:	Mr Bob Huxley and Ms Ros Macpharlane
FILE REFERENCE:	A4/10
AUTHOR:	Lisa Clark, Natural Resource Management Officer
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	No Interest to Disclose
DATE:	11 April 2011
ATTACHMENT NUMBER:	5.1.2 Mt Marshall Sandalwood Project Plan
CONSULTATION:	Nil
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:	Nil
POLICY IMPLICATIONS:	Nil
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:	Nil
STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:	Nil
VOTING REQUIREMENT:	Simple Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

For Committee consideration.

2011/012 COMMITTEE DECISION / OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That the Natural Resource Management Committee support the Mt Marshall Sandalwood Project.

Moved Mr Nick Gillett

Seconded Cr Paul Gillett

Carried 8/0

Note: The committee considered the matter and resolved to support the project.

BACKGROUND:

Mr Bob Huxley and Ms Ros Macpharlane have recently been involved in the Master Tree Growers Program where farmers and tree farming industries spent four weekends learning and visiting everything about tree farming. The program visited the Shire of Mt Marshall and looked at mapping wadjil sands within the shire with potential to plant sandalwood hosts. I was unable to attend due to prior commitments.

Bob and Ros have contacted me to help them implement a large project, which involves promoting farmers to plant sandalwood host trees on their wadjil sands within the Shire of Mt Marshall. The project aims to create a sandalwood industry in the shire within twenty years.

The project may involve seminars/workshops on the economics and soil health of the wadjil soils on cropping vs sandalwood hosts. The shire already has trial sites well established with Sandalwood hosts growing on wadjil soils. Data and reports will need to be completed on these trial sites, or existing reports need to be compiled into a literature review to prove that the sandalwood hosts on the wadjil sands have improved the soil health within the shire. Once this has been completed the project will then also provide free seedlings of sandalwood hosts to farmers after a selection

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process has been met. Further projects will need to be developed in the future to meet the main aim of the project.

COMMENT:

I am meeting with Bob and Ros, Shire President/NRM Committee Chairman Paul Gillett and possibly Cr Michael Hogan on Monday 18 April 2011 to consider the 'Project Plan'.

The plan will be presented to the NRM Committee for consideration at its meeting on Wednesday 20 April 2011. The committee is invited to comment on the project and how it may best be implemented.

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6.0	New Business of an Urgent Nature Introduced by Decision of the Meeting
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7.0	Next Meeting – Wednesday 1 June 2011 commencing at 5:00pm at the Beacon CWA House, Rowlands St, Beacon
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8.0	Closure of Meeting
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The Chairman wished everyone a happy and safe Easter and declared the meeting closed at 11:33pm.

Date

Cr PA Gillett

Chairman