

SHIRE OF MT MARSHALL



Natural Resource Management Committee

**Minutes of the Natural Resource
Management Committee meeting held on
Wednesday 7 April 2010
in Council Chambers,
80 Monger Street, Bencubbin
commencing at 10:00am.**

Cr PA Gillett

Chairman

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Minutes of the Natural Resource Management Committee Meeting on 7 April 2010

1.0 Election of Chairman

As a Chairman had not yet been elected, the meeting was declared open at 10:25am by Jessica Smith, Natural Resource Management Officer who called for nominations for Chairman.

Cr CJ Kirby nominated Cr PA Gillett as Chairman, seconded by Mr Anthony Sachse. Cr PA Gillett's nomination was accepted in his absence. There being no further nominations, Cr PA Gillett was declared Chairman.

Nominations were called for Deputy Chairman.

Cr CJ Kirby nominated Mr Nicholas Gillett as Deputy Chairman, seconded by Mr Anthony Sachse. Mr Nick Gillett's nomination was accepted in his absence. There being no further nominations, Mr Nick Gillett was declared Deputy Chairman.

2.0 Record of Attendance/Apologies

In Attendance

Cr Chris Kirby	Committee Member
Mr Anthony Sachse	Committee Member
Mr Robert Grylls	Committee Member
Mr Bob Huxley	Committee Member
Miss Jessica Smith	Natural Resource Management Officer

Apologies

Cr Paul Gillett	Chairman
Mr Nick Gillett	Deputy
Cr Robert Breakell	Committee Member
Mr Derek Clauson	Committee Member (resigned)
Cr Des Miguel	Committee Member

3.0 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings

3.1 Minutes of the Natural Resource Management Committee Meeting 2 September 2009

NRM2010/001 COMMITTEE DECISION/OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Natural Resource Management Committee held 2 September 2009 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceeding.

Moved Mr A Sachse

Seconded Mr R Grylls

Carried 5/0

Note: No minutes were produced from the meeting scheduled to be held on Wednesday 10 February 2010. As the quorum was not met, the meeting could not take place.

4.0 Petitions/Deputations/Presentations/Submissions

Nil

5.0 Report of Officers

5.1 Natural Resource Management Officer

5.1.1 Nursery Management Plan

LOCATION/ADDRESS: Shire of Mt Marshall
NAME OF APPLICANT: N/A
FILE REFERENCE: A4/14
AUTHOR: Jessica Smith – Natural Resource Management Officer
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST: No Interest to Disclose
DATE: 29 March 2010
ATTACHMENT NUMBER: 6.1.1 Nursery Management Plan
CONSULTATION: Nil
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT: Nil
POLICY IMPLICATIONS: Nil
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: Nil
STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS: Nil
VOTING REQUIREMENT: Simple Majority

NRM2010/002 COMMITTEE DECISION/OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That the Nursery Management Plan be adopted.

Moved Cr C Kirby

Seconded Mr A Sachse

Carried 5/0

BACKGROUND:

A Nursery Management Plan (attachment 6.1.1) was compiled as a reference guide to the operation of the community nursery. It contains a calendar of maintenance and seedling schedules as well as a list of current species available in the community seed bank.

COMMENT:

Nil

6.1.2 Department of Environment and Conservation Rabbit Control

LOCATION/ADDRESS: Shire of Mt Marshall
NAME OF APPLICANT: N/A
FILE REFERENCE: A4/14
AUTHOR: Jessica Smith – Natural Resource Management Officer
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST: No Interest to Disclose
DATE: 29 March 2010
ATTACHMENT NUMBER: 5.1.2 Correspondence from DEC
CONSULTATION: Nil
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT: Nil
POLICY IMPLICATIONS: Nil
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: Nil
STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS: Nil
VOTING REQUIREMENT: Simple Majority

NRM2010/003 COMMITTEE DECISION/OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That the Department of Environment and Conservation be granted permission to fumigate and/or rip active warrens, lay 1080 baits, erect rabbit proof fencing and conduct weed control and/or controlled burning on the property managed at Bimbijy Rd (road verge), just north of Stone Rd, Beacon (adjacent to Location 4148).

Moved Mr C Kirby

Seconded Mr R Grylls

Carried 5/0

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Environment and Conservation has recently obtained funding to reduce the impacts of rabbits in the Wheatbelt region. The project will run from October 2009 to September 2012 and will involve suppressing rabbit populations at 324 key sites to allow the recovery of rare plant populations and regenerate critical habitat of threatened flora. The attached letter states that DEC would like to manage a population of *Caladenia drakeoides* located on the property at Bimbijy Rd (road verge), just north of Stone Rd, Beacon.

COMMENT:

Advice is sought from the NRM Committee on whether there are any other shire reserves they recommend to be included in the baiting program.

ATTACHMENT 5.1.2

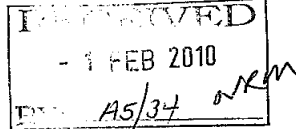


Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Environment and Conservation**
Yilgarn District (Northam Office)

Your ref:
Our ref: C. dra
Enquiries: Jill Symington
Phone: 9622 8940
Fax: 9622 8947
Email: jill.symington@dec.wa.gov.au

27 January 2010

Shire of Mount Marshall
PO Box 20
Bencubbin WA 6477



Dear Sir/Madam

The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) has recently obtained funding from the Australian Federal Government for the undertaking of a project to reduce the impact of rabbits in the Wheatbelt region. The overall project objective is to undertake land management actions that allow the recovery of rare plant populations and regeneration of critical habitat for threatened flora and communities. In addition to rabbit control, some sites will involve other activities such as weed control and the introduction of disturbance such as fire, to provide the environmental conditions necessary for regeneration and recruitment. If a population is selected as suitable for these activities, any proposed works will be planned in close conjunction with the landholder. The project will run from October 2009 to September 2012.

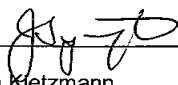
The project will involve suppressing rabbit populations at 324 key sites throughout the Wheatbelt region, including four sites relating to Threatened Ecological Communities and 320 sites relating to rare or threatened flora. Up to another 80 nearby sites will also be addressed.

DEC is seeking the assistance of landholders with rare or threatened flora on their property, by requesting that landholders provide permission for DEC staff to undertake rabbit management activities at such sites. In addition to conserving the unique flora on their property, landholders will gain a number of land management benefits by being involved in the project. Reducing rabbit populations will have the effects of increasing regeneration of native vegetation, reducing soil erosion and grazing damage to crops, pasture and native vegetation caused by rabbits, and lessening weed establishment which is encouraged by the large quantities of rabbit scats typically found near warrens.

DEC records indicate that you have *Caladenia drakeoides* located on property you manage at Bimbijy Rd (road verge), just north of Stone Rd, Beacon (adjacent to Location 4148) and we are seeking your cooperation to include the population in the project. This involves requesting your permission for DEC staff to fumigate and/or rip any active warrens, lay oat baits containing sodium fluoroacetate (1080) within the area and erect rabbit proof fencing around key sites to protect the rare flora from rabbit damage. Where appropriate, weed control and/or controlled burning of the plants may also be undertaken with your agreement.

You will be contacted by DEC staff during the coming months to discuss the possibility of undertaking these activities on your property. For further information or queries regarding this baiting program please contact Jill Symington (Flora Conservation Officer) on the number above.

Yours sincerely


For: Alan Kietzmann
District Manager
Yilgarn District

Postal address: PO Box 332, Merredin WA 6415
Office address: 375 Fitzgerald St, Northam WA 6401
Tel. (08) 9622 8940
Fax (08) 9622 8947
www.dec.wa.gov.au

6.1.3 Department of Environment and Conservation Community Grants

LOCATION/ADDRESS: Shire of Mt Marshall
NAME OF APPLICANT: N/A
FILE REFERENCE: A4/14
AUTHOR: Jessica Smith – Natural Resource Management Officer
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST: No Interest to Disclose
DATE: 29 March 2010
ATTACHMENT NUMBER: Nil
CONSULTATION: Nil
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT: Nil
POLICY IMPLICATIONS: Nil
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: Nil
STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS: Nil
VOTING REQUIREMENT: Simple Majority

NRM2010/004 COMMITTEE DECISION/OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That the NRM Officer apply for a community grant on behalf of:

1. The Shire of Mt Marshall for subsidised fencing for landholders and to conduct a baiting program in 2011 for remnant bushland; and
2. NEWROC to conduct an Environmental Education Program

Moved Mr A Sachse

Seconded Mr R Grylls

Carried 5/0

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Environment and Conservation currently has a funding opportunity open for environmental community grants. Community groups and local government may apply for up to \$30,000 across eight categories.

Categories include:

- Biodiversity conservation (up to \$30,000 available)
- Sustainable catchment management (up to \$30,000 available)
- Fauna rescue and rehabilitation (\$500)
- Interpretation and sustainable recreation in natural resource areas (up to \$30,000 available)
- Regional parks and Bush Forever sites (up to \$15,000 available)
- Support for major conservation/environmental organisations (up to \$20,000 available)
- Protection of high value areas by landholders on private land (up to \$15,000 available)

All funds are to be expended within the 2010/2011 financial year.

As there has been a strong interest for baiting and fencing in the past, it is proposed the Shire of Mt Marshall shall try to secure funding for the forthcoming financial year to

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provide subsidies to landholders for these products. Up to \$30,000 will be sort for baiting and \$15,000 for fencing under this funding program.

The NEWROC NRM Officers are also proposing to submit a joint application to deliver an environmental education program. This will include sourcing funding to organising events such as bush tucker workshops and school activities including tree planting, night stalks, field days and wildlife workshops.

COMMENT:

Nil

6.1.4 NRM Officer Report

LOCATION/ADDRESS: Shire of Mt Marshall
NAME OF APPLICANT: N/A
FILE REFERENCE: A4/14
AUTHOR: Jessica Smith – Natural Resource Management Officer
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST: No Interest to Disclose
DATE: 29 March 2010
ATTACHMENT NUMBER: 5.1.4 NRM Officer Report
CONSULTATION: Nil
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT: Nil
POLICY IMPLICATIONS: Nil
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: Nil
STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS: Nil
VOTING REQUIREMENT: Simple Majority

NRM2010/005 COMMITTEE DECISION/OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That the NRM Officer's quarterly report be received.

Moved Mr R Huxley

Seconded Cr C Kirby

Carried 5/0

BACKGROUND:

As part of the NRM Officer's reporting requirements a report is produced for the Natural Resource Management Committee to summarise the activities of the NRM Officer every three months.

COMMENT:

The report from the NRM Officer is attached.

ATTACHMENT 5.1.4

Shire of Mt Marshall NRM – February 2010 Report

As part of the quarterly NRM Committee meeting I like to keep you up to date with what we've been doing over the past months. Therefore this report identifies projects and issues that we have been working on and gives a brief overview of each.

- Bores monitoring – Bore monitoring was conducted in September and December 2009. During the first two bore runs I confirmed the GPS locations and have updated the bore map. Data I have collected has been inserted into Combos. I still need to insert past bore data into Combos. More monitoring is due again in March and I would like to measure pH this time and on an annual basis.
- Community Nursery – Seedling have been planted for the Saline Farm Forestry project and for the 2010 tree day. I have been continuing with on-going maintenance including weeding, thinning and fertilising. A nursery management plan was also compiled.
- I was successful at receiving a \$10,000 Community Action Grant on behalf of the Lake McDermott Catchment Group. This will provide subsidised 1080 baits for Landholders. Baiting is expected to take place in March. An additional grant for \$1,000 from Wheatbelt NRM was also successful to carry out baiting activities.
- NEWROC/WEROC Projects - Post site visits are for the 2008-2009 CFoC Project have all been completed and final reporting was completed by the project manager. The NEWROC/WEROC/SEAVROC NRM group recently received funding for the CFoc 2009 Project 'Perennial farming systems targeting wind erosion within the North Eastern and Southern Wheatbelt regions of WA'. My task for this project along with Kara of Westonia and Tobias of Merredin is to work towards an information day for 1st year of project. 12 EOI form landholders were received. There is only funding to provide seven landholders with seedlings so I am currently looking for other opportunities for these landholders who missed out in 2010. Wheatbelt NRM has a soil conservation incentives project which may be able to supply seedling. When they open the next rounds of applications in February I will submit an application on behalf of the landholder with their prior permission. I am current in the process of sending out letters to landholders who submitted EOI's to let them know the outcome of their applications.
- Tools for Trees Training in Bencubbin: On the 25th February at the Bencubbin Rec Centre, starting at 1.30pm, there will be workshop on 'Farming Landscapes for the Future' which is a new interactive decision support tool that will be released early in 2010. The tool builds on CSIRO's Scenario Planning and Investment Framework (SPIF) and Agricultural Production Simulator (APSim) modelling tools, and is specially calibrated for the Avon Wheatbelt to help land managers and their advisors develop new agricultural enterprise combinations for the future. Advertisements for this event will be emailed to landholders and placed in local newspapers.

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- Grants: I have applied for the following grants since the last meeting:
 - Community Action Grant for 1080 baiting (was successful)
 - FarmReady Industry Grant for seedlings (unsuccessful)
 - Next Gen Farmer Grant for SA study tour for young farmers (waiting for successful projects to be announced)
 - State NRM grant for Malleefowl Awareness Program in Mt Marshall (unsuccessful)
 - State NRM grant for NEWROC for Bioblitz surveying and mapping of flora and fauna (waiting for successful projects to be announced)
 - Lotterywest application for oatbait layer trailer (Lotterywest require minutes from next Lake McDermott meeting to be held later in February before application can proceed further)
 - Wheatbelt NRM small community grants. One on behalf of the Lake McDermott Catchment Group for sandalwood planting in the railway reserve
 - SGIO community grant for school water tank and solar light for sandalwood dray shed.

- Wind farms: have contacted Verge Energy and Western Power in regards to the feasibility of wind turbines in Mt Marshall. Requires further liaison with Western Power.

- Water Conservation Plan: A water conservation plan was compiled with assistance from the Department of Water. It will be released for public comment.

- Since the last NRM Committee meeting I have attended the following training events and meetings
 - Media and photography training in Kellerberrin
 - State NRM Conference in Geraldton
 - 3 day Project Management Training in Northam
 - Monthly NEWROC/WEROC NRM meetings (These have now been changed to quarterly meetings with informal meeting to be held in-between as deemed necessary.)
 - Reptile capture and handling course

This meeting is an ideal forum to discuss any of the projects identified above or any other Natural Resource Management matter. Please feel free to do so. Alternatively if you would like to discuss any NRM matter with me at another time, contact me on (08) 9685 1202 or Email: nrmo@mtmarshall.wa.gov.au

Jessica Smith
Natural Resource Management Officer

6.0 New Business of an Urgent Nature Introduced by Decision of the

Nil

7.0 Next Meeting – To be Advised

The date, time and venue of next meeting are to be advised.

8.0 Closure of Meeting

The meeting was declared closed at 10:46am.

Date

Cr PA Gillett

Chairman