

**Attendees:** Cllr David West (GTCC - Chair), Richard Pamplin (GTCC), Tanya Cross (GTCC), Bob McDonnell (GTCC), Stuart Hood (GTCC), Brian Hughes (LLS), Mitch Tulau (OEH), John Hogg, John Harris, Stephen Griffith

	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
1.	<b>Apologies:</b> Graeme Stone, Clare Manning (NPWS)	<i>Accepted</i>
2.	<b>Minutes from the previous meeting held 3 Sept 2015</b>	<i>Accepted</i>
	<i>Status of Actions from Previous Minutes</i>	
1.	Convert Big Swamp prospectus into an educational tool: TC advised not a priority at this stage – due date has been revised.	<i>June 2016</i>
2.	Investigate funding opportunities for Big Swamp: TC advised funding application submitted under the Estuary Management Program for matching funding of \$200,000 for further acquisition and remediation of ASS (Stage 3) was successful.	<i>Ongoing</i>
3.	Prepare Fire Management Plan for Big Swamp/Cattai in consultation with NPWS/RFS. Nothing new to report.	<i>June 2016</i>
4.	Review option of formalising the Right-of-Way at Big Swamp: To be discussed with landowner in conjunction with land purchase negotiations.	<i>April 2016</i>
5.	Continue negotiations with Big Swamp landowners to purchase priority land: Land valuation currently being prepared for land east of the canal.	<i>Ongoing</i>
6.	Pursue funding to purchase low lying land to the south of Cattai: No funding opportunities currently available.	<i>June 2015</i>
7.	Provide feedback on draft design & location of bird hide: TC advised that due to the amount of vegetation that would need to be cleared to accommodate the proposed bird hide at the previously chosen site, the alternative site near the causeway is now the preferred location. Locating the facility at this location would only involve minimal disturbance to vegetation and has good views over the wetland. While all generally supported the decision, the western sun was raised as a potential issue, however it was felt that the majority of use by birdwatchers was likely to be in the morning and therefore not considered to be a major problem. It was also suggested that the two storey concept was a little grandiose & that we should aim to keep it low key. TC to pursue alternative design & redistribute to members for comment.	<i>April 2016</i>
3.	<b>General Business</b>	
a.	<b>National Committee on ASS Meeting –</b> Mitch advised that next year's meeting of the National ASS Committee will be held in Port Macquarie on 6 May 2016. Mitch suggested the committee may be interested in undertaking an inspection of Big Swamp/Cattai	<i>Noted</i>

	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
	Wetlands in conjunction with their meeting. All were very supportive of the idea & agreed it would be a great opportunity to showcase our work.	
<b>b.</b>	<b>Cape Water Lily</b>	
	Concerns were raised about the increasing growth of water lily on the wetland (approx. 90% coverage) and the potential impact it may be having on water quality and bird diversity. It was suggested that a working group be established to examine the problem & come up with a management strategy or wetland restoration plan. Bob & Mitch volunteered to make enquiries through the Northern Rivers Floodplain Network to seek advice from other councils who may have experienced this problem.	<i>BM &amp; MT – Feb 2016</i>
<b>c.</b>	<b>Wild Deer Management</b>	
	It was noted that the North Coast Local Land Services were currently preparing a Wild Deer Management Plan for the Hastings region. Bob advised he had filled out a community survey & his expressed his interest in being involved in the process but had not received a response. Brian said he would seek more information from the NCLLS on this matter.	<i>BH – Feb 2016</i>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>	
	TBA	<i>Noted</i>

	<b>Current Actions</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Due</b>
1.	Convert Big Swamp prospectus into an educational tool.	TC	June 2016
2.	Investigate funding opportunities for Big Swamp.	TC	Ongoing
3.	Prepare Fire Management Plans for Big Swamp/Cattai Wetlands in consultation with NPWS/RFS.	TC	June 2016
4.	Review option of formalising the Right-of-Way at Big Swamp & repair culverts.	SH	April 2016
5.	Continue negotiations with Big Swamp landowners to purchase priority land.	TC	Ongoing
6.	Pursue funding to purchase low lying land to the south of Cattai.	SH	Ongoing
7.	Engage consultant to prepare concept design for bird hide.	TC	Feb 2016
8.	Seek advice through the Northern Rivers Floodplain Network regarding water lily management in wetlands.	BM/MT	Feb 2016
9.	Seek information from the NCLLS on the preparation of the Hastings Wild Deer Management Strategy.	BH	Feb 2016