

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, Clare Manning (NPWS), Chris Sheed (TIDE), Mick Leon, Kellie Syron & Naomi Sykes (Gangga Marrang)

	ITEM	ACTION
1.	Apologies: Graeme Stone	<i>Accepted</i>
2.	Minutes from the previous meeting held 2 July 2015	<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.	<i>Dec 2015</i>
2.	Investigate funding opportunities for Big Swamp: Funding application submitted under the Estuary Management Program for matching funding of \$200,000 for further acquisition and remediation of ASS (Stage 3).	<i>Ongoing</i>
3.	Prepare Fire Management Plan for Big Swamp/Cattai in consultation with NPWS/RFS. Tanya advised that RFS were planning on undertaking hazard reduction burns for the grasslands & the forest area west of the car park over the next few weeks.	<i>TC - Dec 2015</i>
4.	Invite TIDE to next meeting to present Gangga Marrang's proposal to develop Aboriginal cultural heritage interpretive resources for Cattai Wetlands. Completed - see Agenda Item 4.	<i>Completed</i>
5.	Review option of formalising the Right-of-Way at Big Swamp: To be discussed with landowner in conjunction with land purchase negotiations.	<i>SH - Dec 2015</i>
6.	Continue negotiations with Big Swamp landowners to purchase priority land: TC advised she had contacted OEH who confirmed that we can put the current grant on hold until next round of funding is announced & then combine the two grants which would provide the necessary funds to purchase a larger area. The option of purchasing land to the south of Cattai will also be pursued.	<i>TC - Dec 2015</i>
7.	Develop revegetation project with the Green Army team to help shade out the Carpet Grass at Big Swamp: This was not achieved but will be pursued as part of the next Green Army program (if successful). Council will be applying for 2 Green Army teams for a period of 12 months from July 2016 – 1 to focus on Cattai/Big Swamp & the 2nd on other Council reserves.	<i>Completed</i>
3.	General Business	
a.	Bird Hide Tanya advised that a meeting had been held on site with representatives from the Hunter Bird Observers Group & the Manning Great Lakes (MGL) Birdwatchers to select a site & discuss the design requirements of the proposed bird hide facility. All reps at the meeting agreed that to avoid the sun in your eyes the preferred site was to the north of the wetlands	<i>All – prior to next meeting</i>

	ITEM	ACTION
	opposite the Tombolo. Issues to be addressed include SEPP 14 planning requirements in relation to the proposed removal of vegetation and the obstruction of views caused by the paperbarks in front of the hide. To partly overcome this the proposed design of the bird hide has incorporated a second storey viewing platform (see attached design prepared by Ashley Carlson of the MGL Birdwatchers). If anyone has any feedback on the either the proposed location or design could you please provide this to Tanya prior to the next meeting for discussion.	
b.	Stuart advised that he had recently inspected the property to the south of Cattai with Council's Flood & Drainage Engineer to further investigate the landowner's complaints regarding the flooding of his property due to the lack of flow within Cooperbrook Creek. Our engineer has since undertaken some calculations which shows that the creek has a preference to drain towards the Lansdowne River – as a result the landowner's request for Council to clean out Cooperbrook Creek near the entrance to Cattai Creek would not be feasible. It was agreed that Council should continue to pursue funding to purchase of the low lying portion of this land to assist in the holistic management of the wetlands.	<i>SH – Pursue funding to purchase low lying land to the south of Cattai</i>
4	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Interpretive Signage	
	Chris Sheed from TIDE and representatives from Gangga Marrang presented a draft proposal to install ten interpretive signs at Cattai Wetlands with information on local Aboriginal cultural heritage values and original artwork (see attached proposal). While the concept was fully supported it was noted that the content and layout of the signs may need amending to fit in with Council's style guide. The development of the signage has incorporated visits to the site and extensive consultation with key members of the local Aboriginal community who have all supported the proposal. It was agreed that TIDE & Gangga Marrang should proceed with the finalisation of the additional signs for approval by Council.	<i>Noted</i>
5.	Next Meeting	
	Thursday 9:30am 22 October 2015 in the Manning Room	<i>Noted</i>

	Current Actions	Who	Due
1.	Convert Big Swamp prospectus into an educational tool.	TC	Dec 2015
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	Dec 2015
4.	Review option of formalising the Right-of-Way at Big Swamp & repair culverts.	SH	Aug 2015
5.	Continue negotiations with Big Swamp landowners to purchase priority land.	TC	Sep 2015
6.	Pursue funding to purchase low lying land to the south of Cattai.	SH	Dec 2015