

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

	ITEM	ACTION
1.	Apologies: Richard Pamplin (GTCC), Clare Manning (NPWS)	<i>Accepted</i>
2.	Minutes from the previous meeting held 3 Dec 2015	<i>Accepted</i>
	<i>Status of Actions from Previous Minutes</i>	
	Convert Big Swamp prospectus into an educational tool.	<i>July 2016</i>
	Investigate funding opportunities for Big Swamp: Nothing new to report.	<i>Ongoing</i>
	Prepare Fire Management Plan for Big Swamp/Cattai in consultation with NPWS/RFS.	<i>July 2016</i>
	Review option of formalising the Right-of-Way at Big Swamp: To be discussed with landowner in conjunction with land purchase negotiations.	<i>May 2016</i>
	Continue negotiations with Big Swamp landowners to purchase priority land: Land valuation has been prepared for land east of the canal. Discussion around various land acquisition options. It was agreed that we should pursue all land to the east of canal including the 2 lots north of Coralville Rd but excluding the lots containing Hogg's Hill and the large dam.	<i>Ongoing</i>
	Pursue funding to purchase low lying land to the south of Cattai: No external funding opportunities currently available however funding may be available through the environmental levy next financial year.	<i>July 2016</i>
	Engage consultant to prepare concept design for bird hide: Tanya circulated the plan for discussion. All were generally supportive of the concept but requested consideration of a few factors in the design including access for ongoing maintenance, durability of timbers & avoiding the use of treated pine. Tanya to pass on comments & request consultant to proceed with detailed design.	<i>May 2016</i>
	Seek advice through the Northern Rivers Floodplain Network regarding water lily management in wetlands: Mitch received information from Terry Inkson (Great Lakes Council) who recommended the use of the aquatic herbicide 'Shark' or Glyphosate (Biactive) to control the water lilies based on the success of their Cabomba control program in the Myall Lakes (see GLC's paper attached). Concerns were expressed regarding the use of chemicals in the wetland and the potential for off-target damage to native flora & fauna (see paper attached on Blue Mountains Council's Cabomba control program at Glenbrook Lagoon) & the preference for manual methods of control such as deepening areas of the wetland to discourage the growth of the water lily, harvesting the weed (although the deep rhizomes of the plant could be problematic) and dewatering the wetland during a drought. It was agreed that we should talk further with Terry Inkson on the benefits & risks of using the Shark herbicide.	<i>May 2016</i>

	ITEM	ACTION
	Seek information from the NCLLS on the preparation of the Hastings Wild Deer Management Strategy: Brian advised that the strategy was only applicable to the Port Macquarie Hastings LGA & that a draft had been prepared & placed on public exhibition.	<i>Noted</i>
3.	Presentation on the Vegetation Monitoring Program for Big Swamp See Steve's presentation attached which shows the changes in vegetation at various sampling quadrats between 2013 and 2016.	<i>Noted</i>
4.	Big Swamp Annual Water Quality Monitoring Report The report attached contains a summary of the results from Year 2 of the monitoring program which shows an overall improvement in water quality across the site (median pH of 5.32). Report also notes however that a persistent & extensive source of acid within the eastern region of Big Swamp is causing the pH to consistently drop to below 4 during wet & drying periods. Following discussion surrounding the potential influence of naturally occurring acid swamps on these pH levels it was agreed to seek clarification from WRL regarding the origin of the acid coming from this area.	<i>May 2016</i>
5.	General Business	
a.	National Committee on ASS Meeting Mitch advised that the National ASS Committee will be held in Port Macquarie on Friday 6 May 2016. A field trip is being planned for the day before on Thursday 5 May & will include a visit to Cattai/Big Swamp in the afternoon. Mitch requested the attendance of GTCC staff & the Wetlands Committee to provide background to the projects & conduct a tour of the area. Will Glamore from WRL also likely to attend. Mitch to provide more information.	<i>Noted</i>
b.	Changes for Cattai Bob suggested the following changes regarding Cattai: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installing additional signage on the highway • Extending the opening times for Cattai Wetlands to 7 days/week & for longer • Construct new public access & car park area near the group shelter • Construct walking track down to former wharf site • Seek NPWS to include signage information on Cattai at North Brother Mt It was agreed to pursue/investigate all of the above and to trial extended opening times for Cattai for a 6 month period.	<i>July 2016</i>
5.	Next Meeting	
	Thursday 19 May 2016	<i>Noted</i>

	Current Actions	Who	Due
1.	Convert Big Swamp prospectus into an educational tool.	TC	July 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	July 2016

4.	Review option of formalising the Right-of-Way at Big Swamp & repair culverts.	SH	May 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	July 2016
7.	Prepare design & specifications for the bird hide.	TC	May 2016
8.	Seek advice from Terry Inkson regarding the use of the Shark herbicide to control water lilies.	TC	May 2016
9.	Seek clarification from WRL on the origin of acid within the eastern region of Big Swamp – Mitch to provide wording.	MT/TC	May 2016
10.	Speak to RMS about installing additional signs to Cattai on the highway	TC	May 2016
11.	Commence trial of extended opening times for Cattai for 6 months	TC/BM	July 2016
12.	Investigate costs of constructing new access/car park near shelter & walking track to former wharf site	BM	July 2016
13.	Contact NPWS about including Cattai on signage at Nth Brother	BM	May 2016