



Manning Estuary Coastline and Catchment Advisory Committee

MINUTES

Thursday 21 May 2015 at 8am

in Council's Administration Centre

Welcome and apologies: Andre Uljee (RMS), Elaine Pearce (OBBSRG), Cr Keegan, Bill Nelson & Adam Nixon (FIMG)

Endorsed by consensus

Present: Cr Robyn Jenkins (Chair), Richard Pamplin (GTCC), Paul De Szell (GTCC), Ric Slatter (OEH), Kirsty Hughes (MCW), Mayor Paul Hogan, Silas Sutherland & Tina Clemens (Crown Lands), Brett Ryan (Maritime), Greg Crisp (oyster/fisherman representative) Liz Siverths and Rosemary Probes [OBBSRG - standing in for Elaine]

Previous Minutes:

Endorsed by consensus

Business Arising:

Nil

Correspondence:

Nil

General Business:

- a. Draft Coastal Zone Management Plan update provided by Richard
- b. MECCAC Dredging Sub-committee - 2015 Update – Manning River Maintenance Dredging Strategy provided by Richard

Motion: That the 2015 review of sites recognised for dredging be adopted and included in Appendix I of the Manning River Maintenance Dredging Strategy 2010.

Endorsed by consensus

- c. Environmental Levy update provided by Richard – see members reports below.

Meeting closed at 8:35 am

Future Meetings: 20 August & 19 November

Members Reports

GTCC

- Dredging of 5,000 cubic metres of sand from the Cowans Channel at Farquhar Inlet in partnership with the Farquhar Inlet Management Group (FIMG).
- Urban waterway riparian rehabilitation at Manning Waters Reserve, Kendall Reserve, Butea Drive Reserve and on the Dawson River behind the Taree Recreation Ground.
- Bush regeneration works at various Council reserves at Hallidays Point, Old Bar, Taree, Wingham, Tinonee and Harrington.
- Continuation of environmental restoration works at Big Swamp/Cattai Wetlands including water quality monitoring undertaken by WRL.
- Continuation of monthly water quality sampling within the Manning River estuary by OEH and release of the State of the Manning Report Card for 2013/14.
- Continuation of the Sand Tracing project for Old Bar Beach.
- Engaged consultants to prepare the environmental impact assessment for the Harrington Backchannel dredging project.
- Completed the environmental impact assessment for the maintenance dredging of the boat launching area in partnership with the Manning River Rowing Club.
- Completed the environmental impact assessment for the Harrington Waters riverbank restoration project.
- Commenced the preparation of the design and specifications for the partial removal of the Dyers Crossing weir and construction of a fish ladder.
- Completed the environmental impact assessment for flood mitigation/environmental restoration works at Racecourse Creek, Old Bar.
- Installed a 30kW solar power system at the Kolodong Works Depot which will reduce Council's electricity usage by 40%.
- Held World Wetland Day celebrations at Cattai Wetlands on 1 February 2015.
- Commenced the preparation of an inspection and maintenance program for the cleaning of gross pollutant traps.
- Launched the 6-month Green Army Team at Cattai Wetlands in partnership with Conservation Volunteers Australia.
- Called for expressions of interest from local dairy farmers to partner with Council in implementing on-farm nutrient minimisation projects.
- Identified sites for two new gross pollutant traps at Browns Creek in partnership with the Friends of Browns Creek.
- Completed the environmental impact assessment for the Pelican Bay riverbank restoration project in partnership with the Soil Conservation Service and the Manning River Oyster Farmers Association.
- Landscaping of the Harrington Lagoon foreshore in partnership with FIMG.
- Energy Audits of the Aquatic Centre, Works Depot, Administration Building & Entertainment Centre.
- Training of staff in Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and Erosion & Sediment Control.
- Update of Council's Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Guidelines.
- Increased cleaning of boat ramps and fish cleaning tables.

Using the levy, Council has so far been able to attract an additional \$1.6M in grants (75% success rate) including:

- \$554,600 through the NSW Office of Environment & Heritage's Estuary Management Program for the following projects, which will be matched dollar for dollar with funding from the environmental levy:
 - \$150,000 for the next stage of the Big Swamp acid sulfate soil remediation project;
 - \$44,000 to undertake an investigation and improvements to floodgates on the Manning River floodplain to reduce the generation of acid sulfate soils;
 - \$77,000 to stabilise eroding riverbanks, protect saltmarsh and remove the highly invasive weed sharp rush in the Manning River estuary;
 - \$72,000 to undertake improvements to the water quality in Browns Creek, and to work with the Dairy Advancement Group to implement measures on dairy farms to reduce nutrients entering the river;
 - \$40,000 for ongoing water quality monitoring and reporting under the continuation of the Protecting the Health of the Manning River project;
 - \$55,000 to fence off riverbanks and undertake roadside erosion control projects; and
 - \$116,600 for the partial removal of the Dyers Crossing weir and construction of a fish ladder.

- \$800,000 through the NSW Boating Now Program for the following projects. Council will contribute \$500,000 from the environmental levy over the next 3 years – total project value \$1.3M.
 - Upgrade boat ramp, car park and amenities at Endeavour Park, Taree (\$300,000)
 - Upgrade boat ramp, formalise car park and install new pontoon at Bohnock (\$325,000)
 - Investigate the possible relocation of boat ramp facility at Manning Point & construct/improve boat ramp and car park if feasible (\$135,000)
 - Upgrade boat ramp and car park at Croki (\$40,000)
 - RMS has also allocated funds to investigate options to improve the boat ramp at Kendall Reserve at Cundletown.

- \$40,000 in matching funding through the Recreational Fishing Trust Fish Habitat Action Grants Program to undertake the restoration of 700 metres of severely eroding riverbank near Harrington.
- \$40,000 in matching funding through the Rescuing our Waterways Program to undertake maintenance dredging of the Harrington Backchannel.
- \$10,000 from Hunter Local Land Services to go towards the acid sulfate soil assessment project being funded through the Estuary Management Program.
- \$52,000 matching funding through the NSW Environmental Trust Restoration and Rehabilitation Program to undertake wetland restoration works, construct a walking track and install interpretive signage within the Taree Recreation Ground adjacent the Dawson River.

The following applications for matching funding were also recently submitted under the NSW Coastal and Estuary Management Program:

- Beach Access Improvements: \$55,000
- Old Bar Beach Emergency Access and Dune Remediation: \$49,000
- Harrington Backchannel Hydrological Study: \$45,000
- Big Swamp Acid Sulfate Soil Remediation Project - Stage 3: \$200,000
- Manning River Estuary Riverbank Restoration Project: \$70,000
- Continuation of the Old Bar Beach Sand Tracing Study: \$29,000

Crown Lands

Vertebrate Pest Control work is currently being done in the Harrington Beach State Park and Manning Entrance State Park, by a professional contractor. Trapping techniques are currently used by the Contractor. Committee members are free to inform the community, that anyone with questions or sightings should contact Crown Lands, on 6591-3586. Residents or visitors who think a domestic pet may have escaped their control, into the State Parks, and entered a trap should contact Greater Taree City Council (pound). Beneficial outcomes of the work include an expected reduction in threats to native Wildlife such as Migratory and Endangered Shorebirds.