

Attendees: Cr David West (Chair), Richard Pamplin (GTCC), Daniel Love (GTCC), Tanya Cross (GTCC), Graeme Stone (GTCC), Bob McDonell (GTCC), Kirsty Hughes (MCW), Mitch Tulau (OEH), Brian Hughes (LLS), John Hogg, John Harris

	ITEM	ACTION
1.	Apologies: Clare Manning (NPWS), Stephen Griffith	<i>Accepted</i>
2.	Minutes from the previous meeting held 31 July 2014	<i>Accepted</i>
	<i>Status of Actions from Previous Minutes</i>	
	Convert Big Swamp prospectus into an educational tool – this action still to be progressed. Should be incorporated into an environmental resource kit for Cattai Wetlands.	<i>TC – early 2015</i>
	Review meeting frequency of the committee – it was agreed to hold meetings every 6 weeks or as needed. It was also suggested that in addition to Big Swamp, the committee focus on implementing the actions of the Cattai Wetlands Future Directions Strategy.	<i>Completed</i>
	Investigate funding opportunities for Big Swamp: Council has partnered with Fisheries on an application for funding under the NSW Environmental Trust Restoration & Rehabilitation Program to undertake ASS remediation works on Buttsworth's property. If successful Council will contribute \$30,000 from the environmental levy. Still waiting on the outcome of Council's applications for matching funding under the Community Building Partnership Program for the bird hide, and under the Estuary Management Program for land acquisition & ASS remediation at Big Swamp.	<i>Funding yet to be announced</i>
	Prepare Fire Management Plans for Big Swamp/Cattai Wetlands - FMP for Cattai Wetlands received from RFS – awaiting feedback from NPWS. Big Swamp FMP still to be prepared in consultation with NPWS.	<i>TC – Dec 2014</i>
	Undertake 2nd Fish Survey at Cattai – delayed due to persistent dry conditions.	<i>JH – when it rains!</i>
	Investigate opportunities for local Aboriginal community to develop Aboriginal cultural heritage interpretive resources for Cattai Wetlands – meeting to be held with TIDE to progress this initiative.	<i>TC – Nov 2014</i>
	Invite Terry Evans to an upcoming meeting to continue his presentation on the geology of Cattai on site - deferred due to ill health. Mitch & John Harris volunteered to assist if Terry was unavailable.	<i>TC – early 2015</i>
3.	General Business	
a.	Clr West suggested the Committee send a letter of appreciation to David Hopper to thank him for his contribution to the Big Swamp project.	<i>TC – draft letter for Cr West to sign</i>

	ITEM	ACTION
b.	Tanya advised that Council had been successful in its application for a Green Army Team to undertake weed control at Cattai – the team is due to commence in March 2015 & will run for a period of 6 months.	<i>Noted</i>
c.	Tanya advised that Council has been selected by LGNSW as a finalist in the 2014 Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards in the 'Natural Environment Protection & Enhancement: On-ground Works' Category for the Big Swamp Project. Winners will be announced at an Awards Ceremony on 2 December in Sydney – Tanya & Bob to attend.	<i>Noted</i>
d.	Tanya advised that Council would be hosting the next meeting of the Northern Rivers Floodplain Network on 20 & 21 November, and will include presentations from Dr Will Glamore & a site visit to the Big Swamp. Please advise Tanya if you wish to attend.	<i>Noted</i>
e.	Tanya advised that the State of the Manning Report Card had recently been finalised which indicates that the Manning River estuary is in fairly good ecological condition with an overall grading of B, putting the Manning in the top half of all estuaries in NSW. The Report Card can be accessed on Council's website: http://test.gtcc.nsw.gov.au/Page/Page.aspx?Page_Id=1922	<i>Noted</i>
f.	Dan noted that an application for matching funding had been submitted under the NSW Environmental Trust Restoration & Rehabilitation Program to undertake a wetland rehabilitation project at the back of the Taree Recreation Ground on the banks of the Dawson River.	<i>Noted</i>
g.	Tanya advised that bird identification signage had recently been erected at various locations around Cattai Wetlands – the signage was developed & designed in partnership with the Hunter Bird Observers Group.	<i>Noted</i>
h.	Brian discussed a funding proposal to undertake a Strategic ASS Assessment for the Manning River Floodplain to help prioritise areas for remediation based on a project undertaken by WRL for the Shoalhaven River. LLS funding for this project to be confirmed. An application for funding has also been submitted under the Estuary Management Program.	<i>Noted</i>
i.	Tanya advised that a proposed amendment to the LEP will be soon going on public exhibition which if approved will result in the inclusion of a local environmental clause that will offer a development offset in exchange for the dedication of land identified for acquisition in the Big Swamp Feasibility Study. Submissions are invited from the community on the draft LEP amendment, which can now be viewed on Council's website until Thursday 4 December at: http://test.gtcc.nsw.gov.au/Page/Page.aspx?Page_Id=1928	<i>Noted</i>
j.	Tanya advised that Council's former University Intern, Kellie Hitchings, had received a High Distinction for her Integrated Project titled "Vegetation Mapping of Tidal Wetlands", which was based on the Big Swamp project (see attached).	<i>Noted</i>

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k.	Graeme advised that a Green Paper on Agricultural Competitiveness had recently been released by the Australian Government seeking submissions on a number of future policy directions including water and natural resource management: https://agriculturalcompetitiveness.dpvc.gov.au/	<i>Noted</i>
l.	Kirsty advised that MCW is currently reviewing its Sustainable Water Cycle Management Strategy and that there would be opportunities for community engagement over the coming months.	<i>Noted</i>
4.	Next Meeting	
	4 December 2014 at 9:30am in the Manning Room.	<i>Noted.</i>

	Current Actions	Who	Due
1.	Convert Big Swamp prospectus into an educational tool.	TC	Early 2015
2.	Invite Terry Evans to an upcoming meeting to continue his presentation on the geology of Cattai - to be held on site.	TC	Early 2015
3.	Prepare Fire Management Plans for Big Swamp/Cattai Wetlands in collaboration with NPWS.	TC	December 2014
4.	Undertake 2 nd Fish Survey at Cattai	JH	TBA
5.	Investigate opportunities for local Aboriginal community to develop Aboriginal cultural heritage interpretive resources for Cattai Wetlands.	TC	November 2014
6.	Investigate funding opportunities for Big Swamp	TC	Ongoing
7.	Draft letter of appreciation to David Hopper for Clr West to sign on behalf of the Committee	TC	December 2014