

February 2016
Ordinary Meeting Minutes
Date: 25 February 2016
Time: 7:00 pm
Where: Hurstville City Council

ATTENDEES	
Cr Naji Peter Najjar	Bankstown City Council
Cr Andrew Tsounis	Rockdale City Council
Cr Peter Harle	Liverpool City Council
Cr Geoff Shelton	Liverpool City Council
Alison Hanlon	Hurstville City Council
Svetlana Kotevska	GRCCC
Tony Wales	GRCCC
David Reid	GRCCC
Lisa Smith	GRCCC
Kathy Godfrey	Hurstville City Council
Rebecca Bell	Bankstown City Council
Gus Pelosi	Office of Environment & Heritage
Joel Daniels	Liverpool City Council
Ashraful Allam	Fairfield City Council
Nathan Vacey	Sutherland Shire Council
Beth Noel	Sutherland Shire Council
David Henry	Wollondilly Shire Council
David Dekel	Rockdale City Council
Melina Amerasinghe	Community Representative
Kim Wagstaff	Friends of Oatley
Sharyn Cullis	GREA
Simon Rowe	Oceanwatch

Charles Gream	Botany Bay and Catchment Alliance
Garth Jones	GREEC
Nerida Taylor	Blacktown City Council
APOLOGIES	
Cr Vince Badalati	Hurstville City Council – Mayor
Cr Con Hindi	Hurstville City Council
Cr Rita Katsianis	Hurstville City Council
Cr Colin Drane	Hurstville City Council
Cr Peter Scaysbrook	Sutherland Shire Council
Cr Tom Croucher	Sutherland Shire Council
Cr George Barcha	Fairfield City Council
Cr Dai Le	Fairfield City Council
Laurie O'Connor	A/General Manager, Hurstville City Council
Brian Shaw	Botany Bay and Catchment Alliance
Dawn Emerson	Community Representative
Emily Forrest	Bankstown City Council
Kevin Smith	Liverpool City Council
Alex Vandine	Rockdale City Council
Rachel Buzio	Rockdale City Council
Signe Westerberg	Community Representative

5pm Hurstville Golf Course Stormwater Harvesting Tour – hosted by Alison Hanlon, Hurstville City Council

ATTENDEES	
Alison Hanlon Kathy Godfrey	Hurstville City Council
Svetlana Kotevska Tony Wales David Reid Lisa Smith	GRCCC
Cr Geoff Shelton	Liverpool City Council
Cr Scaysbrook Beth Noel Nathan Vacey	Sutherland Shire Council
Rebecca Bell	Bankstown City Council
Nerida Taylor	Blacktown City Council
Glen Moody	Kogarah City Council
Ashraful Allam	Fairfield City Council
Simon Rowe	Oceanwatch
Garth Jones	GREEC
Brian Shaw Charles Gream	Botany Bay Catchment Alliance
Kim Wagstaff	Friends of Oatley
Graham Lalchere	Oatley Flora and Fauna
Sharyn Cullis	GREA
Melina Amerasinghe	LGRSI Community Representative

Cr Najjar opened the meeting at 7.03 pm

1. Acknowledgement of Country

Cr Najjar acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the Land, the Biddegal People of the Eora Nation.

2. Introductions and Apologies

Cr Najjar thanked Hurstville City Council for hosting the GRCCC for the last 6 years and for the continued hosting of the GRCCC till 2020. Cr Najjar also thanked Hurstville City Council for hosting the meeting and thanked Councillors and those present for attending.

3. Disclosures of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

4. Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 29 October 2015

Cr Tsounis moved that the minutes from the Committee Meeting held on 29 October 2015 be accepted and seconded by Cr Shelton.

5. Matters Arising from Minutes

Nil.

6. Presentation – Alison Hanlon, Manager Environmental Sustainability, Hurstville City Council

Topic: Hurstville Golf Course – Stormwater Harvesting

Background

The Hurstville Golf Course site was previously a landfill tip which had been in use since the 1970s and was closed in the early 1980s. The site was capped and the golf course established. The irrigation of the site was poor, with only the greens and tees of the western half of the course irrigated. As a result the fairways across the entire course were of poor quality. The Golf Course was also identified as Hurstville City Council's second highest user of water.

Challenges

The Golf Course presented challenges to Council including the poor condition of the fairways and required an innovative solution to improve and source irrigation and to be able to reduce water usage in a sustainable and cost effective way. The catchment area of 160 ha was identified as largely industrial and impervious.

Council adopted a whole of system approach to this challenge, recognising the management of stormwater as a valuable resource to improve the quality of the Golf Course.

Stormwater would be captured, treated and reused to manage the entire Golf Course and eliminate the need to use potable water and subsequently achieve significant savings. This would ultimately bring positive water quality outcomes for Lime Kiln Bay and the Georges River, along with improving biodiversity and the playing conditions at the golf course.

Securing Funding Support

Hurstville City Council developed a Water Sensitive Urban Design Action Plan which led to significantly increased capacity to deliver WSUD within Council however the project needed funding. An application for a grant from the Federal Government was successful in gaining \$1.07M under the Water for the Future Initiative. Council pooled funds from other smaller several grants (including OEH & WASP) and together with Council funding was able to make up the total project cost of \$2.56 million.

Construction

Stage 1

Construction commenced in July 2012 and was completed in March 2013. Methane monitoring was conducted during construction due to the previous use as a landfill site.

Stage 2

Stage 2 involved irrigation and top dressing upgrades for the entire course. This work commenced in August 2013 and involved adding up to 1 metre of clay in some places to increase improve course conditions and drainage. This will have the added benefit of slowing surface water infiltration above the landfill capping layer. A secondary treatment system was

also installed and more than 30,000 shrubs and grasses through the creation of two new aquatic habitats and additional planting was undertaken as a carbon offset for the stormwater harvesting system pumps and treatment systems.

Construction was completed in February 2014 – a timeframe of 19 months with all construction on time and on budget.

Outcomes

- Enhanced biodiversity and new aquatic habits
- Capture, treatment and reuse of over 50ML of stormwater pa to irrigate the entire golf course
- Conservation of over 21ML of potable water
- Significant reduction in volume of stormwater entering Lime Kiln Bay and the Georges River
- Improved quality of stormwater that reaches receiving waters
- Improved course drainage
- Improved playing conditions on the golf course and the creation of a new ‘water hazard’ for players leads to significantly increased patronage for the Golf Course.
- Significant cost savings to council as no potable water used to irrigate the course since February 2014.

Questions

Cr Harle – Liverpool City Council

What is the toxic leachate made up of?

The leachate is made up of rain water that seeps through the ground into the old landfill waste under the golf course. This is a separate management issue and not connected at all to the stormwater harvesting system. There is a separate waste water treatment plant located at the bottom of the Golf Course effectively treats the leachate before it is discharged into the sewer under a trade waste agreement with Sydney Water.

David Dekel – Rockdale City Council

What monitoring programs are in place for habitat?

Initially Council was monitoring water quality once a month but now that we have established a base line is being conducted quarterly. Metals, pathogens etc are all recorded at safe levels. The extensive planting around the newly constructed wetlands has significantly increased biodiversity, insects, turtles, dragonflies, and attracted prolific numbers of ducks. **Any changes to fertilizer management?**

Kathy Godfrey advised that the Groundkeeper has reported that there is minimal fertilisation of course.

David congratulated Hurstville City Council on the work done at the Golf Course

Cr Naji Najjar

Have Ibis been attracted to the Golf Course?

No, though some have come from the Council Depot across the road.

Kim Wagstaff – Friends of Oatley

Kim commented on the ease of playability at the Golf Course, adding that at the top of every sprinkler head is the distance to the next hole.

What has been the impact on the Golf Course of the unauthorised excavation and fill upstream, on the other side of Roberts Avenue, next to the Woolworths site.

Alison advised that there has been minimal impact on the golf course.

Sharyn Cullis – GREA

What about the sewer overflows at Lime Kiln Bay? Could there be a system in place such as a radio link installed by Sydney Water at the request of Hurstville City Council?

Alison replied that Sydney Water has installed an automatic shutdown device for the stormwater harvesting system which activates in the event of an overflow at Roberts Avenue ERS. This shuts down the pumps in our system and prevents sewerage entering the system during an overflow.

Is sewer mining a possibility?

David Dekel commented that this is not practiced in Sydney and Beth Noel from Sutherland Shire Council advised that sewer mining is only carried out on treated sewage not untreated.

Sharyn Cullis congratulated Hurstville City Council for the results achieved at Hurstville Golf Course.

Simon Rowe - Oceanwatch,

How is UV solarisation used at the treatment centre?

Alison advised that firstly the stormwater in the storage dam receives passive UV disinfection from the sunlight while it is stored and it is then transferred to the secondary treatment system where it undergoes a mechanical filtration system and then into the UV disinfection system. The UV system uses UV lamps to kill pathogens and treat the water.

David Henry – Wollondilly Shire Council

What are the ongoing maintenance costs?

To date maintenance costs have been minimal and have related to servicing the UV system and filtration system. There was a 12 month establishment period for the bioretention system before we could operate the system and begin treating the water and as a result some sediment built up which caked the UV lamps. However this was easy to remedy. General cleaning maintenance is performed by our drainage contractors and involves emptying the GPT every 3 months and clearing any blockages from diversions and trash racks. Weeding of the bioretention system is also performed periodically. The filter media in the bioretention system is likely to require replacement in 15-20 years' time. This will be determined by taking core samples every 10 years. The GPT requires checking every 3 months and to be cleaned 4 times a year. This acts as a pre-screening system for the bioretention system. Approximately 1 tonne of sediment was removed from the GPT last year.

Joel Daniels -Liverpool City Council

Is the water piped down to the wetlands?

Alison advised that the trunk main runs underneath the golf course and any flows greater than 90 L/s continue through the trunk line to the Georges River. Treated overflows from the storage dam also return to the trunk line and get discharged to the river.

Svetlana Kotevska - GRCCC Program Manager

What are the long term pay offs?

Alison advised that there has been considerable savings of over \$78,000 in water to date and there are numerous other benefits including environmental, conservation of water and increased community recreational value at the Golf Course.

Kim Wagstaff - Friends of Oatley.

Is testing done at the stormwater culvert into Lime Kiln Bay?

Alison advised that testing is undertaken at the final stage of the UV treatment and from the storage dam.

7. GRCCC Treasurer's Report – Cr Andrew Tsounis, GRCCC Treasurer

Cr Tsounis presented the Treasurer's Report advising the GRCCCs' actual financial position as at 31 January 2016.

Income

The operational income to the end of January 2016 is **\$470,272**. All membership and program fees have been paid.

Expenditure

Total operational expenditure at the end of January 2016 across all programs is **\$259,990**. Expenditure has been limited to materials for the programs, salary and related expenses and insurances. This leaves a total operational surplus of **\$210,281** at the end of January. Expenditure on the Greater Sydney Local Land Services grant of \$57,500 for bush regeneration across the catchment relates to the payment of the contractors, The National Trust, whom commenced work in mid-October and will complete work by the end of April.

With the Australian Governments Biodiversity Fund Grant Project relating to the Aboriginal Riverkeeper Team, our income to date is \$315,150. The GRCCC is due to receive \$210,100 soon from the Australian Government, following the acceptance of the mid-year progress report submitted on the 1 February 2016. Expenditure on this grant to date is \$190,325 and relates to payment of our consultants Eco Logical Australia, who employ the Aboriginal bush regeneration team.

Moved by Cr Najjar and seconded by Cr Tsounis.

Simon Rowe from Oceanwatch enquired about the unbudgeted amount of \$1,927 for security under the Riverkeeper budget. The Program Manager advised that a security system was installed at the GRCCC expense at the Riverkeeper Centre in the National Park, where the GRCCC boats are kept which is alarmed and has back to base monitoring. The initial costs of the alarm were high due to installation, however ongoing costs for monitoring will be lower in future years.

Cr Shelton requested clarification on what were the budgeted costs. It was clarified that the budgeted costs shown were the annual costs.

8. GRCCC Program Reports and Executive Outcomes Report tabled

Cr Najjar moved that the GRCCC Program Reports and the Executive Outcomes Report be endorsed. Seconded by Cr Tsounis

9. General Business

a) Association Changes to the Act and Regulations including Model Constitution

The Program Manager advised that at the previous meeting in October 2015, the Committee agreed to review the Constitution. Currently the Incorporated Associations' Act is under review by the Department of Fair Trading and this is expected to be complete by September 2016. There will be some changes to the Incorporated Associations' Act, including the length of time members can hold office bearing positions, the ability of the NSW Minister for Fair Trading to dismiss Associations and to be able to redeem money and deny unfit persons

The GRCCC has agreed to update our Constitution which was developed in 1999. The Program Manager suggested the Committee await the release of the new Act and model Constitution before reviewing our Constitution. Once the model is released in September 2016, the Constitution will be reviewed for member Councillors to vote on at the October 2016 meeting.

b) Hurstville City Council - GRCCC Hosting agreement

The Program Manager advised that Hurstville City Council has agreed to continue hosting the GRCCC and thanked Hurstville City Council for this arrangement. This agreement has been in place since 2009 and has been extended, as per tabled letter until 2020.

c) Uncle Lew Solberg – Gandangara LALC

The Program Manager advised that Uncle Lew Solberg, Elder of Gandangara LALC, has contacted her to advise that he is very unwell and he is unable to attend any further meetings. A Thank You card has been sent to him from the GRCCC and we await further updates on his health from Gandangara LALC.

c) Moorebank Intermodal Terminal and SIMTA major project developments

The Program Manager advised that the GRCCC attended the Planning Assessment Commission along with Cr Harle from Liverpool City Council. The presentation made by the GRCCC is on the website and referred to the Report and conditions of the DA. The GRCCC advised that the CZMP needed to be considered and assessed as this was missing from the Department's report.

Cr Harle who attended the PAC commented that the GRCCC report was well presented and that he was impressed with the environmental presentation.

Cr Harle advised that another presenter, Paul Van Den Bos, a traffic modelling expert, presented a case using time allocated to Cr Harle who limited his time to 2.5 mins. Paul Van Den Bos analysed RMS info, and pointed out that the modelling used by RMS was out of date. One of Liverpool City Council's Managers who has previously worked for RMS agreed

that the RMS modelling was out of date. An outcome of this is that the RMS is buying updated software. The PAC gave them another 5 minutes to present. Other presenters included NSW MP Mr Craig Kelly, Member for Hughes, who presented on the toxicity of exhaust fumes of diesel emission. The national standard is under 8.0 mcg per standard metre. Ranges are expected to be 9 – 9.5 mcg which predicts 2,500 people will die from the emission rate.

d) GRCCC Website

The Program Manager advised that the GRCCC Website is hosted by Bluearc using Ignition Suite software which Hurstville City Council also uses for website management. This software is no longer being supported with further upgrades of Ignition Suite.

The Program Manager met with Hurstville City Council's IT Managers and looked at having a joint website with Hurstville City Council and GRCCC each having a separate domain and the GRCCC is awaiting advice on this joint venture. The GRCCC has allocated reserves for website maintenance for a new website provider if required.

The Program Manager encouraged Committee members to access the documents on our website <http://www.georgesriver.org.au/25-February-2016.html> such as the National Stormwater Enquiry, OEH Coastal Management Manual, MEMA Newsletter and update on Marine Reserves and Hawkesbury Bio regions.

e) Clean Up Australia Day – Sunday 7 March 2016.

The Program Manager advised that the GRCCC will be in Fairfield City Council, joining Charles Gream at Cabramatta Creek and John Dawson Oval for Clean Up Australia Day activities this year and encouraged Committee members to advise volunteers and interested parties to contact Charles to register their attendance. Charles Gream thanked the GRCCC for their involvement in the event.

f) Container Deposit Scheme

The Program Manager advised that the Container Deposit Scheme after many years in progress is to be implemented from 1 July 2017 with a pending decision to be made as to the preferred model. The deadline for input is tomorrow – Friday 26 February 2016. Anthony Wales detailed the discussion paper and advised as follows:

The two options being considered are:

Option 1 –developed by working groups from different parts of the community,

Option 2 - promoted by the beverage industry.

The GRCCC prepared a submission on behalf of member councils and addressed issues that came up in working groups. The GRCCC focused on ways to improve or reduce the volume of all plastic containers in the river. GRCCC supported the joint submissions between the Sydney catchment groups – the Cooks River and Parramatta River catchment groups and the Sydney Coastal Councils group. A joint submission was prepared by the Cooks River Alliance which covered 35 Councils.

David Dekel advised that Rockdale City Council has also presented a separate submission to the CDS.

There are approximately 12.2 billion bottles in NSW requiring recycling.

Charles Gream commented that litter on streets won't be recycled and Kim Wagstaff asked whether bottles in existing creek beds were to be accepted. Tony Wales advised that vending machines can only tell if containers are physically damaged and will not accept crushed cans. Machines will not have the ability to identify bar codes or identify if bottles are dirty or contaminated. The GRCCC may have issues with rubbish bags being tampered with.

Depending on individual Council arrangements with litter collection and contractors etc, it is possible that Councils will be able to obtain a percentage of refunds from containers in their kerbside collection.

g) Overflow at Towra Point and Incident at Liverpool – EPA response

Joel Daniels from Liverpool City Council asked the Program Manager whether there has been a response from the EPA about the overflow due to the Cronulla Pumping Station electric failure and also the pollution incident at Liverpool.

The Program Manager advised the GRCCC is chasing the EPA for a response about the incident at Liverpool. Tony Wales advised that the EPA fined Sydney Water \$15,000 for the incident. <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/epamedia/EPAMedia16021501.htm>

h) Future Guest Speakers

Sharyn Cullis asked whether it was possible to have a guest speaker present on Oyster Farming. The Program Manager advised a speaker for April or August will be arranged. Melina Amerasinghe suggested Laurie Dermott, a former oyster farmer from Oatley.

i) Finance and Administration Cluster – Reserve Recommendations

The Finance and Administration Cluster agreed on a number of options on the use of GRCCC reserves. Progress is to await on the news after the announcement of amalgamations by the Minister for Local Government. Once announced, the Program Manager will ask Council Managers to meet and progress the options.

j) Riverkeeper presentation

Melina Amerasinghe advised that Tony Wales will be presenting in April to the Oatley Flora and Fauna.

Cr Najjar thanked all present for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

The next meeting is to be held on Thursday 28 April 2016 at Sutherland Shire Council.