

November 2017

Draft Ordinary Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday 30 November 2017

Time: 7.36 pm

Where: Dragon Room, Georges River Council

Attendees	
Cr Peter Scaysbrook	Sutherland Shire Council
Cr Geoff Shelton	Liverpool City Council
Cr Ben Moroney	Campbelltown City Council
Cr Warren Tegg	Georges River Council
Cr Tom Croucher	Sutherland Shire Council
Cr Adrian Wong	Fairfield City Council
Cr Michael Banasik	Wollondilly Shire Council
Andrew Spooner	Georges River Council
Fiona Stock	Georges River Council
Beth Salt	GRCCC
Tony Wales	GRCCC - Riverkeeper
David Reid	GRCCC – Riverhealth Co-ordinator
Lisa Smith	GRCCC
David Dekel	Bayside Council – Council nominated representative.
Joel Daniels	Liverpool City Council
Nathan Varley	Sutherland Shire Council
Nell Graham	City of Canterbury-Bankstown
Tim Johnson	Fairfield City Council
Scott Reyes	Fairfield City Council
Mitchell Clark	Campbelltown City Council

Kim Wagstaff	Friends of Oatley
Sharyn Cullis	GREA
Charles Gream	Botany Bay and Catchment Alliance
Brian Shaw	Botany Bay and Catchment Alliance
Apologies	
Cr Darcy Lound	Campbelltown City Council
Cr Peter Harle	Liverpool City Council
Cr George Greiss	Campbelltown City Council
Alison Hanlon	Georges River Council
Alexander Vandine	Bayside Council
David Henry	Wollondilly Shire Council
Alexander Stengl	Wollondilly Shire Council
Melina Amerasinghe	Community Representative
Andy Robertson	Department Of Roads and Maritime Services
Dawn Emerson	Former GRCCC Chairperson

Cr Scaysbrook opened the meeting at 7.36pm.

1. Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 17 August 2017

The minutes from the meeting held on 17 August 2017 were adopted as a true and accurate record. **Show of hands and unanimously carried.**

2. Matters arising from minutes

Nil

3. Special Resolution – Adopt that the Georges River Combined Councils Committee Inc retain our entity name of Georges River Combined Councils Committee Inc and register a Business Name to reflect our registered Trademark ‘Georges Riverkeeper’. Upon adoption and registration, Georges Riverkeeper will be used in all future business practices.

The Program Manager provided the Committee with background information regarding the registration of a Business Name which is not confused with Georges River Council and is

reflective of the role of the Riverkeeper protecting the Georges River. The name Georges Riverkeeper is a Trademark that is registered to the GRCCC Inc. The business name Georges Riverkeeper as our new business name will be in line with our registered Trademark.

Cr Scaysbrook presented the Special Resolution to the Committee to vote on. Prior to voting, Cr Moroney advised the committee that by our own by laws and under the Association Incorporations Act, that this decision needed to be tabled as a Special Resolution.

The Chairperson requested a show of hands to adopt the Special Resolution:

Special Resolution

Adopt that the Georges River Combined Councils Committee Inc retain our entity name of Georges River Combined Councils Committee Inc and register a Business Name to reflect our registered Trademark ‘Georges Riverkeeper’. Upon adoption and registration, Georges Riverkeeper will be used in all future business practices

Voting took place by show of hands. The change of name was accepted by a show of hands by all valid voters at the meeting.

Special Resolution was carried.

There was consensus that the logos/names of member Councils be attributed to all letterheads, to identify the member Councils of the Georges Riverkeeper.

4. New Logo/Branding Options.

The Program Manager presented the Committee with four branding option/logos to consider. The branding options were:



Cr Banasik commented that the headwaters of the Georges River are not located in an urban environment. The Riverkeeper responded that the majority of the river is urbanised, and that the negative impact of urbanisation affects the river as a whole.

Discussion took place about the by-line under the Logo: A liveable urban river. The Program Manager explained that the by-line reflected the aspirational goal that the GRCCC team had recently developed at a Program Review workshop. Cr Croucher suggested ‘Caring for our river’.

Consensus could not be agreed to on the by-line.

The Chairperson advised the Committee to focus more on the images for branding, and that the by-line could be developed at a later date.

Cr Moroney advised the Committee that all comments from Committee members would be taken on board.

Cr Wong suggested that a straw poll be conducted about the four options presented.

The straw poll results were:

Option 1 – 0

Option 2 – 11

Option 3 – 12

Option 4 - 2

The Program Manager will send out a survey of the logos via Survey Monkey to Councillors and member councils voting on the image, but not the by-line.

5. Program Reports and Executive Outcome Reports.

The Program Manager tabled the Riverkeeper Program Report, River Health Program Report and the Executive Outcome Report which were available also on our website.

The Program Manager asked the Committee for a show of hands to adopt the Program Reports and Executive Outcome reports. **Show of hands. Unanimously carried.**

Questions/Comments from the floor.

David Dekel, Bayside Council

David Dekel commented on the recent visits by the Program Manager and GRCCC staff to Member Councils and advised that their presentation was well received and relevant to their Council.

Charles Gream, Botany Bay Catchment Alliance

What is going to be the impact of losing the Aboriginal Riverkeeper team?

The Riverkeeper responded that during the last 12 months, the Green Army and ART teams ended their work in the catchment with no bush regeneration currently in operation. The GRCCC has applied for a Fish Habitat Action Grant for salt marsh plantings throughout the catchment and is awaiting advice of the success of our application. Essentially the core business is our rubbish removal program. From December 2017 an extra team per week will be operating in the Canterbury-Bankstown/Georges River/Bayside LGAs on a Monday. In terms of rubbish collection for 2017/2018 the amount of rubbish anticipated to be collected is approximately 140 tonne.

Sharyn Cullis, GREA

Are there any opportunities for the Army to assist with the removal of cars dumped in the river?

The Riverkeeper responded that the area she is referring to is on private land and that dumped cars are not really an issue for the river as they were in the past and that this is an aesthetic issue rather than an environmental issue.

Cr Scaysbrook commented that if we can identify opportunities, the GRCCC has the profile to have credibility for assistance in this area.

Kim Wagstaff –Friends of Oatley

Will the GRCCC have any role with regard to monitoring the Container Deposit Scheme?

CDS – any role with regard to monitoring. The Riverkeeper advised that the GRCCC has 6-7 years of data, and we will be able measure the effectiveness over time.

The Riverkeeper advised that since the introduction of a boom in Gow Street, Padstow 18 months ago, has seen a 40% decrease of rubbish collected.

Brian Shaw, Botany Bay Catchment Alliance.

There has been rubbish accumulation in the GPT Gow Street, Padstow.

Nell Graham, City of Canterbury-Bankstown confirmed that she has requested a clean up at this site.

Kim Wagstaff, Friends of Oatley

Does this mean there should be more GPTS and booms should be in place.

The Riverkeeper and Program Manager responded that these measures are only relevant when they are placed in the right place and maintained properly.

Cr Tegg, Georges River Councillor

Are you looking at opportunities for funding for research and interns?

The River Health Co-ordinator responded that in the future it would be good to explore opportunities for a research program.

David Dekel, Bayside Council

David Dekel commented that one of the GRCCC's core roles is to influence policy and with the currently lack of government grant funding, that this is an area where the advocacy role could be increased.

Cr Moroney responded that the River Health and Riverkeeper Report card data provides member councils with the benefits of data to assist with advocacy.

Cr Tegg, Georges River Councillor

Is there any opportunity for funding for Carp?

The Program Manager responded that the majority of funding for carp is for research. She has organised for Joe Pera to come along to talk about carp at one of the Committee meetings in 2018.

The Riverkeeper asked Technical Officers for their feedback on the issue of carp in the river.

Tim Johnson, Fairfield City Council informed the Committee that he had recently attended a community forum at Penrith on the National Carp Control Program. Tim commented that there are currently no clear answers about the logistical clean up issues of releasing the virus to eradicate the carp.

The Riverkeeper asked Technical Officers if they see living carp in the river as an issue.

Tim Johnson responded that at the recent forum, it was estimated that carp accounts for 70% of the biomass in the river system.

The Riverkeeper advised that carp are a problem in our creeks and are evident in Prospect Creek in the tidal zones and in numerous ponds. At Mirambeena Reserve, the carp as bottom feeders, churn the water into muddy water.

Tim Johnson advised that research papers of carp being removed from water systems, resulted in differences between turbidity in water, and increased micro-organisms after removal and increase in water birds.

Mitchell Clark, Campbelltown City Council suggested looking at the links to research in this area and circulating with the minutes such as the [National Carp Plan](#) and [NSW Fisheries Research](#) .

Cr Scaysbrook asked how the carp came to be in our river system. The Riverkeeper advised they are an introduced species.

Cr Banasik commented that at Picton, children catch the carp and they had a drive to encourage them to do this in Picton and In Campbelltown. Mitchell Clark commented that although carp fishing is an engaging community activity, there is no evidence that this activity has any impact on the environment or the impact on the amount of carp in the river.

6. Treasurers Report

The operational income year to date is \$414,107 which includes all membership and program fees and interest. Total operational expenditure at the end of November 2017 across all programs was \$175,271. Major expenditure has been on staff salaries and related expenses, insurances, and Program related expenses. Expenditure is one track as budgeted. This leaves an operational surplus of \$238,836.

Acceptance of the Treasurers Report. Moved by David Dekel, seconded by Cr Tegg. Show of hands, accepted unanimously.

7. Open Business

State Environmental Planning Policies

The NSW Government has been working towards developing a new State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP). The proposed changes include consolidating seven existing SEPPs listed into an overall State Environmental Planning Policy one of which is the [Greater Metropolitan Regional Environmental Plan No. 2 – Georges River Catchment](#). David Dekel, Bayside Council,

advised that he had attended a recent workshop with numerous Councils about the proposed changes to State Environment Planning Policies and that a response is required with comments to the Department of Planning and Environment by 31 January 2017.

Cr Scaysbrook acknowledged that this falls into the role of advocacy of the GRCCC and the Program Manager confirmed she would contact Councils for comment.

Get the Site Right

Brian Shaw, Botany Bay Catchment Alliance, asked for feedback on the Get the Site Right Campaign. The Program Manager confirmed that the blitz day was Tuesday 21 November and that she will provide feedback from participating Councils at the next Committee Meeting.

The Program Manager thanked City of Canterbury Bankstown, Bayside, Georges River and Campbelltown City Councils for their participation and that she was hoping to run this event twice yearly. David Dekel reported that Bayside Council had issued dozens of infringement notices.

Committee Meetings 2018

The Program Manager advised that from 2018, printed materials for meetings will only be provided to Councillors and that all other members will be able to access meeting documents from our website. In 2018, it is planned to hold a site visit at the first Committee meeting to be held in 2018 in February proposed to be hosted by Sutherland Council. Details will be provided in early 2018.

Cr Scaysbrook declared the meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

The next meeting is to be held on 22 February 2017.