

HUON VALLEY NRM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 2 March 2017 at 2.00 pm

Minutes of Meeting

Minutes of the meeting of the Huon Valley NRM Advisory Committee (HV NRM AC) held at the Huon Valley Council Chambers in Huonville, at 2:00pm on 2 March 2017.

1. Present

Members in attendance:

Commissioner Adriana Taylor (Chair), Keith Davis, Jennifer Mudge, Keith Presnell, Chris Bond, Iona Mitchell (proxy for Helen Crawford), Max Kitchell, Linda Marlow, Martin Moroni.

Councillors, Council officers, observers and presenters in attendance:

Allyson Hughes, Tim Ackroyd.

Meeting opened: 2:15pm.

Keith Davis, Operations and Community Engagement Manager, NRM South was welcomed at his first meeting in his new role. Iona Mitchell, proxy for newly nominated representative - Helen Crawford, Program Manager, Private Land Conservation Program, Natural and Cultural Heritage Division, DPIPWE was also welcomed. Guest, Barry Calderbank, who has submitted an Expression of Interest in becoming the Advisory Committee's new agriculture sector representative was introduced and provided a summary of his background.

2. Apologies

Eileen Wronski.

3. Declaration of interest

The member representing the tourism sector is now a member of a sub-committee for the Huon Valley Roamers Landcare Group and her son attends Glen Huon Primary School. Both of these groups have been awarded grants for this financial year.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

An update was provided on the Actions List. Most actions were completed. The member representing the aquaculture industry was not present to provide an update on the Huon Aquaculture expansion program. The written confirmation of a nominated representative for Forestry Tasmania will be followed up by the current member. Barry Calderbank's Expression of Interest in joining the committee as the representative for the agriculture sector will be presented at the March Council meeting.

RESOLVED

MARTIN MORONI

LINDA MARLOW

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2016 are a true and accurate record of the meeting.

5. Standing items

5.1 NRM Quarterly Report

The NRM Quarterly report (December 2016 – February 2017) was provided to the Committee prior to the meeting.

Both the NRM Coordinator and NRM South Facilitator provided highlights from the reporting period, including the commencement of the Small Farm Planning Program and new Landcare groups establishing in the Huon Valley.

It was confirmed that the wildlife monitoring Landcare group started as a result of the popularity of the recent Tasmanian Land Conservancy project on the same topic.

The purpose of the Cat Tracker project was clarified as education and awareness raising in the community.

RESOLVED

MARTIN MORONI

MAX KITCHELL

That the committee receive and note the Huon Valley Council NRM Quarterly report for December 2016 – February 2017.

6. Business Arising

6.1 Care Group Grants 2016 Update

An update on the four projects funded in this financial year was provided in the quarterly report. While the Huon Valley Roamers project is on track the other groups have been delayed for various reasons. The NRM Coordinator is confident each project will be completed even if the grant projects need to be extended beyond the end of this financial year.

6.2 2017/2018 NRM Unit budget submission

The NRM Coordinator listed the additional funding requests included in the NRM Unit budget for 2017/2018 as the addition of an NRM Officer and an increase to the on-ground weed treatment allocation. The budget process and competition for funding new projects was provided by the Chair and members were asked to comment on the funding requests for the NRM Unit. Members confirmed that in the past additional staff in the NRM Unit have certainly increased the performance of the Unit; that providing supervisors to volunteer groups provides greater gains from those groups; and that more people power produces results.

RESOLVED

LINDA MARLOW

KEITH PRESNELL

That the Committee supports the officer's budget submission for the 2017/18 financial year, particularly the appointment of an additional NRM Officer and increase for weed treatment funding to deliver against the Huon Valley Weed Management Strategy.

6.3 Weed Management Strategy 2013-2018 – Progress Report

The NRM Coordinator provided highlights from the Progress Report Update previously distributed to the committee members. There have been no new declared weed species recorded in the Huon Valley in the last five year period (since 2012). However, only around half of the highest priority weed species recorded in the Huon Valley are considered to be under effective annual control and half have increased their extent. The weed notification contact program provides an almost 80% rate of successful outcomes in effective treatment of infestations. The next steps of the review project were listed.

Volunteers were requested to form a Weed Management Strategy Review sub-committee. Committee member volunteers include: Jennifer Mudge (PWS), Martin Moroni (forestry sector) and Keith Presnell (community). Additionally, Barry Calderbank (agricultural expertise), Tim Ackroyd (NRM Facilitator, NRM South) and Cassie Strain (weed identification consultant and author of the 2007 Strategy) will also be members of the sub-committee run by the NRM Coordinator.

6.4 Weed Management Strategy Review DRAFT Community Engagement Plan

The draft Weed Management Strategy Review Community Engagement Plan was distributed to committee members prior to the meeting. The plan was endorsed by the members with no additional comments provided.

RESOLVED

MAX KITCHELL

MARTIN MORONI

That the Committee recommends that Council endorses the Huon Valley Weed Management Strategy Review Community Engagement Plan.

6.5 New Process for Advisory Committee Reporting to Council

The NRM Coordinator provided a verbal update on the recent changes to how Advisory Committee minutes would be provided to Council, including their inclusion on the HVC website and any recommendations included with other Council Advisory Committees' recommendations in a single report.

6.6 Water quality testing at recreational beaches for D'Entrecasteaux & Huon Collaboration Report Card

The costs and benefits of water quality testing at swimming beaches in the Huon Valley were discussed. Other data sources were suggested. It was considered that the estuaries into the Huon River would pose a low risk to human health. An extensive study was conducted around 15 years ago that showed the Huon River to be in good condition and with advances in agricultural knowledge is likely to be in better, rather than worse condition. It

was suggested it would be worthwhile to obtain a current baseline. That investigating the high risk areas such as low lying sandy beaches (Garden Island Sands, Verona Sands) would be beneficial. It was recommended that obtaining expert advice on the risks with recommendations and costings reported to the committee. It was stressed that the objective for testing must benefit the Huon Valley.

This item will be placed on the next meeting's agenda for the member representing the aquaculture sector to speak to.

6.7 Aquaculture Representative Update

The member representing the aquaculture sector was not present at the meeting to provide this update.

6.8 Rubbish dumping

The member for Parks and Wildlife Services (PWS) raised the problem of illegal dumping of items such as asbestos, tyres, household rubbish, garden waste and even cars on public land. The disposal of this rubbish is expensive and not sustainable. The reasons for the dumping outside of Waste Transfer Stations (WTS) were discussed. Some residents go into a forested area with a trailer full of rubbish, empty it out and fill the trailer with wood for firewood. For some it's not the location of the WTS as it is dumped in close proximity to Geeveston WTS. As Forestry Tasmania have no authority over this issue their only course of action is to call the police and prosecutions are rarely followed through. Suggestions such as gating, CCTV and introducing hard waste pick up were put forward. The representative for PWS suggested agencies all work together on rubbish issues. A message from the Waste Management Coordinator was read out by the NRM Coordinator suggesting a review of the tyre fee be conducted in response to changes to the processing of these.

6.9 Other reports from committee members

The member representing Forestry Tasmania confirmed that they would be re-branded as Sustainable Timber Tasmania as of next financial year. Burning season will commence shortly. Only 30-40% of the burning program was completed last season due to unfavourable weather conditions.

The member representing PWS stated that this summer has been a busy one, especially with visitor numbers. The TWHHA weed buffer project is progressing with contractors working on the ground and a volunteer helping with data management. The PWS burning program starts in two days, and Lune River is scheduled for a burn this Autumn.

The member representing the tourism sector confirmed there have been lots of visitors to Tasmania this summer. Visitors often show concern or complain about the smoke from fuel reduction burning.

The member representing NRM South spoke on recycled plastics by an organisation (EnviroNex) in the North where a contractor picks up commercial waste to recycle it. Contact details will be forwarded to the Waste Management Coordinator.

The member representing the forestry sector announced the completion of an assessment on biomass and bioenergy suitability in Tasmania. Mapping of the waste products suitable as biomass will be released online shortly and a Biomass Energy Plan is likely to be up and running in the Hobart area shortly potentially making use of biomass waste from the Huon Valley.

The member representing DPIPWE confirmed the change in committee membership representative from Andrew Crane to Helen Crawford. The Conservation Program team is investigating funding opportunities to support the establishment of new covenants program. In the meantime interested landholders are encouraged to contact DPIPWE to go on a waiting list and start with a Land for Wildlife status.

7. Other Business

7.1 Cygnet Group Proposal

The NRM Coordinator provided an overview of a proposal made by a group from Cygnet to convert the HVC owned land between the rivulet and the entrance to Burton's Reserve. The group have asked Council to clear the area for them. A costing for this has been provided to the General Manager. The local Landcare group has been in touch with this group and will meet them on site shortly to discuss appropriate rehabilitation activities for the site. The Chair expressed support for willing volunteers.

7.2 Shipwrights Point and Huon Aquaculture Boat

Discussions are underway with Huon Aquaculture in regards to access in Shipwrights Point for the navigation of a boat built in one of the sheds adjacent to the site. Huon Aquaculture are in the process of arranging a tree health report on the black gum that may be impacted (roots compacted, branch removed or tree removed) by this project. A revegetation plan has been provided to Huon Aquaculture if the tree is impacted. The black gums at Shipwrights Point are a known foraging site for the endangered Swift parrots.

7.3 Biodiversity Mapping for next Planning Scheme

The Wilderness Society have offered to conduct the Biodiversity mapping for the next Planning Scheme.

8. Meeting Schedule

The meeting schedule of the Huon Valley NRM Advisory Committee for 2017 is 2pm-4pm:

- Thursday, 2 March 2017
- Thursday, 15 June 2017
- Monday, 4 September 2017
- Thursday, 7 December 2017

9. Next Meeting

It was proposed to change the next meeting date from Thursday, 8 June to the following Thursday, 15 June.

2pm, Thursday, 15 June 2017, Huon Valley Council Chambers.

10. Closure

Meeting was closed at 4:04pm.

Actions Arising

	Minute Item Number	Action	By Who	By When
	6.5 (6/12/16)	Huon Aquaculture are announcing their expansion program shortly. An email will be sent to committee members with further information on the expansion program.	Member representing aquaculture industry	30/09/2016
1.	all	Report and recommendations to Council.	NRM Coordinator	10/03/2017
2.	6.3	NRM Coordinator to schedule first Weed Management Strategy sub-committee workshop.	NRM Coordinator	17/03/2017
3	6.6	'Water quality testing at recreational beaches for D'Entrecasteaux & Huon Collaboration Report Card' to be included on the June 2017 Agenda.	NRM Coordinator	01/06/2017
4	6.9	EnviroNex commercial plastic recycling contact details will be forwarded to the Waste Management Coordinator.	NRM Coordinator	15/03/2017