

Meeting of the Cooks River Alliance Board

Date: Wednesday 20 November 2013, 6.30-8:30pm

Location: The Vault, Sydney Town Hall, 483 George Street, Sydney

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Board Members		
Mayor Brian Robson Chair	Canterbury City Council	BR
Cr Philip Sansom Deputy Chair	Hurstville City Council	PS
Mayor Lucille McKenna	Ashfield Council	LM
Cr Naji Najjar	Bankstown Council	NN
Cr David Leary	Marrickville Council	DL
Cr Christine Forster	City of Sydney Council	CF
Cr Andrew Soulos	Strathfield Council	AS
Helen Hume	Community representative	HH
John Butcher	Community representative	JB
Paul Thomas	Community representative	PT
Council Officers		
Sarah Kamarudin	Ashfield Council	SK
Vila Gupta	Bankstown City Council	VG
Nell Graham	Canterbury City Council	NG
Kathy Godfrey	Hurstville Council	KG
Jim Fraser	Marrickville Council	JF
Cathy Jones	Strathfield Council	CJ
Lisa Currie	City of Sydney Council	LC
Cooks River Alliance		
Chris Hudson	Cooks River Alliance, Program Manager	CH
Shefali Chakrabarty	Cooks River Alliance, Environmental Engineer	SC
Jasmine Payget	Cooks River Alliance, Community Engagement & Education Coordinator	JP
Meg Wray	Cooks River Alliance, Communications Support Officer	MW

Apologies

Board Members	
Mayor Shane O'Brien	Rockdale City Council
Council Officers	
David Dekel	Rockdale City Council

<p>1. Welcome by meeting host, Cr Christine Forster, City of Sydney</p> <p>Cr Forster welcomed everyone to City of Sydney.</p>	
<p>2. Welcome by Chair, apologies, minutes of previous meeting</p> <p>Cr Robson, Chair of the Alliance, welcomed everyone.</p> <p>Apologies were noted.</p> <p>John Butcher made a comment regarding the previous Board meeting minutes: it was noted that Streamwatch does not monitor macro-invertebrate data.</p> <p><u>Decision:</u> <i>The minutes were adopted.</i></p>	
<p>3. Election of Chair and Deputy Chair</p> <p>Nominations were received from incumbents Councillor Brian Robson as CRA Chair and Cr Philip Sansom as CRA Deputy Chair.</p> <p><u>Decision:</u> <i>Board accepted the appointment of Councillor Brian Robson, Mayor of Canterbury as the Cooks River Alliance Chair and Councillor Philip Sansom of Hurstville, as the Deputy Chair.</i></p>	
<p>4. Commissioning of a catchment model</p> <p><u>Discussion</u></p> <p>JP proposed that the Alliance invest in the design and commissioning of a catchment education model. She outlined the benefits of such a model and education program.</p> <p>The meeting discussed and agreed upon the need for the commissioning of a model to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be applicable and relevant to each council area (especially those without river frontage) • Be designed to provide information and education on a range of topics relating to stormwater, catchment flows, pollutants and other 'key messages' identified by Steering Committee members • Work in conjunction with member council's environmental educators to gain maximum use and value from the investment • Identify the intended programs and target audience <p>Helen Hume offered the Alliance assistance in developing the model and accompanying</p>	<p>JP</p>

<p>programs, especially relating to audiences.</p> <p>Councillor Robson suggested that grant funding contribute to the cost of model production, and CH advised he'll investigate.</p> <p><u>Decision:</u></p> <p><i>The Board approves commissioning of a model of the Cooks River catchment for community engagement and education, for a cost of up to \$30,000 – subject to Board approval of the model's design.</i></p>	<p>CH</p>
<p>5. Project Manager's Report and Annual Report</p> <p>The Project Manager gave a verbal report, of recent Alliance activities and news, to augment the written report provided to the meeting.</p> <p>The Project Manager congratulated the Steering Committee for the Action and Management Plans, progressing as finalists in the 2012/2013 Excellence in the Environment Awards.</p> <p><u>Decision:</u> <i>The Board accepted the Project Manager's report.</i></p> <p><u>Discussion:</u></p> <p>The Project Manager tabled the 2012/13 Annual Report, which was received by the meeting. Cr Robson suggested the Board endorse the Annual Report, and CH advised it is being tabled.</p> <p>Cr Samson suggested the Alliance work with councillors on the importance of maintaining membership. Cr Najjar suggested that the Project Manager offer one-to-one meetings with councillors/General Managers. CH advised that he is working with Steering Committee members on such meetings.</p>	<p>CH</p>
<p>6. Financial report</p> <p><u>Decision:</u> <i>The Board accepted the Financial Report for the Project Year 3 (1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014).</i></p>	
<p>7. Date and location of next meeting</p> <p>Thursday 20 March 2014, 6.00pm, Marrickville Council</p>	
<p>8. Other Business</p> <p><u>Discussion:</u></p> <p>John Butcher raised the issue of Fatima Island being threatened by erosion and asked</p>	

about what the Alliance's responsibility is.

- JF responded that Marrickville has undertaken considerable work on the matter
- CH advised that following discussions with EPA, responsibilities are unclear
- JF advised it falls within Tempe Reserve Trust (Crown Land under council management)
- Cr Sansom suggested letter of support
- It was suggested that it be from the Chair of the Alliance to the Minister of Primary Industries, to bring the issue to the attention of the State Government.

Decision: *That the Alliance write to the Minister for Primary Industries seeking support for Marrickville Council regarding Fatima Island.*

CH