

Meeting of the Cooks River Alliance Board

Date: Wednesday 20 November, 2013

Time: 6:00pm – 8.30pm (supper served 6:00pm, meeting begins 6:30pm)

Location: The Vault, Sydney Town Hall, 483 George St, Sydney (The Commissionaire or City of Sydney representative will meet you at the entrance to the Town Hall and then direct you to the meeting room location)

Parking: St Andrews House (Wilson) 464 Kent Street, Sydney

ATTENDEES

Council		First Name	Last Name
Ashfield Council	Mayor	Lucille	McKenna
	Council Officer	Sarah	Kamarudin
Bankstown City Council	Councillor	Naji	Najjar
	Council Officer	Vila	Gupta
City of Canterbury	Mayor	Brian	Robson
	Council Officer	Nell	Graham
City of Sydney	Councillor	Christine	Forster
	Council Officer	Lisa	Currie
Hurstville City Council	Councillor	Philip	Sansom
	Council Officer	Kathy	Godfrey
Marrickville Council	Councillor	David	Leary
	Council Officer	Jim	Fraser
Rockdale City Council	Mayor	Shane	O'Brien
	Council Officer	David	Dekel
Strathfield Municipal Council	Councillor	Andrew	Soulos
	Council Officer	Cathy	Jones
Community Member	Representative	Helen	Hume
Community Member	Representative	John	Butcher
Community Member	Representative	Paul	Thomas
Cooks River Alliance	Project Manager	Chris	Hudson
	Environmental Engineer	Shefali	Chakrabarty
	Community Engagement & Education Coordinator	Jasmine	Payget
	Communications Support Officer	Meg	Wray

Meeting of the Cooks River Alliance Board

Agenda

1. Welcome by meeting host, Cr Christine Forster, City of Sydney
 2. Welcome by Chair, apologies, minutes of previous meeting
 3. Election of Chair and Deputy Chair
 4. Commissioning of a catchment model
 5. Project Manager's report and annual report
 6. Financial report
 7. Date and location of next meeting
 8. Other business
-

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board accept the minutes of the 19 September Hurstville meeting.

Meeting Minutes

Host: Hurstville City Council

Thursday 19 September 2013, 6.30-8:00pm

Attendance

Board Members	
Cr Brian Robson	Mayor, City of Canterbury
Cr Philip Sansom	Hurstville City Council
Cr Liz Barlow	Deputy Mayor, Rockdale City Council
Cr Andrew Soulos	Strathfield Municipal Council
Mr John Butcher	Community Board Member
Mr Paul Thomas	Community Board Member
Guests	
Cr Ray Donald	Joint President, LGNSW
Ms Claire Evans	Georges River Combined Councils Committee (GRCCC)
Council Officers	
Vila Gupta	Bankstown City Council
Nell Graham	City of Canterbury
Alison Hanlon	Hurstville City Council
Kathryn Godfrey	Hurstville City Council
Jim Fraser	Marrickville Council
David Dekel	Rockdale City Council
Cathy Jones	Strathfield Municipal Council
Cooks River Alliance	
Chris Hudson	Project Manager
Shefali Chakrabarty	Environmental Engineer

Apologies

Board Members	
Cr Lucille McKenna	Ashfield Council
Cr Khal Asfour	Mayor, Bankstown City Council
Cr Christine Forster	City of Sydney
Cr Vic Macri	Mayor of Marrickville Council
Cr Shane O'Brien	Mayor of Rockdale City Council
Ms Helen Hume	Community Board Member
Council Officers	
Janene Harris	Ashfield Council
Chris Derksema	City of Sydney

<p>1. Welcome by meeting host, Cr Philip Sansom, Hurstville City Council</p> <p>Cr Sansom acknowledged the traditional owners of the land and welcomed everyone to Hurstville.</p>	
<p>2. Welcome by Chair, apologies, minutes of previous meeting</p> <p>Cr Robson, Chair of the Alliance, welcomed everyone.</p> <p>Round table introductions for new councillors and community representatives.</p> <p>Apologies were noted.</p> <p>No amendments to the minutes of the previous Board meeting were requested.</p> <p><u>Decision:</u> The minutes were adopted.</p>	
<p>3. Address and discussion on Local Land Services, Cr Ray Donald, Joint President, LGNSW</p> <p><u>Decision:</u> The Board accepted the Recommendations:</p> <p><i>That the Board discuss with Councillor Ray Donald the implications of the dissolution of Catchment Management Authorities, and the formation of Local Land Services: for the Cooks River and other urban rivers.</i></p> <p><i>That the Board consider appropriate advocacy actions for the Alliance, potentially with other regional bodies of councils.</i></p> <p><u>Discussion</u></p> <p>Cr Donald presented to the board some background information on the Local Land Services (LLS), their functions and funding framework.</p> <p>Further discussions were held regarding the LLS funding framework. Cr Sansom raised concerns that with the proposed funding mechanism, LLS will have insufficient rate based funding and will have to rely on state and federal funding.</p>	<p>Project Manager</p>
<p>4. River Health monitoring report card - Claire Evans, GRCCC</p> <p>A presentation on GRCCC River Health Monitoring Program for the Cooks and Georges River, and the 2012-2013 River Health Report Card was delivered by Claire Evans.</p> <p>Discussion was held on the Catchment Management Authority (CMA) water quality buoys in the Cooks River. GRCCC advised they currently hold a contract to maintain the buoys and</p>	

<p>manage the data collected until mid-2014, after which there are no arrangements.</p> <p>Discussions were also held about the various monitoring programs that currently occur for the Cooks River and how they are connected. Macroinvertebrate data currently monitored by Streamwatch Program is incorporated in the RiverHealth Program. RiverHealth does not test for human health parameters, which are occasionally tested by the Beachwatch Program.</p>	
<p>5. Project Manager's report</p> <p><u>Decision:</u> The Board accepted the Recommendation:</p> <p><i>That the Board accept the Project Manager's report.</i></p> <p><u>Discussion</u></p> <p>The Project Manager gave a verbal report on some of the key Alliance activities, including a catchment stakeholder's meeting with State Government agencies. The meeting was convened by the Alliance to address the problem of the lack of agency responsibility, for the lower Cooks River waterway.</p> <p>The Chair advised the meeting that identification of State Agency responsibility for waterways was an agenda item at the Sydney Metropolitan Mayor's meeting, and that they are discussing the issue with the EPA.</p> <p>Following a request from John Butcher, the Project Manager briefly outlined the background of the new Alliance Community Engagement and Education Coordinator.</p>	
<p>6. Climate Change Resilience report – Environmental Engineer</p> <p><u>Decision:</u> The Board accepted the Recommendations:</p> <p><i>That the Alliance Chair writes to member councils recommending that:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Councils assess the impacts of climate change, including sea level rise and increase in rainfall intensity;</i> • <i>Councils adopt the sea level rise benchmark of 40cm increase by 2050 and 90cm increase by 2100, from the 1990 mean sea levels, as a default position;</i> • <i>Councils adopt a 30% increase level in rainfall intensity as a default benchmark;</i> • <i>Member councils advise the Alliance staff upon commencement of flood related studies, and utilise Alliance expertise.</i> <p><u>Action:</u> The Project Manager to draft the letter for the Alliance Chair signature.</p>	<p>Project Manager</p>
<p>7. Caring for our Country – new grant funded project</p> <p><u>Decision:</u> The Board accepted the Recommendation:</p> <p><i>That the Board accept the report.</i></p>	

<p>8. Dual Naming – Aboriginal Cultural Recognition</p> <p><u>Decision:</u> The Board accepted the Recommendation:</p> <p><i>That the Board approve the Alliance seeking adoption of second, traditional Aboriginal name, for the Cooks River and other suitable geographic features of the catchment; according to the processes defined by the Geographical Names Board of NSW (GNB).</i></p> <p><u>Discussion</u> The meeting agreed on pursuing Dual Naming, and recognised it as a lengthy process with uncertain outcomes.</p>	<p>Project Manager</p>
<p>9. Second Alliance Term</p> <p><u>Decision:</u> The Board accepted the Recommendation:</p> <p><i>That the Chair writes to member councils requesting they favourably consider membership of a second term of the Cooks River Alliance.</i></p> <p><u>Discussion & Action</u> Rockdale Council requested that the letters are tailored to individual councils and provide information on council contributions.</p>	<p>Project Manager</p>
<p>10. Update on Container Deposit System</p> <p><u>Decision:</u> The Board accepted the Recommendation:</p> <p><i>That the Board accept the report.</i></p> <p><u>Discussion</u> The Chair delivered background information on a Container Deposit System, and Alliance involvement.</p>	
<p>11. Financial report</p> <p><u>Decision:</u> The Board accepted the Recommendation:</p> <p><i>That the Board accept the financial report.</i></p>	
<p>12. Date and Location of next meeting</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 20th November 2013 at City of Sydney.</p>	
<p>13. Other Business</p> <p>There was no other business and the meeting closed at 8:15pm.</p>	

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board accept 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.

BACKGROUND

The Alliance Code of Meeting Practice, adopted by the Board 13th March 2013, sets out the procedure for the Election of the Chair and Deputy Chair.

In accordance with the adopted procedure, the Project Manager called for nominations for positions of Chair and Deputy Chair to Board Members on 15 October 2013, with a 1 November 2013 closing date.

Councillor Robson was the sole nomination for the role of Chair, and Councillor Sansom the only nomination for Deputy Chair. Following the Code of Meeting Practice, the positions can be declared filled.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board approve commissioning of a model of the Cooks River catchment for community engagement and education, for a cost of up to \$30,000.

BACKGROUND

Commissioning a site-specific model will assist Alliance achievements under the Communications Action Plan Program, as well as help community engagement and education as part of the Action Plan Catchment-wide Monitoring Program.

Catchment management issues are often difficult to convey to the general public. In particular, areas of the Cooks River that are further from the tidal main channel require creative assistance to engender interest, a sense of connection to the river and subsequent behaviour change.

Various waterway models for community education have been commissioned by local governments in Sydney, to provide local place-based information about a particular catchment. Using a detailed model for illustration, 10-15 educational stories can be told and educational activities on 10-15 topics can be held. Topics include: rain gardens, catchment, stormwater, pollution control, biodiversity, community action, monitoring, salt water marshes, flooding, wetlands, creeks, bank re-naturalisation and ground water.

DESCRIPTION

The catchment model is an educational tool. It is made of light weight materials and produced in a size that is suitable for transporting to venues, including at outdoor events. The sizes vary and are designed to be easily stored and transported, usually in large wheeled cases. The catchment models are interactive, using water to illustrate the catchment issues. Spray bottles mimic the effect of rain. Effects of floods are shown using a water surge.

The landscapes are purpose built, with elements demonstrating Australian native vegetation and ecosystems. Such models are not an exact model of the catchment, and represent major features and elements from each area of the catchment.

PROCESS

The Alliance will work closely with member councils to determine local landscapes and issues to be represented in the model. The key features will be those that are most important to members. Models of this nature take about five months to make.

COSTS

The cost of the model depends upon the complexity, and is approximately \$25,000 to \$30,000. This estimation is provided by Gary McGuigan of FormBlock who is the only known supplier of this type of model in Australia. His work is used by the Australian Museum, Sydney Water, councils and other government agencies. Procurement of the model will be directed by Strathfield Council policy and procedure.

AUDIENCES

Engagement activities using the model will reach up to 5,000 viewers per year. Engagement sites include: school catchment/environment days, community festivals and events, bilingual education with local groups and community sampling days.

LOGISTICS

The model will have a 10 year or more lifetime. It does require maintenance, with an annual budget allowance to be made of \$1000. The owner of the catchment model would be Cooks River Alliance and would be it would be stored at the host council, Strathfield. Insurance is to be covered by Strathfield council, subject to approval. A range of people will be trained in using the catchment model, including council staff and community volunteers.

CONCLUSION

The catchment model is an engaging way of interacting with various audiences about the complex Cooks River issues. While a significant up front cost, it will enable greater connection and engagement with audiences over at least a 10 year period. The bespoke model will be built to the requirements of member councils, and will be available for use by their staff, independent of Alliance activities.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board accept the Project Manager's report.

REPORT

Recruitment

The Alliance is pleased to welcome Jasmine Payget as our Community Engagement and Education Coordinator and Meg Wray as our part-time Communications Support Officer.

ACTION PLAN PROGRAMS

Program 1: Capacity Building

- Training for 14 Bankstown Council staff in MUSIC (Model for Urban Stormwater Improvement Conceptualisation) software was provided on 4 November.
- "Cooks River - Adapting through Uncertainty" Presentation by Arup on 18 November at Strathfield has 20 council officers booked at time of writing.

Program 2: Catchment-wide Monitoring

- Agreement has been reached with Georges River Combined Councils' Committee (GRCCC) on a jointly funded review of the River Health and River Science programs. The review brief has been finalised and consultant appointment is imminent.
- Carl Tippler of CT Environmental has been engaged for \$29,000, and is working closely with GRCCC on running River Health monitoring in the Cooks River.

Program 3: Development of an Information Portal

- University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) Shopfront program students have delivered some useful ideas for the Alliance to incorporate into portal commissioning.

Program 4: Implementation of subcatchment management plans and other priority works

- Inception meetings have been held with seven member councils on works associated with the Caring for our Country grant project.

Program 5: Intensive Correction Order Program

- The Alliance continues to seek engagement from the Department of Corrective Services, following their restructure.

Program 6: Communications Strategy

- UTS Shopfront program students have produced some very valuable design work, a resource for bi-lingual educators and a catchment map. Production will be in first quarter 2014.
- The Alliance Communications Support Officer is updating and re-structuring the web site, and is preparing the Alliance social media plan and policy.
- The Alliance has canvassed members regarding needs in relation to Sydney Water, with a joint approach on sewerage in stormwater reduction program and data sharing agreed priorities.

Discussions with Sydney Water, on areas for collaboration and a potential formal agreement, are continuing.

- The Project Manager had a positive meeting on 20 September 2013 with Hon. Linda Burney, MP, to discuss Aboriginal engagement and Dual Naming. Ms Burney expressed support for the idea of Dual Naming.
- The Annual Report has been drafted, and will be tabled at the meeting for the Board to receive.

Program 7: Climate Change Resilience

- Letters from the Chair to Alliance council General Managers on consistency in sea level rise and rainfall intensity have been sent. Councils were also invited to utilise the expertise of the Alliance Environmental Engineer.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board accept the financial report.

Cooks River Alliance				
For the Project Year 3 - 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 as at 06/11/2013				
Income				Actual YTD
Grant income under invoice to member councils				(406,000.00)
994600000	Ashfield Council	(7,000.00)	Unpaid	
1055700000	Bankstown City Council	(13,000.00)	Unpaid	
974100000	City of Canterbury Council	(87,000.00)	Unpaid	
927200000	City of Sydney Council	(51,000.00)	Unpaid	
1081500000	Hurstville City Council	(46,000.00)	Unpaid	
956800000	Marrickville Council	(65,000.00)	Unpaid	
957000000	Rockdale City Council	(74,000.00)	Unpaid	
Internal Transfer	Strathfield Council	(48,000.00)	Jnl	
956800000	Marrickville Council	(5,000.00)	Unpaid	
957000000	Rockdale City Council	(5,000.00)	Unpaid	
974100000	City of Canterbury Council	(5,000.00)	Unpaid	
Total Service Income				(406,000.00)
Expenses				GST Exclusive
Salaries and Wages	40672-029			63,966.71
Oncosts	40672-100			26,738.08
Insurance	40672-013			288.15
Catering	40672-022			0.00
Travel	40672-039			9.46
Materials	40672-122			452.60
Contactors	40672-123			2,473.46
Service expenditure for the current period				93,928.46
Transfer from previous year				(332,445.00)
Budget remaining as at 06/11/2013				<u>(644,516.54)</u>
Additional reserve from Cooks River Foreshores Working Group: \$72,958				