

Meeting of the Cooks River Alliance Board
Bankstown Council
Wednesday 13th March 2013, 6.30-8:00pm

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Board Members	
Cr Brian Robson	Mayor of City of Canterbury
Cr Khal Asfour	Mayor of Bankstown City Council
Cr Christine Forster	City of Sydney
Cr Lucille McKenna	Ashfield Council
Cr Andrew Soulos	Deputy Mayor of Strathfield Council
Council Officers	
Hazel Storey	Ashfield Council
Cherie Blackburn	Bankstown City Council
Daniel Smith	Bankstown City Council
Nell Graham	City of Canterbury
Chris Derksema	City of Sydney
Jean Brennan	Marrickville Council
Cathy Jones	Strathfield Council
Claire Evans	Georges River Combined Councils Committee
Cooks River Alliance	
Chris Hudson	Cooks River Alliance
Shefali Chakrabarty	Cooks River Alliance

Apologies

Board Members	
Cr Philip Sansom	Hurstville City Council
Cr Victor Macri	Mayor of Marrickville Council
Cr Shane O'Brien	Mayor of Rockdale City Council

<p>1. Welcome by Host Council</p> <p>Cr Asfour, as the representative of the host council, welcomed everyone to Bankstown Council.</p>	
<p>2. Welcome by Chair and Apologies</p> <p>Chair of the Alliance, Cr Robson, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cr Philip Sansom from Hurstville Council, Cr Victor Macri from Marrickville Council and Cr Shane O'Brien from Rockdale Council.</p> <p>Round table introductions for new councillor representatives.</p>	
<p>3. Short Video – Riverlife Film Festival</p> <p>A short video from the Riverlife Cooks River Film Festival was screened.</p>	
<p>4. Minutes of previous Board meeting held on 7th June 2012</p> <p>No amendments to the minutes of the previous Board meeting were requested.</p> <p>Cr Robson moved to adopt the minutes. Cathy Jones seconded the motion.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> - The minutes were adopted.</p>	
<p>5. Project Manager – Introduction & verbal report</p> <p>Chris introduced himself to the Board as the new Alliance Project Manager. He reported briefly on activities since appointment, including working on an application under the Caring for our Country - Australian Government grant program.</p>	
<p>6. Action Plan Program 2 (Catchment-wide Monitoring Program): Riverhealth Report Card</p> <p>A presentation on GRCCC Riverhealth Monitoring Program for the Cooks River was delivered outlining background information on the monitoring program, explained the sampling and testing process and interpreted the report card results. GRCCC are applying for the Caring for our Country grant to continue with the Riverhealth program, the Alliance will be working with the GRCCC on the monitoring grant application.</p> <p>Discussion was held on whether the monitoring program evaluated the quantity of pollutants in the river. The Board was advised that Riverhealth monitoring incorporates ecological parameters, such as macro invertebrates sampling. Monitoring of some pollutants such as nutrients is carried out but other pollutants such as heavy metals, Ecoli are not tested for. When severe pollution is observed at a testing site, the issue is raised with the respective Councils.</p>	
<p>Note: Cr Asfour excused himself and departed the meeting</p>	

<p>7. Action Plan Program 4 (Priority Works): Approval of Geotech and Field Survey Expenditure</p> <p>A short presentation was delivered on the background and selection process leading to the establishment of 3 raingarden projects: on each in Bankstown, Hurstville and Strathfield. To proceed with design of the projects, geotechnical investigation and surveying are required. Quotations received were presented to the Board, amounting to \$38,071.</p> <p>Recommendation was made that the Board approve expenditure of \$38,071 from reserve funds to conduct geotechnical investigations and field surveys, under Program 4 of the Action Plan.</p> <p>Cr Forster moved to approve the expenditure. Cr McKenna seconded the motion.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> – Unanimous support for expenditure of \$38,071 from reserve funds to conduct geotechnical investigations and field surveys.</p>	<p>Shefali</p>
<p>8. Review of Terms of Reference and Code of Meeting Practice</p> <p>A summary of the amendments to the Terms of Reference was provided.</p> <p>Recommendation was made that the Board adopt the Terms of Reference and Code of Meeting Practice.</p> <p>Discussion ensued: about the selection process from community representation on the Board. It was agreed that a call for community participation would be advertised by the Alliance, a workshop would be held with the Steering Committee members to review the responses received and prepare a shortlist of suitable candidates that represent the wider catchment. A recommended shortlist will be presented to the Board for consideration.</p> <p>Cr McKenna moved to adopt the amended Terms of Reference and Code of Meeting Practice. Cr Robson seconded the motion.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> – Unanimous support for the adoption of the Terms of Reference and Code of Meeting Practice.</p>	<p>Steering Committee</p>
<p>9. Financial report</p> <p>A financial report was presented to the Board, as requested at the last Board meeting on 5th November 2012.</p> <p>Recommendation was made that the Board accept the financial report.</p> <p>There was discussion about the Alliance position on GST. The was clarified that all GST will be claimed back for the Alliance through Strathfield Council.</p> <p>Cr Forster moved to accept the Financial report. Cr McKenna seconded the motion.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> – The Financial report was accepted.</p>	

<p>10. Other Business – Boomerang Alliance requests</p> <p>There was a presentation on the requests from the Boomerang Alliance for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A financial contribution of \$5,000 from the Alliance and/or constituent councils to the Kick a Can event; • Arranging meetings between mayors and state/federal MPs; and • Producing a Container Litter Report. <p>The Board approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A financial contribution of \$5000 from the Cooks River Alliance to the Boomerang Alliance; and • The Alliance facilitate meetings between mayors and state/federal MPs on Container Deposit Legislation <p>Producing the Container Litter report was not recommended, being currently outside Cooks River Alliance capacity.</p> <p>Background information on the Container Deposit Legislation and Alliance involvement was provided and discussed.</p> <p>Jean Brennan moved to accept that the Alliance makes a financial contribution to the Kick a Can event and arrange meetings between mayors and state/federal MPs. Cr McKenna seconded the motion.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> – The Alliance will make a financial contribution of \$5000 towards the Kick a Can campaign and facilitate meetings between mayors and state/federal MPs.</p>	<p>Chris</p>
<p>11. Date and Location of next meeting</p> <p>It was agreed that the next meeting will be held in three months time at Strathfield Council. Date & time TBC.</p>	<p>Chris</p>
<p>12. Close</p> <p>The meeting closed at 8.00pm.</p>	