

Meeting of the Cooks River Alliance Steering Committee

Date: Thursday 29th May, 2014

Time: 9:30am – 12.00 noon

Location: Rockdale City Council – 2 Byrant Street, Rockdale

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Council Officers		
Sarah Kamarudin	Ashfield Council	SK
Vila Gupta	Bankstown City Council	VG
Nell Graham	Canterbury City Council	NG
Mimy Wang	Hurstville City Council	MW
David Dekel	Rockdale City Council	DD
Mark Latham	Strathfield Council	ML
Cooks River Alliance		
Chris Hudson	Project Manager	CH
Shefali Chakrabarty	Environmental Engineer	SC
Meg Wray	Communications Support Officer	MNW

Apologies

Council Officers		
Janene Harris	Ashfield Council	JH
Lisa Currie	City of Sydney	LC
Jean Brennan	Marrickville Council	JB
Jim Fraser	Marrickville Council	JF
Victoria Currie	Marrickville Council	VC
Cathy Jones	Strathfield Council	CJ
Cooks River Alliance		
Jasmine Payget	Community Engagement & Education Coordinator	JP

	ACTION
1. Welcome and apologies, Acknowledgement of Country The traditional owners of the land were acknowledged. Apologies were noted.	
2. Minutes and actions from 27th March 2014 Steering Committee meeting CH updated on actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CH remains willing and ready for meeting with GMs regarding the new term • CH meetings with MP's pending • LC to distribute draft WSUD policy • NG was able to store sediments on the excavation site • The Alliance is investigating a separate website login for Board members • The Alliance's position on Streamwatch has been resolved in the new Action Plan <u>Decision:</u> <i>The previous minutes were accepted.</i>	CH LC
3. Info Share Members shared on work currently being undertaken at their council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NG: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The 2020 Vision (2020vision.com.au) and i-Tree Canopy tool could a very useful for councils ○ Canterbury will shortly begin using the boom provided by Sydney Water, which will include a sign showing how much litter the boom has collected • ML: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ML noted that 'QR codes' along the river could be very useful for schools ○ Strathfield is developing an environmental sustainability policy ○ Strathfield's Treading Lightly program will include sustainable gardening • VG: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bankstown is continuing work on the Mid-Georges River Floodplain Risk Management Plan • SK: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ashfield is investigating the 2020 Vision and green roofs/walls for the redevelopment of Ashfield centre 	

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<p>5. Second term Alliance – report to Board?</p> <p><u>Decision:</u> <i>A short report will be made at the 18th June Board meeting on pending Alliance membership renewals.</i></p>	<p>CH</p>
<p>6. Catchment Stakeholders Meeting:</p> <p>CH spoke on Sydney Water's Cooks River Water Quality Improvement Strategy, and also submissions to IPART, as discussed at the 22nd May Catchment Stakeholders Meeting</p> <p>CH reminded members that the 28 August Catchment Stakeholders meeting will be focussed on weeds, and that Alliance positions on weeds need development beforehand.</p> <p>Members emphasised the importance of state agencies RMS and Sydney Trains attending the Catchment Stakeholders meeting.</p> <p><u>Decisions:</u> <i>Members accepted the Alliance offer to represent member councils for the development of the Sydney Water led Cooks River Water Quality Improvement Strategy</i></p> <p><i>Members to determine priorities regarding weeds, for the next Steering Committee meeting</i></p> <p><i>The Alliance will convene a Catchment Resilience Action Group focused on weeds</i></p> <p><i>Members to forward CH state agency contact details, for invitation to the Catchment Stakeholders meeting on weeks</i></p>	<p>All</p> <p>CH</p> <p>All</p>
<p>7. Programs</p> <p>Capacity Building</p> <p><u>Discussion:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ML will ascertain whether Strathfield could join the Local Government consortium that is part of the CRC for Water Sensitive Cities • Alliance funding member's attendance at the Monash Uni CRC WSC Winter School was mooted • Members who attended the recent Sydney Weeds Committee, informed on council training of outdoors staff and the ecological impacts of pesticide use • SC informed that the research protocol for the UWS raingarden monitoring is being finalised. Canterbury and Bankstown will review the protocol before finalising. 	<p>ML</p> <p>NG & VG</p>

<p><u>Decisions:</u> <i>Members agreed with the Alliance suggestion that the Alliance offer member councils one fully paid attendance to the CRC for Water Sensitive Cities 2014 Winter School in Melbourne, through grant funds Members were given until 5th June to sign up.</i></p> <p>On-ground Works CH updated on Place.People.Connections grant project, in terms of budgeting funding and Our Country Our Place workshops at Bankstown on 6th June.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>8. Board Agenda</p> <p><u>Decisions:</u> <i>Members declined Community Board member John Butcher's request that member councils financially support Marrickville Council on Fatima Island</i></p> <p><i>The Alliance will email the Steering Committee seeking suggestions for a speaker for the 18th June Board meeting.</i></p>	<p>CH</p>
<p>9. Grants CH updated on the meeting regarding the Litter Grant and LLS Grant</p>	
<p>10. Operational CH reminded members about the members' area on the Alliance website</p>	
<p>11. Other business CH advised the meeting that cosmetics company LUSH have made their staff available for clean-up and bushcare activities in the catchment from 7-11 July. The meeting was advised to contact Jasmine, if they wish to use LUSH staff for work in their LGA.</p> <p>The date for the next meeting was confirmed for 24 July in Ashfield.</p>	<p>All</p>