**THE COASTWATCHERS ASSOCIATION INC**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT MEETING**

2.00 pm Wednesday 12 April 2017

Venue: 13 Harbour Drive, Broulee, NSW

**1. Open Meeting 2.10 pm**

2. **Attendance**

John Perkins (President), John Stowar (Vice President), Mark Rote (Treasurer), Richard Roberts (Secretary), Reina Hill and Barbara Roberts **Apologies**

Joslyn Van Der Moolen

3. **Minutes of Management Committee Meeting of 8 February 2017**

It was moved Mark Rote, seconded John Stowar, that the Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting of 8 February 2017 be agreed to. PASSED.

4. **President’s Report (John Perkins)**

The President raised a number of issues.

(i) **Website and Facebook:** Coastwatchers new website is up and running. An enormous thanks to Mark and Richard in making this successful. Coastwatchers new Facebook Page is now operational. I very much appreciate the work that Joslyn has done on this.

(ii) **New Rabbit Virus:** A new Korean strain of rabbit calicivirus virus has been released across the Eurobodalla Shire resulting in a dramatic reduction in rabbits. This new calicivirus virius is expected to be more successful this time at eradicating rabbits in the cool, wet regions of the country such as here in Eurobodalla. The districts where the orginal calicivirus was released in 1996 did not work so well partly because it was not released in a coordinated fashion because persons unknown had brought into the Eurobodalla region.

# (iii) Cassia Weed: Cassia (*Senna* *pendula* var. *glabrata*) Landcare volunteers have been targeting the invasive weed Cassia. It is flowering time for the invasive weed Cassia (also known as Senna) as these flowers are bright yellow. Cassia stands out vividly during the flowering season amongst the forest understory aiding Landcare volunteers to identify and remove this invasive weed.

(iv) **Australia Clean-Up Day across Eurobodalla Shire** Maree Cadman was employed by ESC to manage this volunteer clean up day across the Shire. She has done a magnificent job. According to Maree there were 53 clean up sites in Eurobodalla Shire managed by volunteers. This was comparable to the city of Brisbane for the number of clean up sites. It demonstrates a particularly strong volunteer effort here in ESC.

(v) **Spotlighting** John in association with the ESC will be spotlighting around Durras in early May (possibly 8th)

(vi) **Penny Sharp** The Shadow NSW Minister for Environment will be visiting National Parks in the area in the near future.

It was moved John Perkins seconded Barbara Roberts that the President’s Report be accepted. PASSED

**5. Secretary’s Report (Richard Roberts)**

The Secretary reported on correspondence that had been received in the past two months. Matters included the renewing of the Association’s insurance organised by the NCC, the NCC’s forthcoming Regional Conference in Lithgow on 3-4 June 2017, and the release of a Commonwealth Parliamentary Report on bats.

The Secretary attended the South East Region Conservation Alliance’s (SERCA) AGM on 26 March 2017, and he reported on that meeting, and the subsequent General Meeting. Coastwatchers is a member. Subsequently, at the General Meeting Jackie Mills from the Forestry Branch of the NSW EPA addressed the meeting regarding the NSW Forestry Industry Roadmap for the South Coast Region.

It was moved Richard Roberts seconded Mark Rote, that the Secretary’s Report be accepted. PASSED

**6. Treasurer’s Report (Mark Rote)**

The Treasurer presented his report. Details in attachment 1.

At the 31 March 2017, the balance in the Working Account was $1,739, and the balance in the Working Investment Account was $5,000.

At the 31 March 2017, the balance in the Environment Account was $3,428, and the balance in the Environment Fund Investment Account was $7,048.

It was moved Mark Rote seconded John Stowar, that the Treasurer’s Report be accepted. PASSED

7. **CEMAC Report** **(Reina Hill)**

**Coastal reforms –** Finalization of Coastal reforms may now be delayed until the middle of the year. The CM SEPP must first be adopted before the new Coastal Management Act can come into come into effect. The new Coastal Council will be created under the Act.

**Council's draft submission to CM SEPP -** The submission period for the SEPP made it difficult for a Council's draft submission to be endorsed before the February Council meeting. The Department of Planning agreed to accept Council's feedback despite it being outside the submission period.

CEMAC members had the opportunity to propose amendments before the draft went to a full Council meeting. Apart from some errors and omissions, such as the lack of numbering of coastal wetlands for identification purposes, the main concern was the failure of the NSW Government to release the vulnerability mapping, despite a previous commitment to do so. The SEPP will instead rely on mapping contained in existing LEPs and DCPs, though many Councils do not have such mapping and It would be preferable for mapping to be consistent across all LGAs.

It was suggested that the ESC submission be strengthened to reflect concern about the lack of vulnerability mapping and that Council make a formal request to the Department of Planning to delay adoption of the SEPP until all mapping is released. It is doubtful that this will happen, as there will be a review of mapping after a year and thereafter every five years.

**Wharf Road CZMP** – The CZMP is currently with the Minister awaiting final certification. Discussion focussed on acquisition and ownership of land due to ambulatory boundaries. Some on the CEMAC argued that Council was setting a precedent over the Wharf Road land. However the precedent was already set with the judgment of Justice Bannon (ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY v. ERIC SAUNDERS [1994] NSWLEC 187(29 November 1994)), the lots identified as submerged lands and those areas of beach below High Water are automatically vested in the Crown and therefore acquisition of these lots is not required. A paper outlining the legal framework of ambulatory boundaries by John Corkill was circulated to CEMAC members. The meeting decided to write to the Minister in respect of removing reference to submerged land from the CZMP.

The use of E2 zoning to limit development in the Wharf Road location was also questioned and clarification is being sought from the Minister. In my opinion it is a waste of time as it is clearly a legitimate use of the E2 Zone.

It was moved Reina Hill seconded Barbara Roberts, that the CEMAC Report be accepted. PASSED

**8. Membership**

**8.1 Membership Update**

Membership of the Association is stable at 137 members. New members have offset those that have died or retired because of age and illness. A number were terminated because of non-payment of fees after repeated notifications.

**8.2 Membership Fees 2017-18**

It was agreed that Membership Fees for 2017-18 are to remain at the same level as 2016-17.

**8.3 New Members**

Two applications for membership were recently received. The Committee agreed to their membership.

It was moved Richard Roberts seconded Mark Rote, that the Membership Report be noted, that Membership Fees for 2017-18 remain at 2016-17 levels, and the two new members applications be agreed to. PASSED

**9. Website and Facebook Update**

Mark Rote presented a report on the Website. The current administrative arrangements with the site are unsatisfactory. The site has twice been suspended for what looks like non-payment of fees, which is outside the Associations control. Alternate arrangements will be looked at.

Technical issues to do with the site continue, and other options are being explored. The President thanked Mark for his efforts in trying to rebuild a simpler site.

The issue of separate email addresses for committee members was not addressed.

John Perkins reiterated what was previously said in his President’s Report that Coastwatchers new Facebook Page is now operational. I very much appreciate the work that Joslyn has done here on this.”

It was moved Mark Rote, seconded John Stowar that the website and Facebook report be noted. PASSED

**10. Update Dargues Reef Mine**

The Commonwealth Minister for the Environment is yet to give final approval under the EPBC Act (Environmental Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999) to the mine proponent’s preparation of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and a Water Management Plan. Work cannot proceed until those Plans have been approved. The Association wrote to the Minister requesting the Plans be placed on public exhibition when finalised.

Membership of the Dargues Reef Mine Community Consultative Committee has been reviewed by the independent Chairman of the CCC and the NSW Minister for Planning and Richard Roberts has been appointed as an environmental representative on the CCC.

It was moved Richard Roberts seconded Reina Hill, that the update report on the Dargues Reef Mine be noted. PASSED

**11. Future Meetings**

**11.1 Annual General Meeting (AGM) Date and Possible Speaker**

There was a general discussion about the AGM to be held later in 2017. It was suggested that the AGM be held on Saturday 23 September 2017 at the Tomakin Community Hall. Mark Rote to meet with the Auditor at the end of the 2016-17 FY to arrange a rapid completion of the financial reports. Barbara Roberts to contact the ESC to reserve the Hall. John Perkins to determine a Guest Speaker at the conclusion of the AGM and SGM. Richard Roberts to advise other groups with common membership of our date.

**11.2 Special General Meeting (SGM)**

There was a discussion regarding the need for a Special General Meeting to adopt the new (August 2016) Model Rules prepared by the NSW Department of Fair Trading into Coastwatchers Constitution. Committee members have been provided with a copy of the 2006 Coastwatchers Constitution and the new Model Rules, and the matter will be reconsidered at the Committee meeting on Wednesday 5 July 2017

**11.3 Quarterly Meeting Updates Possible Dates and Possible Speakers**

There was a discussion regarding reintroducing 3 general meetings a year with guest speakers and a discussion period after. There was general agreement to the proposal and it will be reconsidered at the next Committee meeting on 5 July 2017. Possible speakers include

Professor Andrew Blakers Using Nature for Power

Professor Tony Haymet Ocean Warming

Professor Andy Short Processes and morphology of coastal systems

**12. Close Meeting 4.30 pm**

Future Committee meetings Wednesday 5 July 2017

Wednesday 23 August 2017

Wednesday11 October 2017

Wednesday 6 December 2017

Attachment 1.

**The Coastwatchers Association Inc.**

**Income and Expenditure Report**

Date Range: 2016-07-01 to 2017-03-31

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Amount** | **Total** |
| .Donations Received | 85.00 | 85.00 |
| .Interest Received:Investment Account | 218.20 | 218.20 |
| .Membership Received:Concession | 180.00 |  |
| .Membership Received:Family | 1,330.00 |  |
| .Membership Received:Individual | 1,000.00 |  |
| Category Total: |  | 2,510.00 |
| Expenses:Auditing Fee | -150.00 |  |
| Expenses:EDO Donation | -150.00 |  |
| Expenses:Insurance | -315.00 |  |
| Expenses:NSW Fair Trading Fees | -44.00 |  |
| Expenses:NSW National Parks Membership | -100.00 |  |
| Expenses:Nature Conservation Council Membership | -131.00 |  |
| Expenses:PO Box Rental | -124.00 |  |
| Expenses:Postage | -6.00 |  |
| Expenses:SERCA Fees | -25.00 |  |
| Expenses:Stationery | -322.80 |  |
| Expenses:Website Hosting | -110.00 |  |
| Category Total: |  | -1,477.80 |
| Improvements:Website Design | -1,500.00 | -1,500.00 |
| Total Expenses: | -2,977.80 |  |
| Total Income: | 2,813.20 |  |
| Grand Total: | -164.60 |  |

**Bank Accounts**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Opening Bal. | Closing Balance | Net Change |
| Working Account | $1,359.43 | $1,738.52 | $379.09 |
| Investment Account | $5,543.69 | $5,000.00 | -$543.69 |
| Unbanked Funds | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Total | $6,903.12 | $6,738.52 | -$164.60 |

**Coastwatchers Environment Fund**

**Income and Expenditure Report**

Date Range: 2016-07-01 to 2017-03-31

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Amount** | **Total** |
| Income:Donations Received | 955.00 |  |
| Income:Interest Received (Business Account) | 0.24 |  |
| Income:Interest Received (Investment Account) | 89.21 |  |
| Category Total: |  | 1,044.45 |
| Total Expenses: | 0.00 |  |
| Total Income: | 1,044.45 |  |
| Grand Total: | 1,044.45 |  |

**Bank Accounts**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Opening Bal. | Closing Balance | Net Change |
| Business Account | $4,792.65 | $3,247.91 | -$1,544.74 |
| Investment Account | $4,459.27 | $7,048.46 | $2,589.19 |
| Total | $9,251.92 | $10,296.37 | **$1,044.45** |