

Northern Grampians Shire Council

Walkers Lake Advisory Group

Meeting held at 4pm on Wednesday 11 July 2018
at Traynors Lagoon CFA

Minutes

1. **Present** - Cr Kevin Erwin, Cr Tony Driscoll, Prue McAllister, Wayne Robbins, Trevor Baldock, Michelle Clark
2. **Apologies** – Colin Coates, Rob Loats
Apologies accepted: Moved Trevor Baldock and Seconded Michelle Clark
3. **Disclosures of Interest & Declarations of Conflict of Interest.** Nil
4. **Confirmation of Minutes from the previous meeting.** 7 June 2018 meeting
Minutes accepted: Moved Prue McAllister and Seconded Michelle Clark
5. **Matters Arising from the Minutes.**
 - Report from Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation distributed to the group
6. **General Business**

Advisory Group Member Applications

Expressions of interest closed on Friday 29 June and we have received 7 applications for the vacant positions. Applications shortlisted and will go to Council to appoint the new members at the next Council Meeting scheduled for Monday 6 August 2018.

Terms of Reference Review

Considering increased membership of both community and organisational allocation by one member. This will see community membership at seven and organisations at four which will provide a total group of twelve including one councillor. Council will adopt changes at the August council meeting. **Action:** Tony to send a copy of the ToR for the group to read

Department of Education - Learning Environment

The St Arnaud Learning Alliance has expressed significant interest in developing education and curriculum opportunities at Walkers Lake. The St Arnaud Learning Alliance includes St Arnaud Secondary College, St Arnaud Primary School and St Arnaud Children's Precinct. They recognise the opportunity to teach local students in their natural environment about biodiversity, significance of local cultural and heritage, and commence programs such as 'Outdoor Ed' with hands on learning at Walkers Lake, and Bush Kinder (which is temporarily being run at Teddington).

The Secondary School would like to submit an application to "Pick my project" that is a community grants initiative, with \$30 million available to fund *local projects and make your community an even better place to live*. Funds of between \$20,000 to \$200,000 will be allocated to various projects in the Region. **Action:** Tony to send details of project to group

Council believe this is an extraordinary opportunity for us to enhance experiences for local residents, particularly students (from 4-18yrs) and allow us to deliver priorities that will come out of the Management Plan towards the end of this year.

Management Plan

The information from our last meeting is being compiled to be included in the plan.

Sustainable Development Plan and Design

Meeting held between Naomi Goode and Tony Dark with landscape architect Dennis Williamson who will create a concept design to inform our overall Management Plan. This will be staged with an initial concept for the plan and further stages for interpretive signage etc. Dennis was originally contacted by Landcare however Council took the opportunity to speak to Dennis as an option to quote to complete schematic design.

Wayne dissatisfied that group had not been consulted and in explanation that any concepts designed will go through the group before being finalised.

Wayne has a contact for a prospective designer and he will advise details.

Fence - Landowner Consent

Consent for the front fence has been provided by DELWP to replace the front fence.

Recommendation to delay until plan and outcomes before installing fence. **Action:** Tony to investigate with council and direct project from there.

Floating Pontoon at Boat Ramp

Tony spoke to Rob Loats before the meeting and he suggested that we discuss the option of a pontoon at the ramp. They are generally used for assisting access to boats and the group were open to consider but not supportive at this stage. Further discussion and consideration to be looked at in the future.

WDA Economic and Tourism Study

Cr Erwin advised that the second stage of the study is underway and the community will be contacted to provide input. Group members consented to their details being provided to WDA for contact.

Wood removal/Tree Damage

Landcare have contacted council about the damage to trees and use for fires by visitors.

Action: Tony to speak to our planners and see what we can do with signs etc.

Water Allocation

Concerns raised in relation to future allocations for the lake due to the following:

- Walkers Lake is not a high priority for the regional recreation water group
- There will be 2 more lakes introduced to the Recreation Lake list and this may impact all lakes if they will still be supplied from the same pool of water.
- Cr Erwin mentioned that if the season is dry then we may only receive 80% of allocation as will all other lakes.

Action: Tony to contact GMMWater for an update. Cr Erwin will attend an upcoming

GMMWater meeting to obtain further updates.

- 8. Next Meeting** – Suggested to be either at the lake or Banyena Hall with new members.
- 9. Meeting Closed - 5.30pm**