

Western Port Biosphere: Summary of Board meeting, 21 July 2011.

The meeting was held at Bass Coast Shire's Phillip Island office in Cowes. Ten Directors (Rob Gell, Chair; Jane Jobe, Bass Coast Roundtable, Deputy Chair; Jack Krohn, Environment Minister nominee, Secretary & Public Officer; Jeff Weir, Mornington Peninsula Roundtable, Treasurer; Libby Anthony, Frankston City Council; Cr Bev Hastie, Casey City Council; Cr Phil Wright, Bass Coast Shire Council; Jim Kerin, Frankston Roundtable; Cr Reade Smith, Mornington Peninsula Shire Council; and Graham Davis, Parks Victoria) and one Alternate Director (Stephen Chapple, Mornington Peninsula Shire Council) attended, plus one observer (Nicola Ward, Casey City Council) and Executive Officer Cecelia Witton.

The Board adopted a proposal to appoint Blue Frog Marketing to conduct a strategic workshop and undertake market research, with a view to assisting the Board to develop a targeted marketing and communications programme.

The Living Strategy which was adopted at the previous meeting was discussed, with particular focus on the need to develop detailed action plans to enable strategic objectives to be implemented. Councils will provide templates as models to facilitate development of routine reporting format against action plans.

The Board noted actions taken to take the Living Strategy to the community through Roundtable meetings, including the previous evening (20 July) at Bass Coast and a joint Casey-Cardinia meeting scheduled for Thursday 4 August. Meetings are also being arranged for the Frankston and Mornington Peninsula Roundtables.

The Board supported a proposal for State of the Biosphere reporting, developed by Research Committee members Dr Sharron Pfueller and Ian Stevenson. The project requires resources, and will be refined to minimise duplication of data assembly and optimise integration with existing reporting frameworks, including the work of the Victorian Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability, Dr Kate Aughty, while providing a clear focus on the Biosphere region.

The Board received and noted reports from the Executive Officer, the Watson Creek Project Officer and the Bandicoot Recovery Co-ordinator. The latter report described the outcomes of the successful Bandicoot recovery planning day at Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne on 23 June. Actions to implement resolutions adopted on the day are already in train.

The Board also approved a new member application and considered and accepted the draft 2010-11 financial report, which will now be reviewed by the auditor.

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday 29 September. It will include the strategic workshop to be facilitated by Blue Frog Marketing.

Board minutes are routinely posted on the Foundation website following formal confirmation at the subsequent meeting. All interested parties are encouraged to visit the website regularly for updates on projects, events and activities of the Board, Research Committee, Roundtables and partners.

Jack Krohn, Secretary