

**Minutes of the
24th MEETING OF THE MORNINGTON PENINSULA & WESTENPORT
Biosphere Research Committee meeting
held on Friday 26 March 2010 at 9.00 am EDST**

PRESENT:

Mr. Peter Woodgate (Chair)
Mr. David Nicholls

Dr. Terry Coates
Dr. Sharron Pfueller

Observers:

Ms. Cecelia Witton
Mrs. Jane Inall (Committee Secretary)

Apologies:

Mr. Eligio Bruzzese
Mr. Ian Stevenson

Mr. Garrique Pergl

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Messrs. Bruzzese, Stevenson, Pergl and Krohn.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2009 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. OUTSTANDING OR FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Action 1: Education Strategy: an informal meeting to be convened to ascertain the best way forward namely whether an inventory of existing services should be undertaken before a working group is established.

ACTION 1: CW/Mr. Rob Gell

Action 2: Regional Sustainability Indicators: A meeting of the new working group is being arranged for Thursday 22 April 2010, from 10.00 am – 12.00 noon at Monash Clayton.

Mr. Woodgate to contact Ian Mansergh (Vic DSE) to invite him to join the working group.

ACTION 2: PW

Mr. Woodgate to follow up with Professor John Wiseman to ascertain his availability to join the working group.

ACTION 3: PW/SP

Actions 4 & 5: Ross Trust and Wettenhall funding applications: it is the intention to have both these funding applications ready for lodgement by July 2010.

ACTION 4: DN/CW

4. OTHER FUNDING APPLICATIONS

The Committee agreed that an application for NCARP funding, for assistance with the bandicoot recovery plan, would be most relevant to the Research Committee's activities. This application is due next month. Mr. Nicholls to contact NCARP to determine funding available.

ACTION 5: DN

5. REPORT ON FOUNDATION BOARD

Recent meetings held between Biosphere representatives and the CEOs of the five MP&WP councils have proposed in-principle funding of \$20,000 in support of the Biosphere. Opportunities for cross-promotion and Biosphere brand building including sustainable agriculture and eco tourism were discussed. The Councils have requested a business plan for their review by end March. Ms. Witton is preparing this.

The Biosphere is conducting activity during schools' Environment Week through the distribution of DVDs and other material. The Biosphere is also engaging with Earth Watch as part of the schools science activities.

The Biosphere was included in the Caring for our Country CMA Core funding application to a level of approximately \$40,000 of services (fox coordination, DB development for the fox control programs, inclusion in the Native Vegetation protection for Watson Creek).

6. STRATEGIC PLAN

The Strategic Plan should be framed to address the Biosphere's fundamental objective of environmentally sustainable development. It could seek to support a "State of the Biosphere" style review, underpinned by a comprehensive GIS inventory of resource

information. A small suite of sustainability indicators that critically evaluate our progress towards improving sustainability in the Biosphere should emerge from this work. The bandicoots are likely to be one of these indicators. The Mass Balance project, with its focus on energy efficiency, water efficiency, carbon flux and waste also marries with this approach.

ACTION 6: PW

7. NEXT MEETING

Friday 25 June 2010 at Chisholm TAFE.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.10.am with the Chair thanking Mr. Nicholls for hosting the meeting at Chisholm Cranbourne campus.