

**Minutes of the
23rd MEETING OF THE MORNINGTON PENINSULA & WESTENPORT
Biosphere Research Committee meeting
held on Friday 27 November 2009 at 9.00 am EDST**

PRESENT:

Mr. Peter Woodgate (Chair)
Mr. David Nicholls
Mr. Ian Stevenson

Mr. Eligio Bruzzese
Dr. Sharron Pfueller

Observers:

Ms. Cecelia Witton
Mrs. Jane Inall

Apologies:

Dr. Terry Coates Prof. Kim Lowell Mr. Garrique Pergl

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2009 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. OUTSTANDING OR FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Action 3: Education Strategy document- this will be circulated, out of session, to Foundation Board members. It is intended that Dr. Pfueller will attend the first Board meeting in 2010 to further discuss the strategy with the Board.

ACTION 1: CW/SP

Action 7: Background paper on Regional Sustainability Indicators- Dr. Pfueller and Mr. Stevenson to initiate a working group. They will also make contact with Dr. Leonie Pearson at Swinburne about her possible involvement in the working group.

ACTION 2: IS/SP

Dr. Pfueller to ask Mr. Troy Kraska for formal “permission to use” his Regional Sustainability Indicators paper, including uploading it to the Biosphere website. The final version of the report should include a brief statement of purpose.

ACTION 3: SP/CW

Dr. Woodgate to contact Ian Mansergh from DPI regarding the working group.

Dr. Woodgate to provide the name of the Research Manager of Vic Department of Department of Planning and Community Development to Dr. Pfueller and Mr. Stevenson.

ACTION 4: PW

4. REPORT ON FOUNDATION BOARD

Ross Trust:

- A capacity building application has been lodged with the Ross Trust. An outcome is expected in the next 8-10 weeks. It was suggested that any other applications to the Ross Trust should be deferred until this outcome is known.
- Mr. Nicholls to work closely with Ms. Witton to finalise the content of the research application and to determine the best timing for application lodgement.

ACTION 5: DN/CW

Wettenhall application: Mr. Nicholls to supply Ms. Witton with the draft one page outline prepared for this application, if Ms. Witton is not able to locate this document.

ACTION 6: DN

Murdoch application: The Foundation Executive decided not to proceed with an application to this trust however this is likely to be re-considered in light of the current fund-raising strategy.

Ms. Witton was requested to circulate to Research Committee members, either the full minutes or just the extract from Foundation Board minutes that directly relate to the Research Committee. Ms. Witton to raise the issue of Board minutes being available on the website with the Executive.

ACTION 7: CW

Dr. Pfueller will provide a copy of her published report: "The role of bioregionalism in Bookmark Biosphere Reserve, Australia" for circulation to Committee members. This will then be sent out to the broader email community and uploaded to the Biosphere website.

ACTION 8: SP/JI

5. STRATEGIC PLAN

The current Research Committee strategy will be incorporated into the Biosphere's business plan together with a couple of additional research topics, namely vegetation assessment and waste management.

ACTION 9: CW

6. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

An updated report from Mr. Nicholls on the Bandicoot project is attached to these minutes.

A meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 1 December to discuss the establishment of a working group to form a regional recovery group.

7. MEETINGS IN 2010

It was agreed to continue to meet on the last Friday of the month, every quarter, in 2010. Therefore the proposed meeting dates are:

Friday	26 March
	25 June
	24 September
	3 December (earlier in the month because of Christmas)

Mr. Nicholls to confirm a meeting room at Chisholm TAFE is available for each of these meetings.

ACTION 10: DN

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.05 a.m. with the Chair wishing Committee members all the very best for the festive season.