

**DRAFT Minutes of the
22nd MEETING OF THE MORNINGTON PENINSULA & WESTENPORT
Biosphere Research Committee meeting
held on Friday 25 September 2009 from 9.00 am
Venue: Chisholm TAFE, Cranbourne**

PRESENT:

Mr. Eligio Bruzzese (Acting Chair)
Mr. David Nicholls
Mr. Garrigue Pergl
Dr. Sharron Pfueller
Mr. Ian Stevenson

Observers:

Ms. Cecelia Witton
Dr. Rob Gell (Chair, Foundation Board) - part
Mr. Troy Kraska (Researcher, Monash University)

Apologies:

Dr. Terry Coates
Mrs. Jane Inall
Mr. Peter Woodgate

NB: Mr. Gell left the meeting at 10.30 am

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Acting Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2009 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. OUTSTANDING OR FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Refer to the updated action list at the end of these minutes.

4. REPORT ON FOUNDATION BOARD

Mr. Gell reported on the last Biosphere Foundation Board meeting and outlined Biosphere activities he has been involved in. Key items for noting include:

- Biosphere's engagement with stakeholders is improving.
- Regular meetings of the Advisory Committee to discuss ways to lift the Biosphere's profile.
- Planned discussions with an informal group of marketing experts to assist in developing ideas to improve biosphere's profile.
- Ms. Witton's involvement in meetings in Korea is assisting in building broader contacts for the Biosphere
- An "Australian Association of Biospheres" is being proposed to assist in raising the political profile of Biospheres.
- Draft business plan for Biosphere has been prepared. Ms. Witton to send confidential copy of draft plan to Research Committee for comment.

ACTION 1: CW/PW

5. PRESENTATION ON RECENT TRIP TO KOREA

Ms. Witton gave an excellent presentation on her recent trip to Jeju, South Korea to attend a climate change workshop, ecotourism conference and a meeting of the International Coordinating Committee of Man & Biosphere Program. Representatives from Biospheres from a number of countries attended with Ms. Witton representing Australia. Key points of the presentation were that:

- There is increasing respect for Biospheres at the international level
- Biospheres are being recognised as places of learning
- There is a strong willingness to work together to resolve problems in common

6. STRATEGIC PLAN

This item was deferred for discussion at the next Research Committee meeting

ACTION 2: PW

7. EDUCATION STRATEGY

Dr Pfueller presented the draft briefing paper on an Education Strategy for the Biosphere.

- The briefing paper was discussed by the Foundation Executive at a previous meeting.
- Some feedback has been received from the Research Committee.
- Dr. Pfueller and Ms. Witton to summarise the feedback comments, then append them to briefing paper so that it can be placed on the Foundation Board agenda. A suggestion on who should be on the Education Committee and its linkages to the Communication/Marketing Committee will be included.

ACTION 3: SP/CW

8. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

8.1 Bandicoot recovery

An updated report was prepared by Mr. Nicholls including a draft Recovery Plan. A list of actions was circulated at the meeting, viz: “Priority, Feasibility and Estimated Costs of Recovery Actions” 6 pages. The Recovery plan (55 pages) was earlier circulated to Ian Stevenson, Bob Edgar and the Frankston Round Table. A copy is available on request.

Mr. Nicholls to send copy of draft Recovery Plan (with actions) to Jane Inall.

ACTION 4: DN/JI

Messrs. Nicholls, Edgar and Stevenson to meet in the near future to discuss finalising the draft plan .

ACTION 5: DN/IS

8.2 Caring for Country funding application

A joint Biosphere and CMA funding application and a Biosphere application were unsuccessful. A feedback report was provided from CfoC for the Biosphere’s application.

8.3 Background paper on Regional Sustainability Indicators

Messrs. Gell and Woodgate to discuss how to re-engage with the CEOs of Local Government on sustainability indicators.

ACTION 6: PW/RG

Funding for this project: Mr. Stevenson suggested the need for a working group to develop the next steps for the project and how to present the project to the CEOs and other stakeholders. It was suggested that this work could have important linkages with the Mass Balance project.

ACTION 7: IS/CW

8.4 Presentation by Mr Troy Kraska

Mr. Kraska gave a very interesting presentation of his work to date on sustainability indicators. Mr Kraska to send Jane Inall an electronic copy of the presentation.

ACTION 8: Troy Kraska

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.30 am.

ACTION NO.	DESCRIPTION	WHO	STATUS REPORT
MEETING NO. 22– FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2009			
1	Ms. Witton to send confidential copy of draft Biosphere business plan to Research Committee for comment.	CW/PW	
2	Research Committee Strategic Plan to be discussed at the next meeting.	PW	On Agenda for next meeting.
3	Re Education Strategy: Dr. Pfueller and Ms. Witton to summarise the feedback comments, then append them to briefing paper for Foundation Board agenda. Suggestion on who should be on the Education Committee and its linkages to the Communication/Marketing Committee to be included.	SP/CW	Ongoing.
4	Mr.Nicholls to send copy of draft Bandicoot Recovery Plan to Jane Inall.	DN/JI	Done.
5	Messrs. Nicholls, Edgar and Stevenson to meet in the near future to discuss finalising the draft recovery plan .	DN/IS	Ongoing.
6	Messrs. Gell and Woodgate to discuss how to re-engage with the CEOs of Local Government on sustainability indicators.	PW/RG	Ongoing.
7	Background paper on Regional Sustainability Indicators: Funding for this project: Mr. Stevenson suggested the need for a working group to develop the next steps for the project.	IS/CW	Ongoing.
8	Mr Troy Kraska to send Jane Inall with electronic copy of the presentation.	TK	Not done yet.

MEETING NO. 21- FRIDAY 17 JULY 2009			
9	Progress the Ross Trust, N. Wettenhall and Murdoch applications.	DN	Ongoing.
10	Talk to Bob Edgar about a future role for him within the Biosphere and securing the funds that may be available from DSE.	PW/TC	Ongoing.
MEETING NO. 19 – FRIDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2008			
11	<p>Convenor to make contact with Birds Australia and UNESCO (via Reade Smith) to progress the issue.</p> <p>Update (25/9/09): Mr. Gell suggested that he could help with this action item and Mr. Woodgate should talk to him about this</p>	PW	Not done yet.