

# Minutes

**Date** 9/02/11

**Time** 5:30pm **Location** Eastern Treatment Plant

<b>Chairperson</b>	Joy Humphreys	<b>Meeting Subject</b>	Tidal Waterways subcommittee mtg
<b>Attendees</b>	Committee members: Neil James, Andrew Meehan, David Jordan, Judy Wilks, Mark Woodland Melbourne Water (MW): David Norman, Tim Seipolt, Louise Alexander, Simon Marchington Other: Florence Lynch - Essential Services Commission (ESC), Cr Trevor Shewan – Kingston City Council (KCC)		
<b>Apologies</b>	Committee members: Claude Picinali MW: Alan Clements		
<b>Note Taker</b>	Louise Alexander		

**1. Agenda item** Confirmation of minutes & matters arising from previous meeting  
**Presenter** Louise Alexander & Tim Seipolt

**Discussion** The minutes from the previous meeting were confirmed by the committee. Actions arising from the previous meeting are outlined below.

There was additional discussion regarding maintenance locations within the Tidal Waterways. MW advised that the whole lakes area including the water is zoned Residential 3, with the exception of the Canberra Street easement which is zoned Mixed Use. Kingston City Council attempted to re-zone the lakes in the 90s, but the community objected to this. The barge can access the lakes from the other side of McLeod Road bridge, but it would have to be modified and would be a very expensive option. MW is discussing the issue with council, and is looking at alternative maintenance bases – some funding has been set aside for this in the forecast budgets.

Previous Action items	Person responsible	Comments / Deadline
1. Clarify who precept rates can be charged to in relation to Water Act	David Norman	Complete - the Water Act allows for precept rates to be charged via council, however this requires ministerial approval. MW's understanding is that MW recovers the cost of maintenance for residents via precept rates. MW does not believe precept rates should be collected by council. As residents you can investigate this

<b>1. Agenda item</b>	Confirmation of minutes & matters arising from previous meeting	<b>Presenter</b>	Louise Alexander & Tim Seipolt
			through your local MP and council, but PLAC's terms of reference state that it is to act as an advisory body to MW.
2.	Review options for enforcing by-laws	Tim Seipolt	For discussion at June meeting
3.	Request dredging schedule from Parks Vic	Alan Clements	Complete - Parks Vic advised it surveys Patterson River every month and it is dredged on an as needs basis. It was due to be done in March, but PV will wait for results of this month's survey as recent heavy rain may have flushed it out.
4.	Review maintenance schedule for McLeod Road bridge pillars re. crustacean growth	Alan Clements	Work in progress - maintenance team has checked, but looks okay. Work order being done to send team to check at very low tide.
5.	Remove concrete block from Patterson River	Alan Clements	Work in progress - looking at chainsawing. Will update at next mtg in April.
6.	PLAC website to be made more user-friendly	Louise Alexander	Work in progress – aim to send to PLAC by mid-Feb
7.	Attend Council Village Committee meeting	Louise Alexander	Complete – we will keep them updated as a key stakeholder. Committee voted MW presentation as the highlight.
8.	Review possibility of additional subcommittees	Louise Alexander	For discussion at April meeting
9.	Provide back-dated PLAC minutes to 2007	Louise Alexander	Complete – provided at meeting
10.	Review newsletter format	Louise Alexander	Complete – to be discussed in meeting
11.	A summary of the meeting will be written and placed on community noticeboards as a trial	Alan Clements	Ongoing

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**2. Agenda item** 2011/12 pricing proposal      **Presenter** Simon Marchington

**Discussion**      MW advised that the pricing proposal remained the same with the exception of newsletter costs; however, these will make no difference to the proposed rates.

MW confirmed that committee members are being asked to make a recommendation on the 2011/12 prices only. MW is proposing to cap the precept rate increase for Tidal Waterways ratepayers at 13% plus CPI, and absorb any expenses over and above this.

**2. Agenda item** 2011/12 pricing proposal **Presenter** Simon Marchington

MW advised that the proposal is planned to go to the MW Board for consideration in March, and then to the Essential Services Commission (ESC). MW advised that further consultation would take place with PLAC and the community about ongoing prices.

Committee members discussed:

- Whether residents should be funding the replacement of retaining walls and dredging and if they should instead be funded by Melbourne's Waterways & Drainage Charge. MW advised that the rock retaining walls were there for the benefit of residents and that dredging was to allow the canals to be used for recreational boating purposes
- Whether City of Kingston could charge for the precept rates. MW advised that it provided a response during Agenda item 1
- Whether existing customers should be paying for new assets and if past residents should have made a contribution. MW advised that this payment method had not previously been set up, but would be considered in future years
- Whether council could contribute to dredging costs as silt may enter through their drainage system. Cr Shewan advised he would provide this feedback to KCC
- Whether council could contribute more to Patterson Lakes because residents believe a larger percentage of council rates is sourced from this area than other suburbs within the municipality. Cr Shewan advised that KCC does not receive extra funding. The budget determines the rates required, and depending on the value of properties some rates might go up or down. Rates are pooled together from across the municipality
- That MW funding the Tidal Gates Replacement Project through Melbourne's Waterways & Drainage Charge is pleasing.
- How the ESC would consider the committee's decision. Ms Lynch advised that the committee's recommendation was one of the criteria the ESC considers.

***By a majority vote (3-2), the committee recommend that Melbourne Water submit the current pricing proposal to the MW Board and the Essential Services Commission for consideration.***

The minority opposed to submitting the proposal stated that the City of Kingston should take over provision of core precept services (jetty and beach maintenance) to be paid for out of general council rates and that the remaining services provided by Melbourne Water are of a general rather than special nature and should therefore be paid for by the general waterways and drainage rate.

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**3. Agenda item** PLAC newsletter **Presenter** Louise Alexander

**Discussion** MW presented two alternative designs for PLAC's feedback. The majority of committee members preferred the design with the picture at the top. MW advised that it was able to keep costs of design, printing and mail out within the budget. The committee also discussed the PLAC logo – members suggested they did not mind or could live without it.

Content suggestions included maintenance easements, how the system works in flood events, an update on the tidal gates and jetties works, and a summary of what committee has been doing.

<b>Action items</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
12. Consider newsletter content suggestions	Louise Alexander	Mar/Apr

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<b>Agenda item</b>	Maintenance works report	<b>Presenter</b>	Tim Seipolt
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>The maintenance works report was handed out to the committee (see attached). MW advised that the 4-5 February flood caused some of the debris washed down Patterson River to flow into the canals including Alligator Weed. This is a weed of significance and has to be removed with assistance from the Department of Primary Industries (DPI). Precept rates are not being used for its removal. The canals will continue to be monitored once a month.</p>		

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<b>Agenda item</b>	General business	<b>Presenter</b>	Joy Humphreys
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>Matters raised and discussed during general business include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Tidal Gates Replacement Project:</i> MW advised the new tidal gate would be opened up next week and the Water Resources Alliance (WRA) would begin working on the eastern channel. MW advised it is looking into how it mitigates risk in regards to the old submerged boat ramp. The WRA had learnt lessons from the first gate and the next should be completed within 3 months. The WRA is still planning to close Runaway Bay and Town Centre at the same over winter this year – a number of issues have been raised by local businesses and these are being looked into.</li> </ul> <p>Committee members urged Melbourne Water to reconsider closing the eastern tidal gate at Whalers Cove due to safety concerns regarding the proximity of the old boat ramp to the western channel, where all traffic would be directed, and strong currents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Jetty Replacement Program:</i> MW advised that 5 of the 21 stages have been contacted. Planning permits are required because the water is zoned Residential 3. Some issues had arisen, but these are being resolved with council. KCC is charging one planning permit fee per stage, with the exception of proposed jetties that receive objections as these need to continue further in the planning process and will be charged individually. These costs are being recouped through precept rates. MW advised it is reviewing its Jetty Guidelines.</li> <li>• <i>1800 calls:</i> Committee members raised concern that calls are not being returned. MW advised that it would look into the matter.</li> <li>• <i>Flooding at 58 Gladesville Boulevard:</i> Concern was raised that the new pump station works may have caused flood water to divert into this property. MW advised it would follow this up.</li> <li>• <i>Encroaching on MW easements:</i> Concern was raised that some residents may be encroaching on MW easements and the lack of enforcement. MW advised that encroachments and boundaries are Melbourne-wide issues and are being investigated. MW can send letters to those encroaching on easements.</li> </ul>		

<b>Action items</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
13. MW to investigate safety concerns in western channel of Whalers Cove and 1800 call processes.	Tim Seipolt	Feb/Mar
14. MW to follow up localised flooding issue at 58 Gladesville Boulevard.	Alan Clements	Feb/Mar

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Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.