

Minutes

Date 20/01/11

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

Chairperson	Joy Humphreys	Meeting Subject	Quiet Lakes subcommittee mtg
Attendees	Committee members: Nanne Stubbs, Rolf Daniel, Jeff Walsh, John Thomson & Anthony Moffatt (PLQLOR) Melbourne Water (MW): David Norman, Tim Seipolt, Louise Alexander, Simon Marchington, Josephine Parrett, Donna Bui Other: Cr Trevor Shrewan, Kingston City Council (observing final 45mins of meeting)		
Apologies	MW: Alan Clements		
Note Taker	Louise Alexander		

1. Agenda item Matters arising from previous meeting **Presenter** Louise Alexander & Tim Seipolt

Discussion Actions arising from the previous meeting are outlined below.

Previous Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
1. Provide break down of 09/10 expenditure	Tim Seipolt	Work in progress – aim for completion by Feb/March
2. Written response to water quality questions & answers	Tim Seipolt	Work in progress – aim for completion by end Feb
3. PLAC website to be made more user-friendly	Louise Alexander	Work in progress – aim for completion by 9 Feb
4. Attend Council Village Committee meeting	Louise Alexander	Set for 2 Feb
5. Review possibility of additional subcommittees	Louise Alexander	For discussion at April meeting
6. Provide back-dated PLAC minutes to 2007	Louise Alexander	Work in progress – aim for completion by 9 Feb
7. Review newsletter format	Louise Alexander	Aim for completion by end Feb
8. A summary of the meeting will be written and placed on community noticeboards as a trial	Alan Clements	Ongoing

2. Agenda item Proposal 2011/12 rates, future pricing paths & community engagement outline for Water Plan 3 **Presenter** Simon Marchington & Josephine Parrett

Presentation Presentation included:

- Expenditure for the 2010/11 budget compared with expected expenditure for the year, and any variances; forecast expenditure for the remainder of the year.
- The items proposed to be included in the 2011/12 operational budget, including general maintenance, newsletter, water quality testing, fish removal, contract management fees, maintenance co-ordinator and water quality works. Water quality works is a new item and makes a provision for \$84,990 to be spent in the 2011/12 year. Examples of what water quality works could include were discussed, however, this is still subject to PLAC and community consultation.
- The items forecast to be included in the 2011/12 capital works budget, include funding for Macrophytes planting, bore pump works, civil works, silt removal and Solar Bee purchases. This is a new budget for the Quiet Lakes and allows for \$255,000 to be spent in the 2011/12 year. All of the items relate to actions aimed to achieve small incremental water quality improvements over time and are subject to review by PLAC and the community.
- It is proposed the community stay on the 11% price increase plus CPI for 2011/12. This is subject to PLAC recommendation, and approval from the MW Board and the Essential Services Commission (ESC). In making this proposal MW considered matters such as PLAC and community feedback, historical issues, progress towards sustainable charges for ratepayers, and rate modelling to 2022/23.
- MW flagged for discussion a future proposal to absorb the forecast shortfall in overall funding for Quiet Lakes ratepayers over and above an increase of 11% plus CPI annually until 2022/23. The absorbed shortfall totals an estimated \$2.1 million. This is subject to consultation with PLAC and the community, and approval by the MW Board and ESC.
- Proposed Water Plan 3 community engagement outline includes multiple opportunities for PLAC and the broader community to have input into development of MW pricing proposal for Water Plan 3, which runs from 2013/14 to 2017/18. This includes a customer service charter, which will help clarify MW services for Patterson Lakes ratepayers.
- PLAC is asked to provide feedback on the 2011/12 rates proposal and Water Plan 3 community engagement outline **by 3 Feb**. A formal recommendation on the 2011/2012 rates will be sought from PLAC at the 9 Feb meeting, before MW puts forward a proposal to the MW board and then the ESC.

Discussion PLAC members discussed a number of aspects of the presentation and proposal, including:

- *Fish removal*: Discussion about what the carry over of 2009/10 fish removal budget to 2010/11 budget means in reality. Concerns were raised around getting value for money.
- *Contract management fee*: Discussions were had about the basis of management fees paid to Melbourne Water's principle contractor and the approach to sub-contracting specialist activities.
- *Lighting*: MW explained that lighting is not included in the budget now, but is likely to be in future.

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- *Seeing the project through:* This discussion focussed on the hope that there will be observable outcomes from this proposal and it would not drift.
- *Sinking fund:* Discussion included comment that this could help predict future needs for works. Concern was raised that any proposed future sinking fund would need to be carefully monitored.
- *Service levels:* Feedback that some members of the community feel they don't currently get enough service for their money.
- *Community engagement:* Discussion suggested there hasn't been enough engagement in the past, and that it is essential.
- *History:* Comment that MW has come a long way since first asking PLAC to make recommendations on rates and there is a lot more information available to PLAC members now.
- *MW cost absorption:* Comment was made that MW's proposal is generous and appreciated.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
1. Provide feedback, comments, concerns on pricing proposal and community engagement outline for Water Plan 3	PLAC members	3 Feb 11

3. Agenda item General business **Presenter** Joy Humphreys

Discussion A number of matters relating to water quality were raised and discussed during general business, including:

- *Carp fishing progress:* MW is reviewing fish management options as part of Water Quality Management Plan, which will be discussed with PLAC at a meeting at the end of Feb/early March; looking at a holistic approach, rather than just netting.
- *Scientific review of lakes:* Aquatic specialist consultants swam in the lakes reviewing the stratification, plant life, silt depth etc. Some residents had approached PLAC with concerns the specialists were wearing 'protective clothing' i.e. wetsuits. MW explained they wore wetsuits because it got cold after spending a long time in the water.
- *Cleaning kerb and channel on beach:* There is some confusion about whose role it is to clean the kerb and channel at the back of residents' property near beach on Lake Illawong and Carramar i.e. MW or home owners. MW advised that this is not currently in the maintenance program and Melbourne Water would provide an estimate of the cost of providing this service.
- *Stormwater drains:* There was a discussion about putting grates or another kind of filter on stormwater drains that run into the lakes. MW plans to discuss storm water urban design initiatives with Kingston City Council as part of the Water Quality Management Plan. MW has approached the council to do a joint audit of lakes drainage infrastructure.
- *Stormwater inflow at Iluka bridge:* There was discussion about the recent stormwater inflow at Iluka Island bridge on 14 January 2011. The reason for inflow is there was an issue with a Gladesville Boulevard pump being tripped off. Transfield are investigating the cause with the team that installed the new pump system. All

3. Agenda item General business

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systems are currently operational.

- *Status of bore water investigation:* There was discussion about the status of the bore water proving trial with Southern Rural Water. The trial is ready to go. MW is waiting on further water quality discussions to take place with PLAC and for community consultation to take place, due to the cost impact associated with the project.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
2. Organise next Water Quality Management Plan meeting	Tim Seipolt	Late Feb / early Mar
3. Provide cost estimate for cleaning of gutters on Lake Illawong and Carramar.	Alan Clements	Feb / Mar
4. Inform PLAC re. outcome of liaison with Kingston City Council	Tim Seipolt	Feb / Mar

Meeting adjourned at 7.00pm.