

Minutes

Date 20/01/11

Time 7:20pm **Location** Eastern Treatment Plant

Chairperson	Joy Humphreys	Meeting Subject	Tidal Waterways subcommittee mtg
Attendees	Committee members: Neil James, Andrew Meehan, David Jordan, Judy Wilks Melbourne Water (MW): David Norman, Tim Seipolt, Louise Alexander, Simon Marchington, Josephine Parrett, Donna Bui		
Apologies	Committee members: Claude Picinali, Mark Woodland MW: Alan Clements		
Note Taker	Louise Alexander		

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

Discussion An update about previous meeting actions was provided, as outlined below.

Previous Action items	Person responsible	Comments / Deadline
1. Review maintenance schedule for McLeod Road bridge pillars re. crustacean growth	Alan Clements	Alan to update (next meeting)
2. Review signage requirements for public jetty at town centre, including whether 45 minute limits are suitable.	Alan Clements	Complete - signs are up
3. Remove concrete block from Patterson River	Alan Clements	More difficult to remove than anticipated. Approach being reviewed in Feb
4. PLAC website to be made more user-friendly	Louise Alexander	Aim for completion by 9 Feb
5. Attend Council Village Committee meeting	Louise Alexander	Set for 2 Feb
6. Review possibility of additional subcommittees	Louise Alexander	For discussion at April meeting
7. Provide back-dated PLAC minutes to 2007	Louise Alexander	Aim for completion by 9 Feb
8. Review newsletter format	Louise Alexander	Aim for completion by end Feb
9. 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:

- The amount of expenditure of 2010/11 budget compared with expected expenditure for the year, and reason for variances; and the forecast expenditure for the remainder of the year, including how capital projects are performing in regards to their expenditure.
- The items proposed to be included in the 2011/12 operational budget, including tidal gates maintenance, general maintenance, newsletter, jetty maintenance, contract management fees, maintenance co-ordinator and civil assets monitoring. This allows for \$465,863 to be spent in the 2011/12 year. Civil assets monitoring is a new item and allows for \$20,000 to monitor asset condition and to provide an accurate assessment of when they need to be replaced using the most cost effective approach.
- The items proposed to be included in the 2011/12 capital works budget, including jetty replacement program, dredging, tidal gates renewal and foreshore works. This allows for \$6.8 million to be spent in the 2011/12 year.
- It is proposed the community increase rates by 13% plus CPI for 2011/12. This is subject to PLAC recommendations, and MW Board and the Essential Services Commission (ESC) approval. In making this proposal MW took into consideration 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 recover all costs for the tidal gates renewal through the general drainage rate, a cost of approximately \$5 million. The cost associated with the operation and maintenance of the gates would still be recovered through the precept rate. A proposal to absorb the forecast shortfall in overall funding for Tidal Waterways ratepayers over and above an increase of 13% plus CPI annually until 2022/23 was discussed. The absorbed shortfall totals an estimated \$9.1 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 community to have input into development of MW pricing proposal for Water Plan 3, which runs from 2013/14 to 2017/18. Additionally, the development of a customer service charter 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:

- *Waterfront properties:* Discussion about other waterfront properties in Melbourne that only pay the general drainage rate and not a special rate charge, for example, properties near Cherry Lake in Altona or on the Yarra River get the amenity benefit, but don't pay special rates for it. Comment that only jetties and beaches should be funded via special rate charge. MW advised that its policy is that the general drainage rate does not fund asset renewals and maintenance for lifestyle developments and associated recreational activities.
- *Community engagement:* Discussion about whether MW has run

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similar community engagement processes before. A similar process was run in the Quiet Lakes in 2010 for regarding water quality.

- *Future tidal gates renewal:* Discussion focussed on the MW proposal to fund 100% of the tidal gates renewal through the general drainage rate. MW advised that if the PLAC, the community, MW Board and ESC all supported the proposal, Tidal Waterways ratepayers would not have to fund tidal gates renewal again. Melbourne Water advised that all cost for operating and maintaining the gates will still be recovered through the precept rate.
- *Dredging:* Questions about why dredging isn't funded by general drainage rate. Simon, on behalf of MW explained that current and future dredging in the canals is for recreational purposes only and would therefore need to be funded through the precept rate. Further discussion focussed on wanting to see provision for dredging in future – MW advised that there is an allocation included as part of pricing proposal.
- *Rock walls and beaching:* Questions about why rock walls and beaching are not funded by the precept rate if they are providing flood protection to homes. MW staff reiterated that the canals were built for recreational purposes. Rock walls aren't necessary to protect homes from flooding, as soil levee banks would suffice, but are there for amenity.
- *Paying up front:* Discussion about whether there would be an option for residents to pay future costs up front. MW advised that it would consider community feedback, but it can be difficult and costly to manage as people may change their minds about how much they contribute. ESC would also need to review it.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
1. Provide feedback, comments, concerns on the written pricing proposal handed out at the meeting 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 were raised and discussed during general business, including:

- *Dredging Patterson River:* Discussion around silt in Patterson River. MW advised that Parks Victoria dredges Patterson River mouth and that MW manages the tidal gates and desilts around them for operational purposes. Melbourne Water also advised that the land between the tidal gates and McLeod Rd bridge is owned by local council and council drains also enter the canal system at various locations.
- *Water Act:* Clarification sought around part of Water Act in relation to who precept rates could be charged to.
- *By-laws:* Discussion around by-laws and who can enforce them. MW advised it has by-laws, but enforcement of them is costly. Suggestion that MW could engage Parks Victoria to enforce by-laws. MW advised this would need to be funded via precept rate. This was not resolved, but requires further discussion in future.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
2. Request dredging schedule from Parks	Alan Clements	9 Feb 11

3. Agenda item General business Victoria	Presenter Joy Humphreys	
3. Clarify who precept rates can be charged to in relation to Water Act	Tim Seipolt	Feb/Mar
4. Review options for enforcing by-laws	Tim Seipolt	Jun/Jul

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.