

PLAC Minutes

Date 20/10/10

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

Facilitator	Joy Humphreys	Meeting Subject	Quiet Lakes subcommittee
Attendees	Committee members: Nannette Stubbs, Rolf Daniel, John Thomson & Anthony Moffatt (PLQLOR) Melbourne Water: David Norman, Tim Seipolt, Louise Alexander & Alan Clements		
Apologies	Jeff Welsh		
Note Taker	Alan Clements		

Agenda item *Introduction, welcome and apologies* **Presenter** Joy Humphreys

Discussion Joy thanked everyone for their attendance and went over the group rules we had all put together from our PLAC induction meeting held at the Patterson Lakes community centre. Joy highlighted that these guidelines play an important role for us all to work together and have successful PLAC meetings.

One committee member described how disappointed and upset he and his family were by past behaviours and allegations made against him by a committee member, and sought assurance this would cease. A brief discussion followed in which Joy assured everyone on the committee that negative and hurtful behaviour is not productive and will not be tolerated at our meetings. If at any time people become frustrated or heated then she will call for an immediate time out to give people a chance to regroup.

It was suggested that a summary document of what was discussed at the meeting could be included on the notice boards 3–4 weeks after the meeting. This is in addition to Melbourne Water's plan to publish the full meeting minutes on the PLAC website once they had been confirmed by meeting attendees.

Conclusions The committee was happy with the group rules. The rules are important for meeting attendees to abide by so we can all work together to run successful PLAC meetings.

MW agreed to trial summarising the meeting and placing this on community noticeboards 3-4 weeks following the meeting.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
1. Joy will format the final rules and MW will forward everyone a copy so they can be included in our PLAC members' kits.	Louise & Alan	8 Dec 10
2. A summary of the meeting will be written and placed on community noticeboards as a trial.	Louise & Alan	17 Nov 10

Agenda item *Matters arising from previous meeting* **Presenter** Tim Seipolt

Discussion 5.0 - Tim informed the committee that the revised water quality testing regime has not commenced, but it will be incorporated into the detailed water quality management plan for further consideration by PLAC and the community. Testing of the bore water has been undertaken as part of the new bore installation.

Questions raised included:

- Is bore water going to be part of the regular water quality testing regime?
- What about recharging the bore?
- What were the oxygen levels in the recent bore water testing?

6.4 - Alan informed the committee that the land plane attachment to the small tractor is larger than the wheel base of the tractor.

6.5 - Alan informed the committee that trials have been undertaken using the different types of land planes on the beaches and there did not appear to be any noticeable difference in relation to the rutting of the beaches after heavy rainfall.

Conclusions N/A

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
3. Respond to questions raised before or at the next PLAC meeting.	Tim Seipolt	8 Dec 10

Agenda item *Water quality update* **Presenter** Tim Seipolt

Discussion Tim advised the committee that MW is currently working on a detailed water quality management plan, which is planned to be presented in more detail to the PLAC Quiet Lakes Subcommittee and the broader community for feedback over the coming months. A number of the actions in the plan have been considered and/or trialled before. The benefits of and learnings from these actions will need to be considered by both MW and the community. The costs and risks of these actions will also need to be considered carefully by everyone. A number of actions that may be able to be implemented as part of the water quality management plan are listed below.

- Trial of Solar Bee
- Install low flow outlet pipe to McLeod Road pump station from Lake Carramar
- Apply for increase to the groundwater pumping license
- Increase the frequency of the Carp fish removal program
- Restock all lakes with Estuary Perch fish
- Planting aquatic plants (Macrophytes)
- Review local council and MW drains in conjunction with City of Kingston

Tim and the committee discussed all the options listed above. Tim informed the committee that MW owns a Solar Bee. A Solar Bee is a solar powered machine that floats on the surface of the water, helping to circulate the water below and around it. Melbourne Water is planning to trial it from this summer in Lake Illawong. This was one of the options referred to by many community members at the recent community information sessions. The cost for adapting and installing/removing the SolarBee would be recovered through the precept rate

Tim also informed the committee that another Carp fish cull was planned to take place in Lake Illawong in March 2011, where most of the fish

Agenda item *Water quality update* **Presenter** Tim Seipolt
 conducted by the manufacturers before it could be considered as an option.

Conclusions More detailed information on each of the items discussed is required, as well as further opportunity for feedback from PLAC. This will be done as part of water quality management plan development and consultation.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
4. Feedback to be passed on to MW aquatic scientists.	Tim Seipolt	17 Nov 10
5. Unanswered questions to be responded to as part of next water quality management plan discussion.	Tim Seipolt	8 Dec 10
6. Next water quality discussion to take place before 8 Dec meeting.	Tim Seipolt	8 Dec 10

Agenda item *Communications update* **Presenter** Louise Alexander

Discussion Pricing
 Melbourne Water's Pricing and Regulation team is currently collating pricing data for the 2011/12 financial year and beyond. MW will come and talk to PLAC in early 2011, including about the kind of community consultation MW propose to undertake.

PLAC website
 In March this year MW launched the PLAC website. The website was designed externally. At the time there was a discussion about updating the site in the future to ensure it is compliant with Melbourne Water's web guidelines and to address some of the feedback received from PLAC members.

This included feedback such as:

- The viewing box containing the menu, information and photos could be a little larger to make reading easier.
- The background behind the information needs to be duller as it makes reading a little difficult for older eyes. The blue hyperlinks are particularly difficult to read.

It was also discussed that some information on the site will need to be moved across to the MW website – such as information on maintenance programs, permits and guidelines, ongoing issues, pricing, capital works projects, etc. The PLAC website would have links to the relevant information on the MW site.

A staging site with these proposed changes will be emailed to PLAC members in November to get further feedback (a staging site is a web link we can access, but the current PLAC website will remain online as is).

PLAC newsletter
 With the review of the terms of reference and appointment of a new committee, community communications about PLAC have been via direct mail to residents.

Melbourne Water proposes to continue with a PLAC newsletter, but include a Melbourne Water section as well. One side of the newsletter will be Melbourne Water news and the other side PLAC news. MW suggests that the PLAC newsletter include a summary of the PLAC meeting, any PLAC achievements noted, and contact details and profiles of PLAC members.

Proposed newsletter topics will be emailed to PLAC members for

Agenda item *Communications update* **Presenter** Louise Alexander

feedback. The PLAC newsletter will then be drafted by Melbourne Water on behalf of PLAC, and feedback sought about the article content before the final version goes out.

Conclusions MW to seek PLAC feedback on PLAC website, newsletter topics and content.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
7. Email PLAC the staging site when ready to gather further feedback.	Louise Alexander	8 Dec 10
8. Email PLAC proposed newsletter topics for feedback.	Louise Alexander	17 Nov 10
9. Email PLAC draft newsletter content for feedback.	Louise Alexander	17 Nov 10

Agenda item *Maintenance works report* **Presenter** Alan Clements

Discussion Alan provided copies of Melbourne Water’s Maintenance Works Report for the period since our last meeting detailing the works undertaken. It also included the status of the Carp electro fishing trial from Lake Carramar.

A question was asked about the Carp fish removal results from the Lakes Legana and Illawong this year. Louise distributed some information, which included that 238 Carp fish were removed from Lake Illawong and 94 from Lake Legana in June.

Conclusions N/A

Agenda item *General Business* **Presenter** Joy Humphreys

- Discussion**
- 6.1 - A question was raised about what communication costs are funded by MW and what costs are funded by the precept rate. David advised that the PLAC newsletter is funded by the precept rate, but MW funds Louise’s time and other MW communications.
 - 6.2 - Feedback from the committee suggested there is a need for more regular Carp fish removal to be undertaken at Lake Legana. Can the planned Carp fish removal in March 2011 be extended to include Lake Legana as well? Alan advised that Streamline Research have indicated they would also like to net the Alkira Court arm of Lake Legana where the vast majority of carp are caught in Lake Legana. Alan will discuss with Streamline Research the advantages of widening the netting area in Lake Legana.
 - 6.3 - Concern was raised about the turbidity in Lake Legana and a question asked about what this might be? Tim advised he would speak with aquatic scientists about possible reasons for this.
 - 6.4 - A question was asked about whether Coptrol had ever been used in the lakes? Tim advised that it had never been used, and that feedback would be sought from the community before any such trial took place.
 - 6.5 - A question was asked about the possibility of the MW pricing and regulation team meeting with the new committee to bring everyone up-to-date and give them a better understanding of the pricing data? David confirmed that a ‘pricing 101’ session would be held before the next PLAC meeting.
 - 6.6 – A question was raised about the reason for the number of

