

PLAC Minutes

Date 20/10/10

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

Facilitator	Joy Humphreys	Meeting Subject	Tidal Waterways subcommittee
Attendees	Committee members: Judy Wilks, Andrew Meehan, Claude Picinali, Neil James, Mark Woodland & David Jordan Melbourne Water: David Norman, Tim Seipolt, Louise Alexander, Alan Clements, Fatima Mohamed, Matt Harris (Thiess Services) & Paul Coysh (Water Resources Alliance)		
Apologies	Nil		
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.

A suggestion was made about posting the minutes on the website before they are accepted at the next meeting so that the community could be kept informed of what is discussed in the PLAC meeting. The process suggested was that the committee comment on the draft minutes via email, and if there are no concerns raised about their accuracy, the draft minutes could be posted. If everyone did not agree on the draft minutes, the draft would be held over until the next meeting. A motion was moved to make a recommendation of this to MW and was supported by a majority.

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.

The committee resolved and MW agreed to email the minutes to PLAC and post on website in draft form prior to the next meeting if no concerns are registered about the content.

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. Draft minutes to be emailed for PLAC feedback and posted on website if no concerns registered.	Louise & Alan	17 Nov 10

Agenda item	<i>Matters arising from previous meeting</i>	Presenter Tim Seipolt
Discussion	<p>6.2 - Alan informed the committee that the stormwater pit and outlet at 12 Schooner Bay Drive has been cleaned and unblocked.</p> <p>6.6 – A suggestion had been made about collecting residents email addresses to help reduce the amount of mail sent and allow for faster communication. Tim advised that MW currently does not have a database facility that would allow emails to replace posted information. However, a database of emails is being collected for people who would like to receive emails as well.</p> <p>6.7 - Tidal Waterways noticeboard at shopping centre has been cleaned.</p>	
Conclusions	N/A	

Agenda item	<i>Jetty Replacement Program update</i>	Presenter Matt Harris
Discussion	<p>Joy welcomed Matt Harris (Thiess Services) and Fatima Mohamed to the meeting. Matt gave an update of the Patterson Lakes Jetty Replacement Project. His presentation gave an overview of the project in relation to the following items.</p> <p><u>Jetty Lengths</u></p> <p>The new jetty / pontoon designs will be capped at a 5 metre increase from the existing jetty lengths. There are only a few minor exceptions to this.</p> <p><u>Net Present Value (NPV) and all Concrete Pontoons</u></p> <p>A thorough costing model was developed which included: depreciation, maintenance, cost escalation over time, and projection to 50 years in the future. This model showed that replacing all jetties with concrete pontoons with funding fully through precept rates was significantly more expensive in the long run than including fixed timber jetties as an option and having residents contribute up front if they wanted a concrete pontoon.</p> <p><u>Revised Cost Structure</u></p> <p>The rebate for residents wishing to install a concrete pontoon will be the total cost for replacing the existing jetty with a new timber jetty.</p> <p>Example:</p> <p>An existing 2 berth jetty costs \$18,000 to replace with a timber jetty and \$32,000 to replace with a concrete pontoon, then the cost to each resident to install a concrete pontoon will be:</p> $\$32,000 - \$18,000 = \$14,000 / 2 = \$7,000 \text{ each}$ <p>(So rebate will be \$9,000 each)</p> <p><u>Dredging</u></p> <p>An investigation into the feasibility of dredging in the tidal canals is currently underway. The objective of dredging is to remove accumulated sand and sediment around jetties and pontoons to provide additional depth for moorings. Dredging will be localised mainly around the jetty moorings and should only impact approximately 5% of the tidal canals.</p>	

Agenda item *Jetty Replacement Program update* **Presenter** Matt Harris

A number of questions were raised:

- *What is happening with the Whalers Cove jetties?* Matt advised he would be talking to the body corporate committee soon.
- *What is the mooring length? What is the depth?* Matt advised the maximum mooring length is 9 metres, and MW is trying to achieve a 1.2m depth at mean low tide, but the original depth of canals doesn't allow that in all cases.
- *How many stages is the program and how long will it take?* Matt advised there were approximately 20 stages over 3 years.
- *If people are in agreement and ready to have their jetty replaced sooner than is scheduled, is this a possibility?* Matt advised that the replacements had been scheduled according to need. However, this may be a possibility depending on the capacity of the team at the time. People can contact MW and ask for updates.
- *What happens if the residents cannot agree with what type of jetty they require?* Fatima advised that MW would offer to meet with the residents and conduct mediation. Worst case scenario is that if no agreement can be reached a timber jetty will be put in.
- A general comment was also provided by one committee member who had previous experience of subsidising someone on their jetty who couldn't afford the pontoon, which worked out well for everyone.
- *How many jetties have been replaced to date as part of the program?* Matt advised that no jetties had been replaced as part of this program, as changes were made to the design and costs after feedback from Stage 1 property owners. Works are planned to begin in the near future. A number of jetties have been replaced prior to this program.
- *Will there be retrospective rebates for people that got the previous \$5,000 flat rebate for jetty replacements prior to the program?* Tim advised that this will not be a possibility as MW has to draw a line in the sand somewhere.

Fatima advised that an update about changes to the program would be distributed to Stage 1 residents, and Stages 2-4 and the community in the coming weeks.

Conclusions The committee was happy with the information provided. MW will provide an update to community in the coming weeks.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
3. Updates to Stage 1, Stages 2-4 and general community to be distributed.	Fatima Mohamed	17 Nov 10

Agenda item *Tidal Gates Replacement Project* **Presenter** Paul Coysh

Discussion Joy welcomed Paul Coysh (Water Resources Alliance) to the meeting. Paul gave an update on the progress of the Tidal Gates Replacement Project.

Paul informed PLAC that the west gate on Whalers Cove is 80% completed and is expected to be opened for use in late November. The east side will then be closed and should be completed by March 2011,

Agenda item *Tidal Gates Replacement Project* **Presenter** Paul Coysh

later than the anticipated December 2010. The delays are due to a number of construction difficulties and weather.

It is hoped that the Runaway Bay and Town centre tidal gates will be completed by October 2011. The old gantry at Whalers Cove will also be removed in late October as it is not required.

Feedback was given by PLAC members that the traffic lights at Whalers Cove were often ignored, sometimes didn't work and boats were also stopped for too long – sometimes up to 10 minutes, which made it difficult to hold boats. Paul advised that there was an issue with the lights where someone stole the power source, but that it has been replaced. The timing on the lights should be 3 minutes each way, but he'll double check that is happening and check if lights can be synchronised so they're green for peak traffic a bit longer in morning and afternoon.

A question was also raised about the possibility of having traffic lights on the McLeod Road Bridge where there is more room for boating traffic to hold during the busier times. Paul advised that this may be difficult, but he will investigate.

A question was raised about whether Marine Safety Victoria and Parks Victoria have to review traffic management plans. Fatima advised that both organisations signed off on their traffic management plans.

A question was raised about the possibility of putting up some bigger signage warning boating traffic on Whalers Cove and McLeod Road Bridge. Paul advised that this was possible and he would look into it.

Conclusions Further investigation and action is required by the Water Resources Alliance to address community concerns over traffic management at Whalers Cove in peak boating season.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
4. Water Resources Alliance to investigate traffic management options and advise of any traffic management changes.	Paul Coysh	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.

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

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 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.

Feedback was received from PLAC members that it would be preferable not to have the MW and PLAC newsletters in one document as that may give the impression that PLAC is not independent. Louise advised MW would give some further thought to this.

A suggestion was made that the PLAC newsletters be distributed to the local library as well. Louise advised that this would be possible.

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

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
5. Email PLAC the staging site when ready to gather further feedback.	Louise Alexander	8 Dec 10
6. Email PLAC proposed newsletter topics for feedback and advise newsletter format.	Louise Alexander	17 Nov 10
7. 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 detailing the works undertaken for the period since our last meeting. It also included the status of the jetty replacement program and jetties that have recently been installed.

A question was asked about whether MW was using a different type of sand on beaches, as kids were using it as ‘sinking sand’? Alan advised that the sand is the same, maybe a bit more yellow than usual. The change in texture of the sand may have been due to additional rain.

A question was raised about whether residents could rake up beach debris for MW to collect? Alan advised that if residents put the raked

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

material on top of the retaining wall and phoned him it could be picked up within a week.

A question was raised about the maintenance of the McLeod Bridge walls and pillars, which have crustacean growth on them that could damage boats? Alan advised that he would look into this.

Conclusions N/A

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
8. Review maintenance schedule for McLeod Road bridge walls and pillars.	Alan Clements	8 Dec 10

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

- Discussion**
- 7.1 - A question was raised about the possibility of putting up signage on the public jetty space at the rear of the shopping centre in the town centre with a 3 hour limit? Some people moor their boats there all day. Alan advised that MW has signs with 45 minute limits which could be installed, although this may be too short a time.
 - 7.2 – A question was asked about the possibility of having more dialogue between PLAC and the Council's village committee? Tim advised that this was a possibility and MW would look into it.
 - 7.3 – Feedback was given that some community members found the PLAC application form a bit daunting, such as the educational qualifications and the possibility of group interviews. It would be good to encourage diversity on the committee. Louise advised that MW would take this feedback on board when preparing the next round of application forms.
 - 7.4 – A question was raised to follow up a previous query about the possibility of charging a fee for the mooring lease when a property is sold to help relieve the pressure on precept rates? Tim advised that under the Water Act, MW can only recover the administrative cost to transfer the lease, which is minimal, and nothing more.
 - 7.5 - A question was raised about whether MW is going to continue with previous subcommittees such as the jetty, communications and 20 year plan subcommittees? Tim advised that following the revised PLAC Terms of Reference we would like to see how new committee goes first, before considering the continuation of subcommittees, but it is a possibility.
 - 7.6 – Tim advised that as a general rule property owners would not be able to add plastic floating pontoons, which increases the length of their boats. The restrictions on boats are 9 metres in length to ensure navigational ability within the canals can be maintained.
 - 7.7 – A question was raised about whether the correspondence section in previous PLAC agendas could be reinstated for any correspondence to PLAC? Tim advised that this was possible.
 - 7.8 - A question was raised about when the concrete block in Patterson River adjacent to the western tidal gates in Whalers Cove would be removed? Tim advised that MW was planning to remove this from 3 November 2010.
 - 7.9 – David advised that a meeting would be held with the new committee to bring everyone up-to-date with an understanding of

