

# Minutes

**Date** 9/02/11

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

<b>Chairperson</b>	Joy Humphreys	<b>Meeting Subject</b>	Quiet Lakes subcommittee mtg
<b>Attendees</b>	Committee members: Nanne Stubbs, Rolf Daniel, Jeff Walsh, John Thomson & Anthony Moffatt (PLQLOR) Melbourne Water (MW): David Norman, Tim Seipolt, Louise Alexander, Simon Marchington Other: Florence Lynch - Essential Services Commission		
<b>Apologies</b>	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** Two items of general business were added the minutes of the previous meeting, including stormwater inflow at Iluka bridge and status of bore water investigation. The minutes were confirmed by the committee. Actions arising from the previous meeting are outlined below.

Previous Action items	Person responsible	Status
1. Provide break down of 09/10 expenditure	Tim Seipolt	Break down of proposed 11/12 expenditure provided (see attached), which is similar to what 09/10 would have been. Aim to provide 09/10 expenditure by Feb/March
2. Written response to water quality questions & answers	Tim Seipolt	Work in progress – aim for completion by end Feb
3. Organise next Water Quality Management Plan meeting	Tim Seipolt	Complete – set for 9 Mar
4. Provide cost estimate for cleaning gutters on lakes Illawong & Carramar	Alan Clements	Work in progress – aim for completion in Mar
5. Inform PLAC re. outcome of liaison with Kingston City Council	Tim Seipolt	Work in progress – we are trying to set up a meeting – a few staff from Kingston have been away
6. PLAC website to be made more user-friendly	Louise Alexander	Work in progress – aim to send to PLAC

<b>1. Agenda item</b>	Confirmation of minutes & matters arising from previous meeting	<b>Presenter</b>	Louise Alexander & Tim Seipolt
			by mid-Feb
7.	Attend Council Village Committee meeting	Louise Alexander	Complete – we will keep them updated as a key stakeholder
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

**2. Agenda item** Correspondence **Presenter** Joy Humphreys

**Discussion** Incoming correspondence from PLQLOR (see attached).

All committee members were reminded to work within the committee's terms of reference and guidelines.

Anthony Moffatt spoke to the email outlining the group's concerns with the results of a potentially toxic species of blue-green algae in the lakes and Melbourne Water's management actions. The group would like to see actions to improve water quality fast-tracked.

MW advised that as previously communicated, the species of algae was well below the DSE recommended level for primary contact. Currently MW is leaving the valves between the lakes open to encourage flushing. It is monitoring the situation, but there are limited options available. If the algae reached the maximum level residents would be advised by signage and a letterbox drop, however, at the moment the algae appear to be in decline. Opinion was divided among the committee over whether the presence of the algae was a major cause for concern.

MW is waiting on the draft Water Quality Management Plan to undertake further water quality discussions with PLAC (set for 9 March), and to consult with the community before final decisions are made as to what actions should be implemented. Carp culling is still planned for March pending on the outcomes of the report and subsequent discussions. The replacement parts for the Solar Bee arrived from the USA last week and MW is waiting for them to be installed.

MW said it is unfortunate that the final Water Quality Management Plan would not be confirmed prior to the 2011/12 rates being finalised, but that estimated funds had been allowed for in the proposed 2011/12 budget to ensure actions could be undertaken.

Communication regarding the proposed 2011/12 rates and an update on water quality is proposed to be distributed to the community in the coming weeks.

<b>Action items</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
12. Provide responses to PLQLOR pricing questions following the meeting	Simon Marchington	Feb

**3. 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 Quiet Lakes ratepayers at 11% plus CPI, and absorb any expenses over and above this.

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 queried the level of detail in the general maintenance and capital budgets, the costs to manage maintenance crews, how MW ensured it was efficient and delivered value for money, how MW costs its activities, and whether MW was delivering all of its maintenance activities.

MW reiterated that it is proposing the additional capital costs are borne by MW, MW's purchasing power means it gets good rates on contractors and services, it is making big efforts to improve transparency and information to the community, and it will continue to work harder to ensure it operates efficiently and effectively.

Some concern was raised about supporting rate increases prior to seeing water quality activities implemented, although the committee acknowledged that they would like to see activities implemented and that current rates were insufficient to cover existing maintenance of the lakes. MW said it understood the frustration of residents in the delay of drafting and implementing the Water Quality Management Plan, and that it was working hard to ensure it goes through due process before spending precept rates. MW advised that it could not implement water quality activities without the funds to do so.

***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 Melbourne Water should build trust with the community by delivering the water quality program first and then seek the price increases to pay for it retrospectively.

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**4. 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 a picture at the top. MW advised that it was able to keep costs of design, printing and mail out within the budget. It was also suggested that the PLAC logo be reconsidered.

A suggestion was made that the next newsletter contain an article reminding residents that what goes in their stormwater drains ends up in the lakes. A question was raised about whether council could erect signage in the streets regarding the same topic.

**Action items** **Person responsible** **Deadline**

13. Include rubbish in stormwater reminder in PLAC newsletter & pass signage query on to	Louise Alexander	Mar/Apr
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**4. Agenda item** PLAC newsletter  
Kingston City Council

**Presenter** Louise Alexander

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**5. Agenda item** Maintenance works report

**Presenter** Tim Seipolt

**Discussion** The maintenance works report was handed out to the committee (see attached).

MW advised that Lake Legana sustained severe rutting in parts of its beaches during the recent storm on 4-5 February and that it would take additional time to plane this area.

A concern was raised about the order of beach weed spraying and land planing. MW advised that if possible it is better to kill the plants first then plane the beach as it gets a smoother outcome. However, there are only certain conditions that are good for spraying so the team has to jump at the chance to spray when the weather conditions are right. Roundup Bioactive is only active at the time it hits the plant. It can rain six hours afterwards and the plant will have already absorbed the spray.

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**6. Agenda item** General business

**Presenter** Joy Humphreys

**Discussion** Matters raised and discussed during general business include:

- *Dead fish:* A concern was raised about dead fish found trapped behind a grate and its potential impact to water quality. MW advised it was not easy to remove the fish due to the design and could be expensive, but the maintenance team would look at it.
- *Stormwater pit near Iluka:* A concern was raised about the pit remaining full of water for a day following the rainfall on 4-5 February. MW advised this was normal as water coming down the pipe means the water in the pit may not drain out straight away. The pump station was operating effectively.
- *Local flooding:* A concern was raised about localised flooding during the 4-5 February storm event due to blocked council drains. MW advised it would pass the concern on to Kingston City Council.
- *Iluka Island hand rail:* A concern has been passed on from an elderly local resident who slipped on the gravel maintenance track walking her dog. A question was raised about the possibility of erecting a hand rail. MW advised it would look at the area.
- *Acknowledgement:* The Chairperson acknowledged the extra work and time MW staff had been putting in to Patterson Lakes and the evening meetings not seeing their families.

<b>Action items</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
14. MW to look at fish behind grate and track around Iluka Island, and pass on drain issue to Kingston City Council.	Alan Clements	February/March

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Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.