

DRAFT MINUTES

WBSA BOARD MEETING 5:30 PM 6 OCTOBER 2009 – BOYUP BROOK

- 1. Present:** Wade DeCampo, Louise Kingston, Brian Moore, Tony Goode, Jeremy Hubble, Tim Clynch, Shirley Broadhurst, Roger Downing, Barbara Dunnet.
- 2. Apologies:** Don Punch, Paul Omodei, Brian O'Hare, Shane Collie, Alan Lamb
- 3. Minutes of Previous Meeting:**
Motion: That the minutes of the meeting on 4th of August 2009 (held in Nannup) are accepted as a correct record.

Moved – Barbara Dunnet Seconded – Roger Downing Carried

Report on Business Arising:

Matter: That the CEO arranges a workshop to review the Strategic Plan. This has been arranged and will take place in November. We will look at particulars relating to the scheduling later in the meeting at Item 5. We have managed to obtain the services of Jo Burgess from WALGA to act as our external Facilitator.

Matter: The CEO was requested to ask the Director General of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (Eric Lumsden) to attend an Alliance meeting to discuss this and other important planning matters. The CEO made contact with Mr. Lumsden's office but was unable to find an acceptable date corresponding to our meetings date for this year. The Board then asked that the CEO arrange a meeting with Eric, outside of scheduled WBSA meeting dates, possibly in the New Year.

Matter: It was agreed that the CEO should contact the Water Corporation and express our concerns about their savings in terms of disproportionate regional impacts through easy targeting of in-fill sewerage and the Pemberton to Northcliffe pipeline being delayed. The CEO has touched base with the Water Corporation and intends to arrange for a face to face meeting.

4. Correspondence (as circulated):

Motion: That the Correspondence in was noted and the Correspondence out was approved.

Moved – Louise Kingston Seconded – Shirley Broadhurst Carried

5. Consideration of scheduling of Review of WBSA Strategic Plan:

Rather than schedule the review for a weekend, it was agreed that the review could be conducted during the week on either a Tuesday or a Wednesday sometime in November (but not on the Melbourne Cup day). A start of 3:00pm

should provide ample time and still make provision for a Dinner at around 6:00 pm. The CEO was asked to make arrangements including booking a venue – possibly Lucieville Farm Chalets in Bridgetown.

6. Discussion/Status of Other Key Regional Identified/Possible Issues inc:

- **Royalties for Regions**

The CEO briefed the Board concerning his meeting held in Perth and sponsored by WALGA where this topic was discussed at length covering two main aspects; project administration costs and the nature of projects being put forward. The issue of funding Royalties for Regions costs is also covered in Item 8. The current Ministerial view seems to be that shire councils should absorb any costs, although the Minister has also stated that he is just focussed on outcomes – that is, funding infrastructure projects. Jeremy Hubble noted that the Pilbara regional body was proposing to build housing that would be subsequently on sold with funds accruing back to the regional body from that approach.

- **Recreation Trails Project**

A Project Officer has been appointed – Carola McKay and she has commenced working on the project, a community group meeting will be held in November and the data collected from the Blackwood has been put into electronic format. A pilot in Boyup Brook flew over the Blackwood as well and we may be able to include footage on our Internet site. The Community Project Group needs to sort out the project priorities after commencing the Blackwood River canoeing component.

- **Timber Industry – Native and Plantation Update**

The South West Development Commission is working in conjunction with the Shire of Manjimup on developing other options for the native timber industry. In regard to plantation timber and recent MIS issues, Louise Kingston advised that of the fifty thousand dollars available through the WB Small Business Centre, about twenty eight thousand has been spent to date on proving legal and accounting support services. The Centre will be running another advertising campaign and Board members were reminded to refer any effected parties to the Centre. Additionally, another round of letters had recently been issued on behalf of leaseholders seeking a “rent holiday.”

Wade expressed concern given the messy state of the plantation industry. We are yet to experience the full extent of the fallout with a number of issues likely to emerge such as plantations not being renewed and leaseholders struggling to work out their future.

- **Local Government Reform Project**

The Chairman thanked Tony Goode and all of the CEO’s for their efforts on this matter over the past couple of months, with the Shire CEO’s in particular having to set aside other duties to support the LG reform process. In response to a question concerning the final project costs, the CEO advised that he was waiting

on ancillary cost information from the shires and would incorporate this into a separate finance report that would issue in due course. The CEO expected the consultancy project to have run under budget, given the decision to reduce the scope of works (due to time constraints).

7. Executive Officers Work Report:

The CEO reported that the previous period was a very busy one with the main focus on activities relating to Local Government Reform, the Recreation Trails Project, being involved in the launch of Department of Agriculture Plans and recruitment of a Project Officer.

8. Finance Report:

The CEO noted that general on-going costs were being incurred at a rate in line with the Budget. However, he expressed serious concerns regarding the negative impact on the Budget in the event that Alliance costs pertaining to Royalties for Regions were not able to be met from the Country Local Government Fund. This matter was discussed at length at a meeting sponsored by WALGA and attended by other regional bodies and a representative of the Department of Regional Development.

The R for R spending guidelines were still under review and at this stage, provision for non-direct infrastructure project costs might not be covered. Other back up options such as using the capacity building component and ensuring that the R for R funding was paid up front and directly to the regional bodies were raised and generally supported by the Departmental representative. However, given these concerns, the CEO has implemented a general freeze on most discretionary expenditure items.

9. General Business:

Shirley Broadhurst suggested that an induction package be developed to aid new Board members. The CEO advised that he had already developed such a package, which included the Strategic Plan and other documents, and had presented the package directly to our newest member – Paul Omodei. The CEO now had a policy in place to provide the package whenever there were changes resulting in new Board members.

10. Next Meeting – Tuesday 1st December 2009 at Bridgetown at 5:00pm