

## MINUTES

### WBSA BOARD MEETING 5:10 PM 2 JUNE 2009 – MANJIMUP

1. **Present:** Wade DeCampo (Chairman), Shane Collie, Alan Lamb, Tony Goode, Barbara Dunnet, Jeremy Hubble, Louise Kingston, Tim Clynch, Shirley Broadhurst, Brian O'Hare, Roger Downing, Deanna Guimelli (SWDC), Graeme Baesjou (SWDC), Robert Taylor (Guest - Councillor Nannup), Tony Pratico (Deputy Delegate - Councillor Bridgetown-Greenbushes)

2. **Apologies:** Margaret Bird, Brian Moore, Don Punch

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

Motion: That the minutes of the meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> of April 2009 (held in Bridgetown) are accepted as a correct record.

Moved – Barbara Dunnet

Seconded – Louise Kingston

Carried

**Report on Business Arising:**

Matter: A motion was moved - That the EO prepares a letter to the Premier reiterating our concerns and asking the fundamental question regarding whether the state government genuinely supported a native timber industry. This was completed and has been responded to by the Premier and by the Minister. Further discussion will cover this matter at Agenda Item 9.

Matter: There was a brief discussion centred on consideration of guidelines in relation to the provision of letters of support by the Executive Officer and to that end it was resolved for the EO to frame suitable guidelines. Guidelines were drafted and sent out to members. Barbara Dunnet requested a change to paragraph 3.

Matter: In relation to the Alliance Budget, there was some discussion as to the best funding approach with a suggestion that we should perhaps seek funding on an equal contributions rather than a ratio contribution. The EO was asked to write a paper and review our position for the next meeting. A Discussion Paper was sent out to all members and will be considered as part of Budget deliberations at Agenda Item 8.

Matter: The EO raised the matter of the WBSA becoming an Associate Member of WALGA and this course of action was agreed to by the Board. An application to become a member has been completed and accepted by WALGA.

Matter: A further suggestion from the floor subsequently resulted in the EO being asked to request back up funding from each of the contributing shires on an equal share basis of the projected debt. This option was identified to cover the possibility of the South West Development Commission being unable to provide the shortfall funding. This was done but made redundant by support from SWDC.

Matter: Jeremy Hubble asked that a late letter briefly tabled at our meeting be considered at our next meeting in relation to resource sharing opportunities. This subject forms part of our discussion of Item 6 concerning the role of the Alliance moving forward.

**4. Correspondence (as circulated):**

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

Moved – Shirley Broadhurst                      Seconded – Louise Kingston                      Carried

**5. Board Composition – Appointments//Resignations:**

Motion: That the WBSA Board accepts the resignation of Deanna Guemelli from the position of SWDC Board Delegate and accept the nomination of Don Punch as the SWDC Board Delegate.

Moved – Barbara Dunnet                      Seconded – Shirley Broadhurst                      Carried

Motion: That the WBSA Board accept the nomination of Tony Pratico as Deputy Municipal Delegate from the shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes.

Moved – Louise Kingston                      Seconded – Wade DeCampo                      Carried

**6. Group discussion on the future role of the Alliance:**

- Moving from a purely lobbying to an active role
- Adopting a Resource Sharing model

A comprehensive discussion involving all attendees took place. After the Chairman opened debate on this matter with a summary of our current situation he handed over to Jeremy Hubble for opening remarks. Jeremy noted that the Strategic Plan focussed strongly on lobbying and yet the EO had been asked to do a lot more - covering matters such as funding applications and managing projects. We are clearly evolving beyond the purely lobbying role and it was appropriate to see if the Board as a whole accepted that role. Another aspect of the actual role now being undertaken was illustrated by the Alliance involvement in the reform of Local Government processes such as preparation of a consultancy brief. Jeremy concluded by stating that if we accepted these changes then we needed to revise our Strategic Plan.

Tim Clynych made the point that if we are not prepared to change and fund a revised approach then we should be prepared to make hard decisions about what matters should be dropped off the table. He also noted the advantages that could be realised in regard to the Alliance administering resource sharing services such as NRM (Natural Resource Management) as compared to the current situation whereby one shire was expected to oversee a function on behalf of the region. Tim felt that it was important for the Alliance to get runs on the board to engender broader community support.

Tony Pratico placed emphasis on the potential for the Alliance to bring forward appropriate matters relating to economic development and noted that there are probably many funding opportunities that could be taken up. Barbara Dunnet said that, whilst it seemed that there was a lot happening, she expected the pieces would fall into place. For example, the August 31 deadline in regard to reporting to the government on local government reform would require councils to express opinions which would incorporate the role of the Alliance. Louise Kingston wanted to re-align the Strategic Plan in a way that leads to the creation of a living document. She cited the Value Added Food Precinct Project as a positive example of how the Alliance was repositioning itself. Shane Collie made the point that we should recognize the evolution of the changing views of both State and Federal Governments and their impact on regional bodies.

Brian O'Hare was mindful of creating an additional tier of government. Shirley Broadhurst said that the review of the Strategic Plan back in 2007 did have the effect of forcing us to evaluate our role and she therefore supported a fresh review. Shirley also mentioned that we should capitalise on our new status as a VROC. Roger Downing wanted to ensure that a review of our Strategic Plan flowed through to the appropriate revision of our Constitution and the EO's Job Description. He also wanted all of us to be cognisant of our roles in achieving better promotion of the Alliance and reiterated his view that, in relation to funding decisions, the Alliance was best placed in comparison to other bodies. Deanna confirmed her observation that we were moving towards incorporating service delivery in a hands-on fashion.

Completing the circle of discussion, Jeremy Hubble pointed out that members were now in a position to sell the Alliance on the basis of providing an obvious fiscal benefit. For example, Royalties for Regions is bringing in about \$5 million over the next couple of years and there were also other funding advantages that provide the region with a clearly defined dividend. This means that we no longer have to be sold exclusively on the grounds of somewhat rather nebulous gains derived just from our lobbying activities.

In summary, the Chairman thanked everyone for their participation in this important discussion and concluded that the Board now supported a changing role for the Alliance as a regional body that was moving from a purely advocacy role to one that encompassed a range of actions including that of service provision through the adoption of resource sharing.

Motion: That the EO arranges a workshop to review the Strategic Plan.

Moved – Barbara Dunnet

Seconded – Shirley Broadhurst

Carried

## **7. Report of Review of Hours of Executive Officer:**

This matter was presented by the Chairman and discussed around the table, linking in with previous comments made in respect of Item 6 regarding the future role of the Alliance. In summary, the following points were agreed -:

- Employment Contract extended for 2 years
- The hours of employment increased to 30 hours per week
- The hourly rate be increased via CPI adjustment after 12 months
- The Position Title be changed to Chief Executive Officer

Motion: That the Board accept the Report “Review of Executive Officer Position” and the recommendations from the Report be adopted, with the inclusion of a change of Job Title to Chief Executive Officer.

Moved – Shane Collie

Seconded – Brian O’Hare

Carried

## **8. Determination of the Alliance Budget for 2009/2010:**

The general views expressed were consistent with earlier discussions concerning the future role of the Alliance in terms of recognising the need for funding at an appropriate level commensurate with our enhanced role. Attention then shifted to consideration of the Discussion Paper on the Alliance approach to contributions funding. Whilst differing views were expressed, a general consensus was eventually reached endorsing the recommendation of the Paper that the Alliance Board adopt a ratios option in regard to a general funding approach (as distinct from an equal shares basis) for the Annual Budget.

One of the main factors influencing the revenue side of the Budget was the Royalties for Regions component set aside to cover project management and administration. The Board discussed this aspect and recognised the need to conduct a mid-term review in the event that provision for these funds does not eventuate. Further discussions with the Department for Regional Development on this matter are ongoing.

In regard to the detail of the Budget, Graeme Baeusjou (SWDC) advised that their Board took the position of regarding their pre payment as payment in full for 2009/2010. The Budget tabled showed a SWDC contribution of \$19,552 whereas if their contribution is pegged at their prepayment level (\$15,000) it would result in a contributions shortfall of \$4,552. The CEO advised that this approach was not consistent with earlier discussions with the SWDC and therefore the matter would be taken back to the SWDC. Regardless, the net effect would not be substantial and accordingly the Budget was presented as tabled.

Motion: That the Alliance formally adopts the Budget as tabled.

Moved – Barbara Dunnet

Seconded – Tony Pratico

Carried

## **9. Discussion/Status of Other Key Regional Identified/Possible Issues inc:**

### **o Royalties for Regions**

The CEO’s Progress Report/Briefing Paper was tabled with the Board adopting Recommendation 2 in respect of developing a few major and clearly significantly regional projects for the outgoing years. However, Recommendation 1 relating to projects submitted for the 2009/2010 year was not accepted and resulted in the following position.

The Board reviewed the projects as tabled and endorsed these projects; The Recreation Centre Upgrade (Nannup), Regional Recycling Project (Manjimup), Manjimup Airfield

Reseal (Manjimup), Pemberton Main St Redevelopment (Manjimup), New Library (Bridgetown-Greenbushes), Reconstruction of Road – Blackwood River Park (Bridgetown-Greenbushes) and Library Improvements (Boyup Brook). The CEO will prepare a modified table showing indicative funding based on the agreed allocation approach for dissemination amongst the Working Party before submitting for formal approval at the next Board meeting.

- **Recreation Trails Project (inc TQUAL Grant)**

The CEO reported that there had been a community sub-committee meeting since the last Board meeting and the project was in a holding pattern awaiting funding submission outcomes. He advised that the shire of Boyup Brook had rejected the request for seed funding for a project officer. It was also explained that we now had an opportunity to apply for funding through the Federal TQUAL grant scheme.

After some debate the Board articulated a general policy in respect to the adoption of projects that support from all municipal members was required for the Alliance to agree to undertake projects (one in all in, one out all out). Therefore, in respect of this particular project, the Alliance would in effect deactivate the project unless a positive funding outcome from at least one of the two funding submissions lodged was achieved. It also followed that an application for TQUAL funding would not be pursued.

- **Potential election of Honorary Member – Paul Omodei**

It was agreed to elect Mr Omodei as an Honorary Member and accordingly, the CEO was asked to write a letter extending an invitation to join the Alliance Board.

- **Timber Industry – Native and Plantation**

The CEO reiterated his advice concerning the engagement of the Minister in some sort of process bringing all parties together to formulate a plan to improve the viability of native timber businesses. Louise provided an update on the use of jarrah timber in China and a recently held meeting which was attended by representatives from Industry, FPC, Austrade and the South West Development Commission. It was a very productive meeting and outcomes were to develop some Marketing Material in the short term with the objective to invite a trade delegation to visit the South West region before the end of the year.

Additionally, Louise provided an update on the plantation industry following the recent demise of several MIS companies. Tony Pratico advised of a meeting to be held this week in Manjimup organised by the WA Farmers Federation.

- **Other Issues – No further issues were raised.**

**10. Executive Officers Work Report:**

Tony noted the work undertaken into researching grants and his involvement in the review of his position. Barbara commented on his work assisting the Chair's application for a position on the Board of the SWDC and asked for broader consideration of future assistance where other Board members were seeking appointments to additional Boards.

**11. Finance Report:**

The CEO acknowledged the support of the SWDC in prepaying a portion of their 2009/2010 membership fees to assist the Alliance with a projected current year deficit. This injection of funds means that the Alliance is now expected to reach the conclusion of the financial year essentially "square."

**12. General Business:** None.

**13.** There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.40 pm.

Next Meeting – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2009 at Nannup at 5:00pm