

Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance

Ordinary Meeting

MINUTES

Tuesday 21 June 2016, 6.00 - 8.00pm

Committee Room, Lake Macquarie City Council Administration Building, Speers Point



Present:	Robyn Charlton, Steve Dewar, Norbert Lica, Jean McGarry, Colin Mondy Rachelle McConville (LMCC)
Apologies:	Indra Deamer, Avril Lockton, Dot Seiffert

1 Welcome & acknowledgement of Country

Colin volunteered to Chair the meeting in Dot's absence.

Colin recommended an interesting book about the complexity of Indigenous land management practices – The Biggest Estate on Earth.

Colin expressed the following acknowledgement.

We would like to acknowledge the Awabakal people who are the traditional custodians of this land. We would also like to pay respect to Elders both past and present of the Awabakal nation and extend that respect to other Aboriginal people present.

2 Apologies

As above.

3 Conflict of interest

None stated.

4 Previous meeting

4.1 Ordinary meeting minutes, 17 May 2016 as tabled

MOTION: *That the previous meeting minutes dated 17 May 2016, be confirmed as an accurate record.*

Moved: Steve. Seconded: Norbert. Carried.

4.2 Business arising from the minutes

No business arising.

5 Correspondence

- Project variation request submitted to Community Building Partnership regarding Toronto Area SNG's Brighton Ave Footpath project. Currently waiting for confirmation letter from Council staff (required to submit project variation form).
- Suggestion for Sustainable Neighbourhoods article submitted to ACF's magazine 'Habitat' – submitted by Colin Mondy.
- Invoice and meeting request to Umwelt staff regarding sponsorship agreement
- Submission of grant acceptance forms for the Greater Charlestown SNG's Pit Pony Park – Native Tree Planting Project to Council (Environmental Sustainability Grants)
- Sustainable Neighbourhood News, 2 June and 16 June

- Submission to Blue Star Awards. The Alliance is a successful finalist in the Blue Star Sustainability Awards – notification and prompt to complete finalist questions – due 8 July.
- Stallholder application submitted for Council's Living Smart Festival
- Enquiry to Huw Thomas seeking permission to promote him as a supporter on the Alliance website.
- Alliance's Child Protection Policy was circulated to Sustainable Neighbourhood Key Contacts
- Request from Dudley SNG (Community Garden Group) to extend their equipment grant to the end of July 2016 – submitted to Council, and approved.
- Letter of agreement regarding sponsorship arrangements – sent to Umwelt
- Correspondence with Grant Assessor for the Stronger Communities Programme, regarding Greater Charlestown SNG's Pit Pony Park grant application.
- Request from Dudley SNG to extend their Nature Play grant to the end of January 2017 – submitted to Council, and approved.

Move that the correspondence be accepted.

Moved: Steve. Seconded: Robyn. Carried.

6 Treasurers report

6.1 Treasurer's report for May 2016

See report attached, below.

Moved: Jean Seconded: Steve. Carried.

7 For discussion & decision

7.1 Dog management brochures

The draft grant application has been circulated and approved in principle.

After including a request in the newsletter, the following groups have indicated their interest in distributing brochures:

- Redhead 1500
- Blackalls Park, Fassifern, Fennell Bay 1800
- Dudley 600
- Toronto Area 1500
- Other promotional events 200
= 5600 so far...

Colin has sought an updated quote from the printers for 6200 brochures - \$946.

We can update grant application accordingly closer to the date.

Suggestion to include promotional signage (poster) to use at information stalls (eg LSF stall) – all agreed.

ACTION: Robyn has some ideas about the content, and will circulate to Alliance Board members.

Also tabled Warringah Council's brochure.

ACTION: Rachele to suggest to Council staff about purchasing dog 'poo bag' giveaways and find out supplier for possible inclusion in grant.

Awaiting feedback from Council about improved signage and behaviour change campaign for dog management in general.

Note that we should consider practical alternatives to using plastic bags to pick up dog poo. Colin mentioned 'brown paper bag' pick up and bin system Edinburgh Council. Also options for creating energy from dog poo. **ACTION:** Steve offered to do more research about these.

8 Requests from member groups

8.1 Wangi Knitting Club – project of Wangi Area SNG

Management Plan and Risk Assessment circulated via email.

Approved.

8.2 Cardiff Area SNG – Car Boot Sale

Risk assessment coming soon...

Event is scheduled for 14 August.

8.3 LT Creek SNG – Awaba State Conservation Area – update and request

Project update:

Illegal dumping and enforcement

- Representatives from Toronto SNG, Coal Point Progress Association and Toronto Lionesses have visited the area and written a letter to Centennial Coal about the illegal dumping.
- Council have now installed gates on the Freemans Drive side (Hawkemount Road)
- Mulbring St Awaba Entry is still under discussion.
- RID (Illegal Dumping Squad) surveillance signs (x3) have been put up near the Mulbring street Entrance of Hawkemount Road.

Project support and partners

- Crown Lands have sent up-to-date maps of what was audited from their visit to the area. LMCC sustainability Department have produced some wonderful maps of the area for the project.
- Toronto Area SNG have put their support behind the project, as has Toronto Tidy Towns. Feathers and Fur Small Animal Rescue—Bird Sanctuary is supporting the Project. Coal Point Progress Association has mentioned it in their latest Chronicles.
- There is an [online petition](#), which can be printed out. Looking to get 1000 signatures before sending it to the appropriate State Departments.

Education and promotion

- Glinda and Glenn have got [little stories](#) written about them. [Felix](#) the Grey-Headed Flying Fox has been introduced to social media. The artist that has drawn Felix is Roby Bronte.
- The Bumper Sticker campaign is going well. Bumper Stickers are \$5.00 each.
- The Booklet is finished.

Proposal / request from LT Creek Sustainable Neighbourhood Group

That the Alliance formally endorses the push for Awaba State Conservation Area and the stamping out of illegal dumping in the area. The endorsement would include the mention on the Awaba web page, the Facebook group page and the booklet. It also includes getting updates on the project.

Moved: Steve. Seconded: Jean. Carried.

ACTION: Ensure that Sustainable Neighbourhood Groups are aware of the campaign, and offered the opportunity to support it. Eg Rachele to add a page to the SN website, and include in SN newsletter.

8.4 Dudley SNG – Regular Nature Play activities at monthly markets

Risk assessment circulated via email. Include mention of snake danger.

Approved.

9 Report backs from member groups

9.1 Redhead SNG – Bag Making Workshop, Saturday 18 June

Very successful - 13 participants (limited to 15, and a few didn't turn up). Learned how to make mesh bags (to use for vegies) and shopping bags. Also shared various patterns and tips. Some new contacts as well for future workshops.

Part of bigger campaign in Redhead to assist local businesses to go plastic bag free.

9.2 Caves Beach – Swansea Area SNG – Marine Debris Clean Up, 19 June

Event was postponed because of predicted extreme weather on 5 June, and then again on 19 June. Now rescheduled to 3 July.

9.3 Cardiff Area SNG – Bunnings Sausage Sizzle fundraiser, Sunday 26 June

Seeking some extra volunteers. A request was included in the 16 June newsletter.

9.4 Greater Charlestown SNG – Pit Pony Park – Stage 3 (Sandstone bollards) – Grant application to ClubGRANTS – due end May

Grant was not submitted. Discussion with Council staff concluded that the group does not have approval to progress with this part of the project at this stage. The group are working with Council staff to finalise and approve their agreed action plan for the site. Once this is completed, the group may seek funding for future stages.

9.5 Greater Charlestown SNG - Pit Pony Park – Successful grant –Stage 2 tree planting

Grant from Council's Environmental Sustainability Grants to establish native shade trees as part of the Pit Pony Park project. Planning for community planting day in July 2016 National Tree Day.

9.6 Hunter Water Consultative Forum, 24 May

Report back from Jean – circulated via email and attached below.

Agreement for Jean to represent the Alliance at future Hunter Water Consultative Forum meetings.

9.7 Umwelt Sponsorship

We are very happy to confirm Umwelt's sponsorship of the Alliance. After meeting with them we have developed a simple sponsorship agreement, and discussed a number of ways that we might further develop our partnership with them.

10 General business

10.1 Suncrowd and Climate Action Newcastle

Promotion of Suncrowd's upcoming bulk buy campaign has been distributed to the Sustainable Neighbourhood network. They are aiming to:

- Offer affordable bulk-buy deals on home energy storage
- Provide a variety of solutions for when the feed-in tariff comes to an end
- Makes home energy storage easy and accessible

A bulk buy campaign is indicated as a key action for many Sustainable Neighbourhood groups, and our network is well placed to help spread the word and support this community initiative in Lake Macquarie.

Find out more information about the campaign: <http://newcastle.suncrowd.com.au/>. They are seeking volunteers to assist.

10.2 Coffee cups

Steve will be taking Responsible Cafés materials to cafes in Toronto and Warners Bay. Aiming to highlight an example of a business who takes it up for a future newsletter item.

10.3 Litter / plastic bag petition

Lots of plastic bag petitions were signed at Council's movies in May. Need to identify next steps to promote the petitions at the Living Smart Festival, and seek media attention / submit to state member.

ACTION: Rachele to report back on how many petitions have been completed so far.

ACTION: Rachele to confirm with Plastic Bag Alliance about how we can submit completed petitions to statewide campaign.

10.4 Senior's exercise facilities

Suggestion to advocate for Council to install seniors exercise facilities in public places in Lake Mac.

10.5 Application for Living Smart Festival stall

Save the date for Saturday 24 September.

Have just booked one Alliance stall for now. Both West Wallsend and Wangi SNGs have sought possibilities to display OWNA artworks and Wangi scarecrows, but it appears that none (or very few) are available.

10.6 Bike cages at train stations

Suggestion to advocate for installation of bike cages at train stations.

11 For information only

Summary of website statistics from November 2014 through to May 2016. See chart below.

12 Meeting close.

Next ordinary meeting date: Tuesday 19 July, 6-8pm

Treasurer's Report:



LAKE MACQUARIE SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS ALLIANCE

GENERAL MEETING

TREASURER'S REPORT

1 May, to 31 May, 2016.

Account 06 2806 10352969 with Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Charlestown Branch.

Balance **\$ 4,217.46CR**

RECEIPTS

Interest	0.03c
09 May Direct Credit 407876/49210117/ 2000040809 NSW Dept. Family & Comm. Svcs.	\$ 8,750.00
25 May Direct Credit Local Land Services 148065	500.00
27 May Direct Credit 301500 Umwelt Australia	2,000.00
Total Receipts	\$ 11,250.03c

EXPENDITURE

30 May Chq 000058 Caves Beach/Swansea SNG	\$ 500.00
Total Expenditure	\$ 500.00c

BALANCE **\$ 14,967.49CR**

This is a true statement of accounts for the Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhoods Alliance for the period 1 May to 31 May, 2016.

Signed _____

Name Jean McGarry

Title Hon Treasurer

Date 16 June, 2016.

REPORT ON COMMUNITY CONSULTATION FORUM

HUNTER WATER

As substitute for Alliance member Norbert Lica, I attended the 24 May 2016 meeting of the Forum.

Of particular interest to the Alliance was outcome of a matter that had been raised by Norbert Lica regarding cotton bud sticks and the wastewater-treatment process.

Following Norbert's question to an earlier meeting, Jeremy Bath, interim CEO of Hunter Water, provided the following information to the meeting.

The items in question i.e. cotton bud sticks and lollipop (Chuppa-chupp) sticks should be garbage-tin disposal, however:

if the sticks find their way into Hunter Water sewerage system they would normally be caught this way, but it may be still possible for them to pass through mesh grates and be collected in effluent, but

it is possible that sticks being found around the Lake are most likely coming from stormwater run-off and initial disposal issues.

Other matters arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting included January severe weather effects, and in particular Karuah Wastewater Treatment plant update, and former Tillegra Dam land holdings and weed management.

Two presentations were provided:

- IPART Price determination update and Operating Licence End of Term Review update. This presentation was provided by Peter Shields, Manager Regulatory Policy, and Emma Turner, Regulatory Economist. *The outcome of this presentation was that IPART recommended price increases will not be entirely applied by Hunter Water at this time due to careful management of finances during the previous four year period, specifically, lower Operational Expenditure and Capital Expenditure in this time. However, there will be increases in all water, wastewater and stormwater costs which will mean that residential bills will increase by 1% (one percent). Hunter Water Rates to property owners will typically rise by \$109.00 or 10% (IPART charges \$1,168, Hunter Water increase \$1,061)*
- Williamstown Reticulation Project update was provided by Paul Farrell, Project Manager, and Jennifer Pritchard, Community Engagement Co-ordinator. *Within this project area there are 165 customers whose names are not known to Hunter Water. Action has been taken with Port Stephens Shire Council to have letters sent to these customers requiring response. To date 30% have had contact, and 70% have not responded as yet. Hunter Water will provide supply pipe to homes to within 1 metre of connection point. Residents/owners will then need to have a licenced plumber to make the connection.*

Overall, attendance by an Alliance member at these meetings is of great use to the Alliance and should certainly continue.

Jean McGarry.

Sustainable Neighbourhoods website activity

November 2014 - April 2016

