

Swamps Rivers & Ranges Committee Meeting

Rural Shire of Wangaratta Offices, Wangaratta

Minutes

6th February 2015

Present: Jenny Pena, (Chair) Mary Anderson, Stephen Routledge (Project Manager), Andrew Briggs, Scott Draper, Phil Brown, Gayle South.

Apologies: Tom Croft, Jim Grant, Karen Tymms,

Minutes from the last meeting - briefly discussed minutes from last meeting

BLUEPRINT

Beth advised that aboriginal cultural heritage section is quite weak compared to the European cultural heritage section. Stephen has asked Richard McTernan to beef up the aboriginal cultural heritage section. Discussion about blurb on the back page. Members of the committee thought the quote was confusing and lost people on the first sentence. Another quote from the website is to be included on the back page which summarises the project. Any changes to the blueprint need to be sent through to Stephen for inclusion into the document. Comments to Stephen by Friday the 13th February.

Agricultural section still needs a bit of work and discussion on landcare group pages, next phase is to ground truth the projects which have been identified and select 10 projects. Discussion on mapping and how it doesn't necessarily show up prior works at the scale of mapping in the blueprint.

Discussion around carboor/bob page and Andrew suggested black range creek needs to be included. Stephen to get in contact with edi black range landcare group. Discussion about landcare groups in the project area which are dormant or less active eg edi milawa markwood oxley

MEDIA

Mary raised the point do we need a spiel or a paragraph that describes the project succinctly.

FUNDING

Two sets of funding from NWF. Both grants of 10K. Guidelines will be forwarded from Beth. Stephen will forward these to the committee when they are received. The question was asked whether or not these projects can be linked together. 1 research and monitoring project. 1 to provide education materials.

1. Research and monitoring has been coordinated with birds Australia. Chris Tsaros will be engaged to set up bird monitoring sites across the project area throughout woodlands and grasslands. Discussion around setting up a region wide community bird monitoring project. Keeping an up to date website will be critical to keeping the project live. Also discussion around social media Facebook and Twitter which will also be important.
2. Education projects could possibly be linked in with Whitfield primary school and or Galen. Possibly linked in with the seed project.

These projects need to be completed by December 2015

GROUNDTRUTHING

Will be kicked off when the blueprint is finalised. Discussion around using INFER as a tool to decide on projects. Is infer the most appropriate tool, does it take into account safety and community engagement. Groundtruthing needs to be completed by December 2015. Do we have enough information to be able to rank these projects? Discussion around how this ranking would take place and what level these decisions would be made. After the rankings are done the appetite of the landcare groups needs to be taken into account. Project rankings need to be assessed every few years to see if they are still relevant as groups change and priorities change.

Landcare groups can see how their projects fit in to a landscape scale.

Discussion around emergency services safer areas and how these will be applied on roadsides throughout the project area.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Discussion around the process of recruiting new members to the committee.

Do we need to formally advertise or is it ok to handpick the new members. General feeling was that we need to advertise so that we get the best possible person. We need someone from the farming sector and a possible replacement for members that are unable to attend. Urban Wangaratta needs to be represented also.

Do we need community people as reference points to provide feedback at relevant stages through the project. Current committee stands at 17. Do we need to increase the size of the committee?

BANK

Need resolution to open bank account. Stephen moved to create an account seconded Mary to open an account with waw yackandandah under swamps rivers and ranges. 3 names to operate the account. Stephen Jenny and scott. Need drivers licence and Medicare card which we can copy today at RCOW. Purpose: to manage funds of not of profit swamps rivers and ranges which is a community based project.

Next meeting March 6th Warby Room WGC

Following meeting will be April 10 as original meeting was on Good Friday

Meeting closed 12:50

