

Minutes

Minutes of the Tweed Coast and Waterways Committee Meeting held Wednesday 9 June 2021

Venue: Canvas and Kettle Meeting Room, Murwillumbah

Time: 9am

Present: Mayor Chris Cherry ,Cr Katie Milne; Rhonda James (Chair); David Cranwell; Jane Lofthouse; Marama Hopkins; Tom Alletson; Lindy Smith; Bruce Peate; Robert Quirk; John Harbison; Ian Berger; Carl Cormack; Ben Fitzgibbon; Jonathan Yantsch; Annette Comerford; Larry Woodland; Frances Smith-Wright (Minutes).

Apologies: Tracey Stinson; Eli Szandala; Bill Hoskins; Bill Fenelon; Peter Comerford

Hamish Brace - Retired from Committee

Larry Woodland standing in for Bill Fenelon (Fingal Head)

Acknowledgement of the Bundjalung Nation

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Moved: David Cranwell

Seconded: John Harbison

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Committee meeting held 14 April 2021 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Mayor Chris Cherry informed the committee that all standing committees would be extended for 6 months to allow for the new Council to settle in prior to calling for new members.

Business Arising:

BA1. Tom confirmed sending out email to Hastings Point Marine Discovery Centre thanking them for our tour and congratulating them on the refurbished facility.

BA2. Letter to NSW Dept Primary Industries and Environment regarding saltmarsh rehabilitation at Leda site, Cobaki Broadwater.

Tom informed the committee that the letter had been sent to Jane Flanagan on 6 April but as yet there was no response.

Cr Katie Milne declared a non-significant, non-pecuniary interest in the Cobaki Broadwater issue due to previous legal matters with the chairman of Leda Holdings.

Staff will request an update on the letter.

Agenda Items:

A1.Tweed Estuary Coastal Management Program update

CMP to go to Council at July 15 Meeting for adoption, and if it is, then it will be sent to the Minister for certification.

Tom updated the committee with a detailed overview of the action plan (which had been sent out to committee members prior to the meeting).

Concern was raised by Robert Quirk and Cr Katie Milne regarding the Chinderah stormwater drain and potential impacts due to development on the Gales Land. It was noted that at the last Council floodplain advisory committee meeting, several concerns were raised. It was suggested that we request Danny Rose come to a meeting and discuss the potential impacts of the proposed development and how they may be addressed. The clearing of vegetation along the drain to increase flows is also of concern.

Noted that the NSW Government is undertaking a commercial dredging audit to assess risks and ensure a consistent approach

Action: Jane and Tom to invite relevant staff to come to a TCWC meeting and discuss potential impacts of west Kingscliff development on stormwater drainage at Chinderah and ecological impact from clearing of vegetation along the drain.

Action: Jane to bring report on the Positive Change for Marine Life Butt Free project to next meeting.

Action: Jane to check consent conditions related to monitoring of the river bed from the dredging at Chinderah.

A2. Review of the Tweed Coast and Waterways Committee terms of reference

A copy of the TCWC terms of reference had been sent out prior to the meeting. The committee read through the terms of reference and proposed a few changes.

- Insert into "Purpose" - Stakeholder representatives will bring issues of concern to committee.
- Can resolve actions that do not require Council resolutions.
- Membership
 - 2 Councillors and 1 alternative
 - Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council – to encourage closer links. Tom to look into this
 - OzFish – encourage this organisation to put forward a nomination for next committee.

Action: Tom to update wording in Terms of reference prior to review by in-coming Council – as above.

Tom gave a review of key actions on the Work Plan for the current committee term. Brief status review as per table below.

Key Actions	Status at June 2021
Tweed River Estuary Coastal Management Program (CMP)	Complete, ready to be adopted by Council and sent for certification.

Key Actions	Status at June 2021
Implementation of Priority Actions in the Tweed River Estuary Coastal Management Program	Underway and ongoing
Preparation of Upper Tweed River Catchment Management Strategy	Not formally initiated but interdepartmental discussions underway, will roll into next committee term.
Implementation of Priority Actions in the Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) for Tweed Coast Estuaries	Ongoing but limited.
Implementation of Priority Actions in the CZMP for Cobaki and Terranora Broadwaters	Ongoing, focusing on rural catchment rehabilitation in partnership with private landowners.
Completion of Environmental Impact Study; seek approval and licence for Sand Extraction Area 5 Tweed River	Draft prepared, but not completed or submitted as an application. Sand no longer preferred option for Kingscliff foreshore management.
Complete Kingscliff CZMP	Complete
Implement Priority Actions in the Kingscliff CZMP	Complete
Develop Tweed Coast Coastal Management Program	Underway

Discussion was held on items to add to the Work Plan for the next term of the committee. Potential options include:

- Develop an upper catchment management plan for the Tweed River. Work in partnership with Councils Water Unit to ensure identification of risks to and protection of water supply.
- Sustainable and regenerative agricultural programs. Encouraging more links between waterway management and agricultural landscape management.
- Report on the Tweed Water Sharing Plan.
- Once the Marine Estate Management Strategy flood plain prioritisation report is released – review what is applicable and links to actions already in the CMP and implement water quality projects.
- Implement Tweed Estuary Coastal Management Plan - prioritise work plan based on Councils available budget and grants. Prioritise SLR and tidal inundation actions.
- Continue development and finalise the Tweed Coastline CMP.
- Hastings Point Headland Management Plan – develop terms of reference and commence project.
- Wetlands - Blue Carbon Sequestration – pursue opportunities for protection and expansion of wetlands, in particular the need for migration of marine vegetation.

Action: *New Terms of Reference - moved forward with this committee. Tom to bring in new Work Program to next meeting*

Action: *Jane to update Tweed Shire Council Code of Meeting Practice (Section 9- Committees, their Members and Functions)*

A3. Marine Estate Management Strategy – Coastal Floodplain Study

Jonathan gave an update on the Coastal Floodplain Study. Audits of 7 major floodplains have been completed, specifically looking at areas of high contribution of acid sulphate and black water, also risk of tidal inundation.

The report is in draft form at present awaiting further internal (Dept Primary Industries) consultation and review before being released. The report will consolidate information from each estuary using the same methodology. Management recommendations for the Tweed floodplain can be expected once the process is finalised.

A4. Mooball Creek access structures overview

Tom gave an update on the access structures at Mooball Creek.

Priorities on renewal work at present.

- Access Points – New log wall - stairs need to be replaced with aluminium.
- Priority 3 sites initially, due to immediate safety risks. All vulnerable to erosion. Due to ad hoc approach to dealing with sites these have deteriorated over time.
- NSW Estuary program funding available, NSW Government 2:1 grants. Tweed Shire Council to contribute Design, approvals and construction personnel.
- Grant application also to be submitted to the Crown Reserves Improvement Fund.

A5. Cobaki Creek and Banora Western Drainage Scheme

Tom presented two major projects completed / underway in the Terranora and Cobaki Broadwaters' catchments.

Piggabeen and Cobaki Creek confluence – major revegetation of riparian zone on private property. Stage 1 in 2010, stage 2 underway in June / July 2021. A very important site that also supports a significant floodplain wetland.

Western Drainage Scheme – 600m² of floating reed beds – planted with wetland species, the root system extensive and promotes nutrient uptake. An effective treatment for the removal of pollution from urban stormwater runoff.

Outstanding Items:

1. Gold Coast Airport Ecological Monitoring

There have been no ecological reports provided by Gold Coast Airport despite numerous requests. After some discussion and due to inaction from the Gold Coast Airport it was decided to request that Council send a letter signed by the General Manager.

Moved: Robert Quirk

Seconded: Carl Cormack

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council sends a letter requesting ecological monitoring reports for the NSW Crown Land wetland affected by airport operations be provided to Council.

2. Cudgen Creek Boat Ramp safety concerns.

Meeting has been postponed to 16 June 2021.

General Business:

GB1. Jane to send out information on the NSW Coastal Conference to be held at Mantra at Salt, Kingscliff.

GB2. Mayor Chris Cherry confirmed that the Sustainability awards were now open. Organisations, businesses and individuals can self-nominate or send someone an eco-love letter to show your appreciation for those that go above and beyond to achieve sustainability.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Tweed Coast and Waterways Committee will be held Wednesday 11 August 9am.

The meeting closed at .12.30pm.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S COMMENTS:

Nil.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

Outstanding Item 1 - Gold Coast Airport Ecological Monitoring

That Council sends a letter requesting ecological monitoring reports for the NSW Crown Land wetland affected by airport operations be provided to Council.