

Your local voice



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PUBLIC MEETING. WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022

MINUTES

See also video of meeting, live streamed and uploaded to WCCC Facebook page

Committee in attendance: Bill Gemmell (Chair), Michelle Weston, Mark Boast, Michelle Bourdet, Liam Foley, Louise Hughes

Committee apologies: Diana Terry, Lesley Pattinson

Apologies: Emma Davidson MLA, Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, Noel Tregoning

Meeting opened: 7:40 pm. 4 signed in attendance plus guest and WCCC committee members. Unique Facebook 147 views of meeting video (on 22 JUNE 2022).

MEETING: 7:40 pm Welcome to members and guests. Chair, Bill Gemmell

7:41 pm PRESENTATION and Q&A:

- Martine Franco. Executive Officer. Southern ACT Catchment Group
- Southern ACT Catchment Group - Urban Water Officer

Presentation points:

- Have a vision of *healthy landscapes through an engaged community*
- The group is s not for profit organisation, formed in 2002
- What they do:
 - Have, member groups such as Landcare
 - Help new groups form and operate, help broker between government
 - Project development, management, and funding
 - Volunteer recruitment, equipment, tools
 - Administration and financial management
 - Communication and promotion, example Facebook
 - Waterwatch
- Healthy Waterways Activities:
 - Establish care groups for new wetlands and ponds
 - Partnership with TCCS Urban Landcare Coordinator
 - Facilitate community on site visits to developing wetlands
 - Deliver field-based workshops
- Membership services includes:
 - Newsletters
 - Access to workshops and equipment, such as a drone
 - Project management

- Some Weston Creek groups:
 - Cooleman Ridge Park Care
 - Cooleman Ridge Park Care Chapman
 - Holder Landcare
 - Fetherston Gardens Friends
 - Holder Wetlands
 - Weston Creek Orchard
- Have a website and they are happy to help new groups
- Martine Franco extended an invitation to contact them if residents wanted to set up a group

Sample questions and comments from the audience:

- What types of Government assistance can you get? A: Government is keen to engage community, example given of the archery group tree planting assistance
- Clarity of catchment areas: Molonglo and Forest Park are covered by Molonglo Catchment Group and Molonglo Conservation Group
- Who covers the areas behind the carpark behind the RSPCA? Worried about run off and rubbish. A: Molonglo.
- Observation of foxes in the area.
- Environmental issues include rabbits and invasive weeds.
- Can the group help small groups for example neighbourhood parks? A: Yes, have supported individuals. However, government only helps larger groups
- What are the first steps for groups? A: Depends on site. Member will meet group on site looking at traffic on and ecology of area, access, to assess the landscape. Can help with a letterbox drop. Planting gains interest but there will be a lot of weeding.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We are honoured to be meeting on the ancestral lands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We acknowledge these First Australians as the traditional custodians of this land, whose cultures are among the oldest living in human history. We pay respect to the Elders of the communities in the Murrumbidgee region and extend our recognition to their descendants – past, present, and future

GENERAL MEETING: Chair, Bill Gemmell

- Minutes of the meeting of 27 April 2022
 Moved: Rosemary Drabsch Seconded: Mark Boast Accepted: Yes.
- Business arising from the minutes of the meeting of 27 April 2022.
 - Misspelling of Stirling to be corrected in April minutes

8:23 pm MURRUMBIDGEE MLAs:

Apologies were received from:

- Emma Davidson MLA who was attending Sue Salthouse posthumous Doctorate award. The work and commitment of Sue Salthouse was acknowledged.
- Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

Giulia Jones advised of her intention to resign

GENERAL BUSINESS

Chair report/newsletter: Copies available at the public meeting and have been emailed out to those on the mailing list. Points include:

- COVID still in community. Take care especially with flu season
- The consultation for the Planning Act review continues. The opportunity to comment closes on 15 June 2022 and your comments are encouraged for the WCCC submission. Concerns of Council include governance, implications arising from notifiable instrument, and poor community consultation.
- Brierly Street upgrade – the plans are not yet available, and the presentation will be deferred until another date. WCCC is drafting a letter for the ACT Budget 2022-23 and will express concerns of the limited budget for this upgrade. Budget consultation closes, 27 May
- Village consultation for old AFP site has closed. Thank you for everyone who participated. Increased traffic and congestion are a concern.
- Urban Forest Bill is out for consultation closes 2 June
- Fix My Street concerns continue. Advised that concerns are also passed on to Dr Marisa Paterson MLA and Jeremy Hanson MLA
- DA for comment is open regarding for Raiders deconcessionalisation. Council has concerns of long-term plans and the loss of community meeting spaces. Please pass on concerns to Council for their submission or make individual comment through Your Say, closes 6 June.
- Questions from the floor regarding the Raiders DA included:
 - what will be developed on the site long term
 - extending an invitation to Raiders to present at a public meeting
 - Concerns of losing a valuable community asset

HAVE YOUR SAY FROM THE FLOOR

- Request that Council write a letter of appreciation to Giulia Jones for her work in the community and regularly attending WCCC public meetings. Others in the community have also suggested this. Agreed.

CLOSE OF MEETING: 8:52 pm. Chair thanked everyone for their participation.

Next WCCC Public Meeting: Wednesday 29 June 2022
VENUE: Weston Creek Community Centre