

**WESTERN TREATMENT PLANT  
Community Liaison Committee (CLC)  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
19 May 2009**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Guests</b>
Monika Schott (community member)	James Williams (Melbourne Water)
Alex Christo (community member)	Bill Welsford (Area Leader, STaPS Alliance)
Linda Parkinson (community member)	Andrew Shannon (Parks Victoria)
Murray Brown (Food Science Australia)	
Ray Humphriss (WREC)	<b>Apologies</b>
Rob Morris (Southern Rural Water, for Clinton Rodda)	Simon White (community member)
Marc Cassanet (EPA)	John McElvaney (community member)
Greg Aplin (City of Wyndham)	David Hill (Melbourne Water)
Michael Naughton (Barwon Water)	Clinton Rodda (Southern Rural Water)
Mark Mason (City West Water)	Carney Doyle (community member)
Max Coster (DSE)	
Brad McLean (Melbourne Water)	<b>Facilitator</b>
George Judkins (Melbourne Water)	Michael Keough (Melbourne Water)
Trevor Gulovsen (Melbourne Water)	
	<b>Minutes</b>
	Tom Pawley (Melbourne Water)

### **1. Welcome by the facilitator/apologies**

The meeting started at 5.30pm.

Michael Keough welcomed guests to the meeting: James Williams (Melbourne Water – Cultural Heritage Advisor) and Bill Welsford (Area Leader, STaPS (Sewerage Treatment and Pump Stations Alliance)).

Ray Humphriss provided a brief outline of the Community Liaison Committee's purpose, that the committee should focus on a more community based approach rather than being too Melbourne Water focussed.

Apologies were received as above.

### **2. Current capital works at the Plant**

Bill Welsford (Area Leader, STaPS (Sewerage Treatment and Pump Stations Alliance)) tabled the handout 'WTP Major Works Program Delivered via STaPS Alliance' for the committee.

Bill informed the committee of how the Melbourne Water Alliance partnerships work, and why they are created. The STaPS alliance works on both the Eastern Treatment Plant (ETP) and the Western Treatment Plant (WTP) for a 5 year capital works program. The key WTP projects discussed were:

- New Access Road
- Wet Weather Capacity Upgrade
- 15E Flow Measurement Upgrade
- 55E Cover Replacement

- 55E – 115E Hydraulic Transfer
- 25W Cover Biogas Upgrade.

It was explained that the Wet Weather Capacity Upgrade will allow for a 1 in 5 year storm event containment of flows.

There are no plans at this stage to cover the main southern carrier to stop odour and capture biogas.

The turbidity of the lagoons could possibly increase due to the works, but the consequences will be minimal.

The Werribee Regional Park is one of the drivers for these works being undertaken as odour removal is a key issue in the area.

Bill and Trevor Gulovsen explained the process by which the Alliance is funded – through Melbourne Water's Capital Works program.

The cover replacement of 55E will be done in three stages. A difficult part of this project will be the timing and removal of sludge from the lagoon.

It was asked what the performing efficiency of the Biogas Capture upgrade should be. It was explained that the performing efficiency will get better with time as more area is covered and further generation capacity is installed

### **3. Werribee River Regional Park Masterplan**

Andrew Shannon (Parks Victoria) is a colleague of Will Rayner who is Parks Victoria's representative on the CLC. He is the Team Leader of Community Engagement and Communications, Urban Parks and he attended the February 2009 CLC meeting.

Andrew tabled the Werribee Regional Park planning information and some photographs of the site. He explained that the site covers 230 hectares in total and will be an important multifunctional recreation area for the local community as well as an environmental conservation zone for local flora and fauna. The park's three main objectives will be for:

- Low-key recreation
- Protection of RAMSAR Wetlands
- Environmental education.

Representatives from various State Government bodies, the Werribee Zoo, Wyndham City Council, Riverwalk Estate and other community groups were all involved in the consultation program for the park's development.

The concept plan for the site is currently being created and the master plan is due in mid June. It will go through a 4 week public exhibition period that will begin on the 15<sup>th</sup> June, ending 10<sup>th</sup> July. There will be an open day at the site on the 27<sup>th</sup> June. The open day is to allow for comments on the site and the public to orientate themselves with it.

The top end of the park (towards the Maltby bypass) will be generally used for recreation. The lower end, towards the estuary, will be the conservation zone as it is prime habitat for the critically endangered Orange Bellied Parrot. Kayaking/ Canoeing will be promoted when the park connects with Werribee South and the Federation bike path.

Andrew advised that the park is unable to incorporate more direct access as the entry road is not allowed to cross the main drain (MSC). There has been modelling conducted to see how many people are estimated to use the park. Security for farmers that front the river/ protection of their crops from people using the park has not been looked into heavily.

Andrew also advised that there are no plans in place to tackle the issue of dirt-bikes, but that traffic management measures already put in place should address this issue.

The committee had no further questions or comments.

#### **4. Previous Minutes and Business Arising**

The minutes on the February 2009 CLC meeting were endorsed (Ray Humphriss and Marc Cassanet).

Michael Keough provided Kirsten Lingard's response to an action item regarding measurements of salinity levels in the Werribee River. Salinity levels are not a top priority to be measured as the river is an estuary (and should be salty).

Rob Morris advised even upstream the River is very, very salty as Southern Rural Water measures its levels each week. The river had had a salt content of 2000-3000ppm, it now currently shows salt levels around 4000ppm which is very high.

**ACTION: Provide information to the committee about long-term trends for salinity around the Bungie's Hole area of the Werribee River.**

*The committee agreed to a break of 5 minutes for refreshments.*

#### **5. Regular reports**

##### Melbourne Water Report

The report was tabled and George Judkins presented the highlights.

George drew attention to Section 2 of the report and advised that next year the Plant may exceed targets for concentrations of total dissolved solids in untreated sewerage entering the plant due to the drought conditions and less flow entering the Plant.

A suggestion was made to have lots of smaller desalination plants further up in the catchment areas to treat at the source of the effluent, rather than having one large treatment plant. This is a long-term question that is being addressed in Melbourne Water's 50 year sewerage strategy which is currently being formulated. Michael Naughton also advised that this is a question Barwon Water are addressing for their operations at the moment too.

**ACTION: Check with Owen Phillis (Metropolitan Sewerage Strategy Project Leader at Melbourne Water) whether he can provide information on the strategy and present to the committee at the next meeting.**

*The committee agreed to exclude general business at this meeting due to the time.*

George outlined the new requirements and process for obtaining bird watching permits at the Western Treatment Plant (WTP). Improved signage and navigation will allow for a better user experience. Inductions are now being conducted for bird watching at the WTP if a Special Access Permit is requested to address safety concerns.

*The committee agreed to extend the meeting by 5 minutes.*

#### EPA Report

Marc Cassanet outlined the main points from the EPA's report and tabled EPA's new operating charter. There were no reported complaints relating to odour at the WTP during the reporting period.

The committee had no further questions or comments.

#### Barwon Water Report

The Barwon Water Report was tabled and Michael Naughton reviewed its main points.

Michael advised that the Thermal Drier at the Black Rock facility was running on time and that is due for completion in January 2010. Michael also tabled some photographs of the site that illustrated the progress that has been made.

The committee had no further questions or comments

#### **7. Close**

Michael thanked everybody for their attendance, including guests and new members. It was asked that Melbourne Water provide an update of the tendering for farm processes at the next meeting.

**ACTION: Provide an update on the tendering for farm processes at WTP at the next meeting.**

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.

#### **Actions from this meeting**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
<b>Provide information to the committee about long-term trends for salinity around the Bungie's Hole area of the Werribee River.</b>	<b>RM</b>
<b>Check with Owen Phillis whether he can provide information on the strategy and present to the committee at the next meeting</b>	<b>GJ</b>
<b>Provide an update of the tendering for farm processes at the next meeting.</b>	<b>GJ</b>

**Next meeting: Tuesday 18 August 2009**