

SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP Inc.

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 28 FEBRUARY, 2004 AT SUTHERLAND COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 1.00 PM

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Paul Smith	Manly Council
Ms Penny Barker	North Sydney
Clr. John Procopiadis	Randwick Council
Clr. Scott Docherty	Sutherland Council
Clr. Bob Spencer	Sutherland Council
Mr. Dennis Corbett	Warringah Council
Clr. George Copeland	Waverley Council
Ms Emily Scott	Waverley Council
Mr. Brian McDonald	Willoughby Council
Clr. Lynne Saville	Willoughby Council
Mr. Phil Colman	Honorary Member
Mr. Geoff Withycombe	SCCG
Mr. Richard Phillips	SCCG

1. OPENING

The meeting opened at 1:35pm with Clr Procopiadis in the Chair. Clr. Procopiadis welcomed delegates to the meeting, and thanked Sutherland Council for hosting the meeting. Clr. Harvey had send apologies for not attending the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Clr. Brian Troy	Botany Bay Council
Mayor Jean Hay	Manly Council
Clr. Barbara Aird	Manly Council
Clr. Shirley Jenkins	Mosman Council
Clr. Patricia Harvey	Mosman Council
Clr. Chris Bastic	Randwick Council
Clr. George Hurley	Sutherland Council
Mayor Patrick Reilly	Willoughby Council
Prof. Bruce Thom	Honorary Member
Ms. Helen Papathanasiou	SEO SCCG
Mr. Mark Matthews	SEO SCCG
Mr. John Dahlenburg	WSUD Project Officer

Resolved that the apologies be received and noted

<p>Councils not represented at the meeting Botany Bay, Hornsby, Leichhardt, Mosman, Pittwater, Rockdale, South Sydney, City of Sydney and Woollahra.</p>

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the SCCG held on 13 December at Manly Council

Resolved that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the SCCG held on 13 December at Manly Council be confirmed.

3.2 Minutes of the Technical Committee Meeting of the SCCG held on 11 December at Randwick Council.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Technical Committee Meeting of the SCCG held on 11 December at Randwick Council be confirmed.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

4.1 SCCG welcomes a new Coastal Projects Officer – Richard Phillips

Proceedings in Brief

The RCEO informed delegates that Rebecca Hamilton resigned from the CPO position effective from 5 December 2003. After 8 months in the position, Rebecca is to begin university in 2004 to become a teacher. The position was advertised in early December with 44 applications received.

After a very competitive selection process Richard Phillips (formerly a Environmental Scientist from URS Consulting) has filled this position and started on 19 January under the 3 year performance based contract.

Resolved that the new Coastal Projects Officer be welcomed into the new position as Coastal Projects Officer.

4.2 New Host Council for the SCCG 2004-2007

Proceedings in Brief

The RCEO informed delegates that few responses have been received so far. Responses where requested by 27 February. No positive responses have been received to date.

Resolved that:

- 1) SCCG invite all Member Councils who have not already responded to the request to host SCCG for the period 2004-2007 to do so ASAP.
- 2) This matter be referred to the Executive Committee for determination.

4.3 Proposed Amendments to the Member Council SCCG Contributions Rates

Proceedings in Brief

The RCEO informed delegates that with the demise of City of Sydney and South Sydney Councils, the Group needs to develop a revised SCCG funding structure that is ongoing and sustainable regardless of any further changes to local government.

The current funding situation is that the Group secures \$176,801 in contributions from our member councils. This comes from a base rate of \$8408/council (\$134,528) plus \$20/1000 head of population (\$26,200) equalling a total contribution of \$160,728 (inc. GST \$176,801)

Funding Options for consideration:

The RCEO provided delegates with 3 funding options and requested ideas for additional methods

- 1) Maintaining the existing base rate and population formula (existing \$8408 plus \$20/1000 population.
- 2) Charging our 15 Councils all the same rate: \$11,786.75 (based on 2003/04 costs). This results in an average increase of \$634.45 for each council (highest increase 1,899.75 / biggest decrease \$2,192.25)
- 3) We charge our 15 councils fees bases solely on population: eg Mosman (lowest) \$3914 / Sutherland (highest) \$29,017
This is considered not equitable as each council does and should receive approximately the same service).
- 4) Divide the 15 council into their DoLG groupings and some how charge them standard rates

Options 1 and 2 were considered the most equitable and relevant and it was resolved to refer there to the Executive Committee for consideration

Resolved that the SCCG Executive Committee refine funding options for member council consultation.

5. PRESENTATION

5.1 The Characteristics and Management of Syngnathids (Overheads Attached)

Proceedings in Brief

Mr Bill Talbot, Principal Conservation Manager for NSW Fisheries (Port Stephens Branch) presented to delegates an informative summary of Syngnathids within NSW. The following notes are a summary of his presentation.

Introduction:

There are approximately 50 genera and 200 species of Syngnathids. They are a unique family in appearance and behavior. Reproduction is by males and they are generally found in estuaries within seagrass areas. They have no teeth and a tubular snout and feed on smaller fish and crustaceans.

Conservation and Protection:

- All Syngnathids are to be listed under the CITES legislation in May 2004 and they are currently protected in Commonwealth Waters and Marine Parks.
- Protection of Syngnathids is needed because they have a low reproductive rate and have a limited distribution, poor dispersal potential and a poor scientific understanding.
- In order to protect seahorse habitat, the correct management of seagrass areas is essential.

Caulerpa taxifolia

The issue of Caulerpa was raised and a brief discussion of current and future issues relating to Caulerpa followed. The dot points below provide a brief summary of the discussion.

- NSW Fisheries (NSWF) have a team of approximately 12 are addressing this issue.
- NSWF are currently mapping the extent of Caulerpa in NSW estuaries.
- NSWF consider the plant to be seasonal as it appears on mass in the early months of the year during summer and reduces during the colder months.
- NSWF are currently experimenting with sea salt in an attempt to remediate affected

- sites, particularly Lake Conjola where some 150ha is affected.
- Work in Careel Bay Pittwater, has seen approximately 5 to 6 attempts to remove Caulerpa but to date, every attempt has been unsuccessful.
 - The Federal Government has funded NSW \$300 000 for the Caulerpa campaign.
 - Fisheries primary aim is to stop Caulerpa getting into new estuaries. Currently 8 estuaries are affected. Fisheries target fishing and boating activities through promotion and education.
 - The RCEO noted that there had been some informal conversations with NSW Waterways regarding the potential for a Caulerpa Day (similar to Clean Up Australia Day concept etc). This would involved the community (such as dive groups) mapping and investigating areas of infection. Mr Talbot considered there to be some merit in this proposal particularly focusing on the education and promotion aspects of the program.

Resolved that:

- 1) Bill Talbot be thanked for his presentation.
- 2) The RCEO work with Fisheries and Waterways to further the Caulerpa Day proposal.

6. BUSINESS ARISING

- **Annual Full Group Surveys**

The SCCG Executive Officer noted that not a single full group survey for the 2003 period was returned to the SCCG for review. An alternative process will need to be developed for 2004.

- **Coastal LGA Boundaries**

SCCG has yet to complete this action.

Resolved that the SCCG complete these action as soon as possible

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Sent and Received Correspondence

Resolved that all correspondence "sent" and "received" was received and noted.

8.0 REPORTS

8.1 Beachwatch and Harbourwatch Programs – Mr Colman

Proceedings in Brief

Mr Colman noted that the recent planned BAC meeting had been cancelled. Mr Colman noted that the Beachwatch Partnership Pilot Program final report was to be released shortly reviewing the pilot monitoring programs that occurred with selected councils up and down the NSW coast.

The RCEO noted that the DEC (former EPA) had agreed that it was suitable to Mr Colman remain the SCCG representative on the BAC although no longer a Councillor.

Resolved that the report on the Beachwatch and Harbourwatch Programs be received and noted.

8.2 Report on the Activities of the Sydney Harbour Catchment Management Board and the establishment of the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority.

Proceedings in Brief

In the absence of Patricia Harvey, the RCEO provided a brief overview of current activities. The State has formed 13 Catchment Management Authorities (CMA). The format, focus and membership of the two Sydney CMAs Hawkesbury Nepean and Sydney Metropolitan has yet to be decided. A Local Establishment Team has been formed to scope representation structure and functions of the Sydney Metro CMA. Representatives on the LET include Bob Junor (Chair) Bruce Thom, Philip Sansom, Patricia Harvey, Genia McCaffery, Richard McLaughlin and Lewis Solberg. Stakeholders are now awaiting some government announcement on the focus and representation on this CMA.

Resolved that:

- 1) The brief verbal report be received and noted,
- 2) The Chair provide a further update at the next meeting.

8.3. Review and Redevelopment of the Sydney Coastal Councils Group Business Management Plan 2001-2004

Briefing Notes

The RCEO provide a summary of activities to redevelop the SCCG BMP. A directional Committee has been established to provide the sounding board for the review representatives include: Ross McPherson (Hornsby Council), Clr Barbara Aird (Manly Council), Clr Patricia Harvey (Mosman Council), Warren Burgess (Mosman Council), Clr Shirley Colless (North Sydney Council), Peter Massey (North Sydney Council), Clr Alex McTaggart (Pittwater Council) Mia Dalby-Ball (Pittwater Council), Tony Watson (Randwick Council), Nik Midlam (Sydney Council), Daniel Lovett (Warringah Council).

- The first meeting was held on 24 February,
- This first meeting is to set the scene for the review and to broadly focus on key areas and issues to be addressed,
- The BMP has not been amended since 2001,
- The BMP has not fundamentally changed its focus and key items since 1998,
- The BMP Direction Committee has been convened with key individuals who have a good understanding of the Group and its needs and have appropriate strategic skills considered very useful for the BMP review.
- The content of the BMP now requires a rethink in terms of its format, purpose, audience and particularly focus and also needs to consider and incorporate the SRCMS, 1998 (Based on advice the SCCG is not intending to review and redevelop the SRCMS until such time that future of Coastal management in NSW is determined ie Coastal Policy, Coastal Protection Act and SEPP 71 application in Sydney).
- There has been a lot of Local and a State government change since 2001 and more to come. The SCCG needs to respond to this change and ensure it is well placed to assist and support member councils into the future focusing on core issues and particularly gaps in coastal management and NRM in general.
- The SCCG needs to consider the existing Catchment Management Blueprints and new Catchment Management Authority structures, however the SCCG is strengthened by its independence and will not be closely relying on any external process or initiatives.

Resolved that:

- 1) The report be received and discussed,
- 2) Delegates provide comments on the current draft, with the SCCG writing to members seeking their input prior to the election (ie feedback after 4 years of representation)

- 3) The "BMP Directional Committee report the next meeting on progress,
- 4) The SCCG and the Working Group write member councils seeking comments on the draft revised BMP,
- 5) The Final draft BMP be tabled at the AGM for consideration of adoption.

8.4 SCCG Groundwater Investigations

Proceedings in Brief

In the latter half 2003, the SCCG Technical Committee agreed there was a need to address groundwater because of the increasing number of concerns Member Councils were receiving in relation to groundwater. Initially the scope of works was to produce an education brochure for Member Councils. Brian McDonald (Willoughby Council) and former Coastal Projects Officer (Rebecca Hamilton) drafted a comprehensive background summary of groundwater related topics and issues. As a result of the preliminary investigation, it was clear that a more detailed approach was required to address Member Council issues specific to planning advice and policy. The issues addressed within the initial document will provide a framework for the development of the anticipated groundwater manual.

In December 2003, the Technical Committee agreed to the establishment of a *Groundwater Investigations Working Group*. The working group is made up of Member Council delegates and representatives from DIPNR and DEC. On 28 January, the working group held its inaugural meeting to discuss current issues relating to groundwater and attempt to identify any data gaps. As a result of that meeting a project vision statement, a listing of aims, objectives and the drafting for a groundwater survey was actioned. The groundwater survey is currently in circulation throughout Member Councils.

The CPO provided delegates with an outline of the draft vision statement, aims and objectives for the SCCG manual.

PROJECT VISION STATEMENT

Sydney Coastal Councils Group has established a working group to provide of providing a manual that will inform, educate and guide environmental planners, health officers, engineers and decision makers within local government with respect to the nature and behaviour of groundwater in urban environments. The manual will concentrate on addressing the following groundwater issues:

- local geology (what it means and how it behaves);
- the relevant environmental legislation;
- pre and post construction;
- de-watering and recharge;
- nuisance water;
- groundwater contamination; and
- groundwater re-use.

The vision statement for the working group will be met by addressing specific aims and objectives that are outlined below.

Project aims:

- To provide a background on groundwater in urban environments including its importance.
- To produce a document for Local Councils that provides both technical and universal advice on groundwater management in urban environments, taking into account all necessary
- To address environmental legislation, including the *Contaminated Lands Act 1997*.
- To provide local government planners and decision makers with a document that is succinct and unambiguous in its content.
- To obtain and be able to use DIPNR's groundwater database for the Sydney region.
- To use the information produced in this document to generate educational fact sheet(s) that can be applied to current and future industry construction techniques and by community groups.

The aims of the manual will be achieved by providing an informative and succinct summary that will address the following objectives:

Project Objectives

- To provide a brief background on groundwater in urban environments taking into consideration examples from other major global cities that will assist in learning about previous shortcomings or successes in urban groundwater management. These examples will be applied to and assessed in relation to Sydney's geology and groundwater environment.
- To collaborate and assess all existing and available information (including technical, legislative and existing management procedures) on groundwater in order to produce a guiding manual for local government planners and decision makers.
- The assessment of key issues relating in relation to urban groundwater such as, contamination and licensing.
- To facilitate a consistent, efficient and effective regional response to Sydney's groundwater management.

<p>Resolved that the groundwater investigations working group project proposal be received and adopted and a project update to be provided by the CPO at the next meeting.</p>

8.5 Annual SCCG Surveys 2003 (Technical Committee and Full Group)

Proceedings in Brief

The Coastal Projects Officer reviewed the outcomes of the TC annual surveys for 2003. The RECO expressed disappointment that no full group surveys were returned to SCCG. As a consequence only outcomes of the TC surveys were discussed. Delegates were informed that the report attached the business papers provides more comprehensive information.

Generally, the responses were positive and TC members indicated that the SCCG continues to be pro-active in its approach in raising awareness of current coastal issues and is an effective facilitator for the exchange of information at a regional level. The SCCG also provides an excellent opportunity to network with other coastal Councils on a regional scale.

Communications was an area identified by TC delegates as an area that could be improved. The need to update the website more frequently and to provide a summary / list of current projects and an outline of project key achievements and short-comings. SCCG proposed that current issues would be discussed at meetings and all other issues will be available for review on the SCCG website.

<p>Resolved that the report be received and noted.</p>

8.6 Stormwater Extension Officer Program – Sydney Harbour/Parramatta River

Proceedings in Brief

The RCEO provided delegates with a brief overview of current and planned activities of the SEO Program. Items reviewed include:

- Training and capacity building programs
- Sediment and Erosion Control forums, and Spill response forums,
- "Don't be a tosser" litter campaign
- Stormwater Management Information sharing between councils through council website links,
- Middle Harbour Stormwater Network Program
- Procuring RTA funding for 4 councils in the Port Jackson South catchment covering spill response training,
- "Working the system" training course to increase council staff efficiency working with local government in stormwater management,
- Water Sensitive Urban Design education modules.

The SCCG is currently lobbying to extend the Stormwater Extension Officer Program post the current contract.

- A letter from the SCCG to State Government is currently being circulated to SEO hosts across the state to seek the continuation of the SEO Program. The letter also requests
 - A delegation with the Minister and DEC Director General to discuss the merits of continuing the program
 - Seeking a State Government recognition that stormwater management is a shared issue and that after June 2004 there will be no state agency addressing stormwater management across the state.
 - The need for an ongoing partnership between State and local government post the NSW Stormwater Trust.

The RCEO is also coordinating to continue to employ the SCCG SEOs. The current grant provided by the DEC (including the final contract payment of \$22,000 due 30 June 2004) is estimated to be able to continue employment of the current officers until at least 30 September 2004. Final budget estimates will be prepared shortly. The limited operational expenditure of the program over the last 2 years now allows for at least a 3 month extension of the employment.

Resolved that the report be received and noted.

8.7 SCCG Submissions

- a) Salt Marsh Proposed Endangered Ecological Listing
- b) Section 94 Contributions and Development Levies Taskforce.

Resolved that the SCCG submissions on a) Salt Marsh Proposed Endangered Ecological Listing and b) Section 94 Contributions and Development Levies Taskforce be received and endorsed.

8.8 Key Activities Report for December 2003 – February 2004

Proceedings in Brief

The RCEO referred delegates to the report attached to the agenda. It was noted that this report is now more comprehensive providing details of all the major SCCG projects and advocacy campaigns as well a list of committees and all the usual key performance measures. This report is also now to be prepared 6 times a year for the Technical Committee meetings and for electronic distribution to other managers, directors and staff within member councils. This is to increase awareness of SCCG activities to a broader audience across member councils.

Resolved that the SCCG Key Activities Report for December 2003 – February 2004 be received and noted.

9. TREASURER'S REPORT

9.1 Final Audited Annual Financial Statement and Auditors Report for the period 1 July 2002 to 1 June 2003 (Tabled at the meeting)

Proceedings in Brief

The RCEO informed representatives that the final auditors report was finally received on Friday. As a quorum is not present at this meeting it was suggested to forward the 2002 / 2003 Audit to the Executive Committee for endorsement.

Resolved that the Final Audited Financial Statement and auditors report for financial year 2002-2003 be referred to the Executive Committee for endorsement.

9.2 Financial Statement for the period ending December 2003 (Tabled at the meeting)

Proceedings in Brief

The RCEO tabled the Financial statements ending December 2003. As a quorum was not present at this meeting it was suggested to forward the statements to the Executive Committee for endorsement.

Resolved that the Financial Statement for period ending December 2003 be 2003 be referred to the Executive Committee for endorsement.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

• **Offshore Sand Resources for Beach Nourishment**

Mr Colman expressed interest in coordinating a forum on offshore sand resources for beach nourishment similar to the successful geotechnical forum held by the SCCG in 2003. It was noted that the issue needs to be addressed and debated for a possible solution to Narrabeen /Collaroy and other areas across the state. Phil referred to a 1978 report on the fact that limited activity has occurred on this issue and that political and media confusion had deferred proper consideration of many issues in relation to this potential activity. The RCEO noted that the SCCG had established a Coastal Risk Working Group and was planning to convene a Coastal Risk Forum this year. It was noted that beach erosion and beach nourishment is likely to be addressed as a part of this forum and that the RCEO would take the idea to the working group for consideration. Mr Colman suggested that the use of offshore sands was an issue large enough for its own forum and would take the idea to the Northern Beaches Surf rider Branch for consideration and also further discuss with the RCEO. The RCEO noted that he supported the idea and would report back once discussing it with the SCCG Working Group.

Resolved that:

- 1) the RCEO take the idea of incorporating the issue of offshore sand resources for beach nourishment to the SCCG Coastal Risk Working Group for consideration.
- 2) Mr Colman further discuss the idea with the SCCG RCEO
- 3) The SCCG report back to the next meeting on outcomes and plans to address the issue.

10.1 Items for Press Release

Resolved that items for press release be considered.

10.2 Agenda items for the next SCCG meeting

Resolved that delegates suggest additional agenda items including presentations for the next SCCG meeting proposed for Saturday 12 June 2004

10.3 Next Meeting

Resolved that the next meeting of the Group be held on Saturday 12 June 2004 at Leichhardt Council (pending confirmation from Leichhardt)

The meeting closed at 4:15 pm

Confirmation of Minutes :

/ /
