

SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP Inc.
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING
HELD ON SATURDAY 4 DECEMBER, 2010

IN ATTENDANCE

Clr. Brian Troy	Botany Bay Council
Clr. Wendy McMurdo	Hornsby Council
Clr. Cathy Griffin	Manly Council
Clr. Warren Yates	Mosman Council
Clr. Veronique Marchandean	North Sydney Council
Clr. Andrew Robjohns	North Sydney Council
Mr. Paul Hardie	Pittwater Council
Clr. Dr. Conny Harris	Warringah Council
Clr. Sally Betts	Waverley Council
Clr. Wendy Norton	Willoughby Council
Clr. Lynne Saville	Willoughby Council
Mr. Geoff Withycombe	SCCG
Mr. Craig Morrison	SCCG
Ms Jodie Savage	SCCG
E.Prof. Bruce Thom AM	Honorary Member
Dr. Judy Lambert	Honorary Member
Mr. George Cotis	Honorary Member
Mr. Phil Colman	Honorary Member
Mr David Anning	UNSW / SCCG (presentation only)

1. OPENING

The meeting opened at 12.30pm. Clr. McMurdo (Chairperson) opened the meeting and welcomed delegates to the City of Sydney. Clr McMurdo thanked the City of Sydney for hosting the meeting.

Delegates moved to suspend standing orders to deal with all essential business items.

2. APOLOGIES

Clr. David James	Pittwater Council
Clr. Lesa de Leau	Rockdale Council
Clr. Peter Towell	Sutherland Council
Clr. Dr. Christina Kirsch	Warringah Council
Ms. Nicola Faith	Willoughby Council
Clr. Nicola Grieve	Woollahra Council
Mr George Copeland	Honorary Member
Clr. Keith Rhodes	President LGSA

Resolved that the apologies be received and noted.

Councils not represented at the meeting City of Sydney, Leichhardt, Randwick, Rockdale, Sutherland, Woollahra.
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8. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

'SPECIAL' MEETING

8.1 Proposed amendments to the SCCG Constitution

Opening

Clr. McMurdo (Chairperson) opened the Special Meeting at 12.40pm

Attendance: see above.

Introduction:

The Executive Officer provided an introduction to the item. Further to last meeting (SCCG AGM) and the email sent to all SCCG delegates on 8 November the SCCG is seeking to update the SCCG Constitution.

The proposed amendments are to reflect slight changes to the SCCG Outcome Statements and to comply with the recent changes to the Incorporations Legislation and associated regulations.

As there was an absence of a quorum towards the end of the AGM this item was referred to a 'special meeting' as part of the December SCCG meeting. After some discussion and notification of minor grammatical errors and typos, delegates resolved the Special Resolution including:

Resolved that: **Specific Resolution 1/10 (4.12.10)**

- 1) The Amended Constitution of the Sydney Coastal Councils Group Incorporated be tabled for review and consideration of adoption at the SCCG meeting 4/12/10.
- 2) The amended final Constitution of the Sydney Coastal Councils Group Incorporated 2010 be sent to member councils Mayor and General Managers for their information.
- 3) The Association apply for registration of the changes (to the NSW Department of Fair Trading) within 28 days of the special resolution and the application include:
- 4) the approved form (*Application to change objects or constitution – Form A6*)
 - details of the proposed change
 - a copy of the special resolution as passed, and
 - the prescribed fee.
- 5) The amended final Constitution of the Sydney Coastal Councils Group Incorporated be placed on the SCCG web site as soon as practical.

Meeting close: 12.50pm

5. BUSINESS ARISING

Business arising from minutes other than those items listed below in Reports.

10. TREASURER'S REPORT

10.1 Financial Statements for period 30 June – 30 September 2010

Resolved that the financial statements for the period 30 June – 30 September 2010 be received and adopted.

10.2 Final SCCG Annual Financial Audit 2009 – 2010

Proceedings in brief

The RCEO provided delegates with a brief review of the audit report received from Hill Rogers Spencer Steer Chartered Accountants. The RCEO also noted that at the Executive Committee held prior to the meeting it was resolved:

Resolved that the Annual Audit report be received and recommended to the Full Group for adoption.

Delegates expressed concern that it has again taken several months to finalized the audit. The RCEO explained that this was primarily due to the time taken to obtain relevant entitlement information from the City of Sydney and that Hill Rogers Spencer Steer Chartered Accountants is a large firm and it is assumed that the SCCG is a low priority.

Resolved that:

- 1) The final SCCG Audit report be received and adopted.
- 2) The SCCG investigate alternative auditor services and report back to the Group with details of services and relevant quotes.

8.0b SCCG nomination for the NSW Coastal Panel as established under the NSW Coastal Protection

Proceedings in Brief

The RCEO tabled a late report providing details of the process for nominations for the NSW Coastal Panel representation

The report the potential SCCG nomination for the NSW Coastal Panel as established under the recently passed NSW Coastal Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, 2010.

The functions of the Coastal Panel, as per section 13 of the Act are to provide advice to the Minister for the Climate Change and the Environment, to provide advice to councils and to act as a planning consent authority under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* under certain circumstances.

The Act specifies (section 12) that the membership of the NSW Coastal Panel is as follows (emphasis added):

12. The Coastal Panel is to consist of 7 members appointed by the Minister of whom:

- a) One (the Deputy Chairperson) is to be a person nominated by the Director-General (of DECCW),
- b) One is to be a person nominated by the Director-General of the Department of Planning,
- c) **Three are to be nominated by the Local Government and Shires Associations of New South Wales,**
- d) One is to be a person nominated by the Chief Executive of the Land and Property Management Authority,
- e) **One (the Chairperson) is to be appointed by the Minister with the concurrence of the Local Government and Shires Associations of New South Wales.**

The Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, the Hon Frank Sartor MP, has written to the LGSA, requesting that they provide six nominations for the three positions to be filled under clause 12(c) above. The Minister has noted that nominees must demonstrate specific skills and expertise as follows:

12.4 A person appointed under subsection (2) (a)–(d) must have **qualifications and experience relevant to coastal planning, coastal engineering, coastal geomorphology, coastal environmental management or estuary management.**

The RCEO noted that the SCCG Executive Committee had endorsed the nomination of Mr Doug Lord for the NSW Coastal Panel and to refer this nomination to the Full Group meeting for ratification.

The RCEO read Doug Lord's Biography to delegates. The RCEO also noted that Doug has been a great supporter of the SCCG over many years. Doug has and remains active on numerous SCCG Working Groups and Expert Panels including:

- SCCG Beach Management Working Group,
- SCCG Sea Level Rise Expert Panel and
- SCCG Mapping and Responding to Coastal Inundation Expert Panel

Doug had the above representations when in the position of Manager, Coastal, NSW Department of Environment Climate Change and Water and maintains these representations as an ongoing colleague and supporter of the SCCG.

Doug Lord was also formally engaged by the SCCG in April 2010 to assist the Group prepare submissions in relation to the recent NSW Government reforms. Doug provided the Group with an extremely good rate and contributed significantly to the preparation of the SCCG submissions and been a consistent sounding board for advice and general assistance on these complex and detailed issues.

It was noted that the Minister had asked the LGSA to provide 6 nomination and not 3 as outlined in the Bill. Delegates question the need for this and that LGSA should be selecting 3 LGSA representatives that they wished to be represented on the Panel. Delegates resolved to contact the LGSA on Monday to 'strongly encourage the LGSA to provide the Minister with 3 (only) nominations'.

Resolved by the Executive Officer that:

- 1) The report be received and considered.
- 2) The SCCG endorse Doug Lord as their nomination for the NSW Coastal Panel.
- 3) The SCCG contact the LGSA on Monday to 'strongly encourage the LGSA to provide the Minister with 3 (only) nominations'.

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Resolved that there was no declaration of pecuniary interests.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the SCCG held on 11 September 2010 at Manly Council.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the SCCG held on 11 September 2010 at Manly Council be confirmed.

4.2 Minutes of the Technical Committee Meeting of the SCCG held on 14 October 2010 at the City of Sydney.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Technical Committee Meeting of the SCCG held on 14 October 2010 at City of Sydney Council be received and noted.

5. BUSINESS ARISING

Business arising from minutes other than those items listed below in Reports.

Professor Bruce Thom provided a review of Business Arising action.

- 1) *Prof Thom keep the Group informed of activities of the Australian Coastal Alliance and the Australia Coastal Society and general activities of the Commonwealth.*

Prof Thom noted that there has been no new updates on the Australian Coastal Alliance. The Australian Coastal Society recent focus of advocacy including a) An intergovernmental agreement b) A National coastal information platform and c) a National Coastal Commission.

Prof Thom provided details of Commonwealth activity including:

- **Managing our coastal zone in a changing climate: the time to act is now.**

The Government has released a response to the Jenny George coastal inquiry report; *Managing our coastal zone in a changing climate: the time to act is now*. Bruce noted that this was a great outcome and the first time a government has responded to a House of Representative coastal inquiry since 1979

- **The National Climate Change Forum: Adaptation Priorities for Australia's Coast (the Forum) held in Adelaide in February**

The forum brought together around 200 leaders from all spheres of government, professional associations and the research community (inc. the SCCG Chairperson and the RCEO) to discuss the need to work together to prepare Australia for future climate challenges on the coast.

The Forum built on two key reports released in late 2009. The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Climate Change, Water, Environment and the Arts Inquiry October 2009 report, *Managing our coastal zone in a changing climate: the time to act is now*, and the The Australian Government's report *Climate Change Risks to Australia's Coasts: a first pass national assessment*, released in November 2009.

Report available via: <http://www.climatechange.gov.au/~media/publications/adaptation/developing-national-coastal-adaptation-agenda.ashx>

- **Launch of the Commonwealth Sea Level Rise Maps and Products**

Prof Thom noted that the Australian Minister for Climate Change was planning on launching these maps in Newcastle on 15 December.

The sea level rise maps have been produced by the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency to help communicate the risks of sea level rise due to climate change. The maps highlight low lying areas that are potentially vulnerable to inundation from rising sea levels due to climate change. The maps will cover all areas of the SCCG and will be publicly available after the event. In June and July this year the Department hosted a series of workshops that provided information on the sea level rise maps and other products (the SCCG hosted one of these workshop for member councils)

Councillor resolved to urgently request that the Commonwealth provide coastal Local Governments' with detailed and general information to assist Councils with the numerous media and community inquires that will no doubt follow the release of this information. Such information should include what the resultant maps are, and importantly what the maps are not.

Additionally SCCG delegates noted the importance of providing this information to all land managers in the coastal zone. The engagement of additional state land managers such as NPWS, the Land and Property Management Authority and NSW Maritime would ensure they are aware of the tools being released and assist in their understanding of the complex issues and hazard information being released by DCCEE.

Delegates further noted that they were supportive of the Commonwealth involvement and investment in these complex issues facing all coastal communities. Delegates resolved to again thank the Commonwealth for the recent provision of LiDAR information to all SCCG member councils (via the SCCG) saving member councils significant resources and providing some of the essential first order information critically required to assist Councils and the SCCG begin to quantify, map and assess climate change hazards and risks.

Resolved that the SCCG urgently write the Commonwealth regarding requests and comments in relation to the release of the Commonwealth Sea Level Rise Maps and Products.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Sent and Received Correspondence

Proceedings in Brief

Delegates were referred to the summary report contained in the business papers and hard copies of the in and out correspondence was circulated.

Resolved that the circulated “sent” and “received” correspondence be received and noted.

6.2 SCCG correspondence from the last meeting

Resolved that the SCCG correspondence from last meeting be received and considered.

7. PRESENTATION – ‘Sand Dollars - the Economics of Sydney Beaches’

(Presentation slides attached)

Proceedings in brief

Dave Anning was welcomed to the meeting. Dave, a PhD candidate at the University of NSW, has been working on the Sydney Beaches Valuation Project in conjunction with the SCCG for the past 4 years. His project was designed to provide the economic information necessary for coastal managers at local, state and national levels to make more informed decisions about the response to climate change impacts. Dave has employed a number of methods to examine the impacts of coastal amenities on the local housing market, the value of daytrip recreation, and estimate community willingness to pay for the prevention of beach closures through erosion.

Dave presented an overview of the results of the project, an assessment of the management implications, and explore future opportunities for implementation and extension of the project throughout SCCG member councils.

Key elements of the presentation included:

- Overview of project and partnership collaboration
- Coastal Challenges
- Management responses
- Seawalls or sand
- Research focus and project locations
- Hedonic Pricing Method
- Risk and Beachfront property
- Travel Cost method
- Tourism Importance
- Value of Sydney beaches
- Recreational values and paying to avoid closure
- Comparison with management expenditures

Resolved that:

1. The presentation be heard and considered at the meeting.
2. Mr Dave Anning be thanked for his presentation.

9. REPORTS**Reports 9.1 – 9.7
FOR CONSIDERATION****9.1 NSW Reforms to Coastal Management in NSW**Proceedings in Brief

The NSW Government is developing a coastal erosion package to provide the State Government and councils with guidelines and tools to deal with the challenges of coastal erosion. The key elements of this reform include the Coastal Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2010 (now passed) and a series of supporting documents.

Since the last meeting the SCCG has undertaken the following activities:

- Prepared the following submissions:
- Draft Minister's Requirements under the Coastal Protection Act 1974
 - Draft Guidelines for preparing Coastal Zone Management Plans;
 - Draft Guide for Authorised officers under the Coastal Protection Act 1979; and
 - Draft Guide to the statutory requirements for emergency coastal protection works.
- Distributed the legal assessment of the Bill in relation to its implementation by councils and potential exposure to litigation prepared by Kirston Gerathy (HWL Ebsworth)
- Formally wrote to Minister Sartor noting that the consultation process for the NSW Coastal Reform Package was inappropriate and does not allow for meaningful contribution from Councils.
- SCCG facilitating a member council forum to discuss the passing and implementation of the

On 29 November 2010 the Sydney Coastal Councils Group (SCCG) facilitated an information session on the reforms to coastal management. The aim of the forum was to provide SCCG Member Council Councillors and staff to be informed about and discuss the reforms to coastal management including the *Coastal Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2010* and associated guidelines. More information about the Reforms to coastal erosion management in NSW can be found at: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/coasts/coastalerosionmgmt.htm

The forum included the following presentations:

1. **Overview: Reforms to coastal management in NSW (The Bill and supporting documents, funding and implementation, key tasks for councils):** Mr Mike Sharpin - NSW Department of Environment Climate Change and Water
2. **The LGSA Perspective on the Coastal Protection and other Legislation Amendment Bill and supporting documents:** Mr Robert Verhey - NSW LGSA
3. **Engineering, management and implementation considerations of the reforms:** Mr Doug Lord - Coastal Environment Pty Ltd
4. **Legal Considerations - Coastal Protection and other Legislation Amendment Bill:** Ms Kirston Gerathy- HWL Ebsworth Lawyers

More information about the Reforms to coastal erosion management in NSW can be found at:
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/coasts/coastalerosionmgmt.htm

Resolved that:

- 1) The report be received and noted.
- 2) Through discussion, the SCCG determine additional actions to address Member Council issues and concerns.

9.2 SCCG Consultations (workshop) - Coastal Information and Policies for the 2011 NSW State Government Election

Proceedings in Brief

In the lead up to the 2011 NSW State Government election the SCCG will formally request that political parties represented in NSW House of Representatives and the NSW Legislative Council outline their policy positions in regards to various issues identified by the Group.

At the SCCG AGM held in September, it was resolved that a workshop be convened at the next meeting to determine issues and processes for SCCG consultation with NSW Political parties prior to the NSW State Government election.

The Secretariat facilitated a workshop at the meeting. Consultation issues resolved to seek information requests included:

1. An independent review into coastal management in NSW commissioned by the NSW Government
2. An independent coastal advisory body for NSW
3. A consistent and coordinated approach to climate change adaptation in the NSW coastal zone
4. Funding for Local Government and community coastal programs and initiatives
5. Decision making based on local plans and regulation as well as public participation
6. Maintenance of public ownership and public access in the coastal zone
7. The delivery of total water cycle management for urban coastal environments
8. Maintenance and enhancement of coastal biodiversity through the NSW planning framework
9. A NSW Marine Management Strategy

A final draft document will be prepared by the Secretariat and forward to member councils for final input. The final report and cover letter will then be sent to all political parties for response.

Resolved that:

- 1) The report be received and considered.
- 2) That SCCG delegates workshop issues for consultation with relevant NSW political parties in the lead up to the March 2011 election.
- 3) The Secretariat prepare the final draft report for member council input.
- 4) The SCCG formally write to all NSW political parties represented in the NSW House of Representatives and the NSW Legislative Council seeking their policy positions on identified issues.
- 5) The above information then be provided to all member councils and other relevant stakeholder prior to the election.

9.3 SCCG Capacity Building Program Update Report

Proceedings in Brief

The CPO provided the meeting with an update of the SCCG Capacity Building Program activities.

- **Launch of the new SCCG website and resource database**

The CPO noted that the SCCG is now working with 'Modelcitizen Interactive' and 'Catfish Creative' (responsible for the design of the SCCG Strategic Plan 2010-2014) to deliver the new and updated website. The CPO noted that the new SCCG website will be launched in December 2010 with the resource database and intranet will be then completed early 2011.

- **Update of the SCCG Coastal Connections Project (SMCMA Coastal Community Engagement Grant) and the Summer Activities Program.**

The CPO informed the Group that the project is well underway with the three flagship events confirmed as below. These events will be run as bush regeneration / education days to encourage the community to become involved in coastline conservation.

DATE	LOCATION	PROJECT PARTNERS
Saturday 8 January 2011	Bonna Point, Kurnell	Sutherland Shire Council
Saturday 15 January 2011	Jamieson Park, Narrabeen Lagoon	Warringah Council
Wednesday 19 January 2011	Collins Beach, North Head	NPWS & North Head Sanctuary Foundation

The second main focus of the project has been looking at different ways of engaging communities, focusing on using social media to attract and diversify participants involved in coastline conservation. A SCCG Social Media Workshop delivered jointly by SCCG and Republic of Everyone was held on 26 November. This involved learning about the functionality and potential use of social media; a practical exercise thinking about certain audiences and how to attract them to the three flagship events; and conducting a real-time example using the Summerama facebook page learning how to create content and make it interesting.

The resultant Community Engagement Strategy will be produced in February / March 2011, to provide a holistic document to use social media processes including statistics of the social media campaign used to promote the Summerama program.

- **Summerama: Summer Activities Program**

The CPO noted that a new logo has been created for the Summer Activities Program; a newly designed brochure distributed to Councils with a similar layout to previous years (a more detailed brochure is available on the dedicated website). The Group was also informed that the webpage www.summerama.com.au is now live, and examples of promotional materials that were purchased due to sponsorship obtained from Coastcare.

The CPO thanked all the Summerama Champions within Member Councils that have coordinated and provided all the activity information for the 2011 Summerama Program and are promoting the program on the Councils behalf. The CPO asked delegates to join up to the Summerama Facebook page at www.facebook.com/summerama and help the Summerama Champions promote the program.

- **Capacity Building Program Activities 2011**

The CPO informed delegates of the scheduled activities for 2011 as below and requested any feedback for additional topics or methods of delivery.

Event	Date
Coastal Connections / SUMMERAMA	December 2010 / January 2011
The Economics of Managing Coastal Areas	24 February 2011
Underwater Sydney	1 April LAUNCH
Building for Sustainability (UNSW)	March
Climate Change Adaptation Planning Forum (CSIRO)	April – May
Coastal Management Short Courses & Manual	2011
Local Government, Management, and Regulation below the high water mark (with Waverley Council)	March - June
GIS Skills Workshop(s) (SSSI)	TBD
Coastal Ecology Lecture Series	2011

SCCG Building Adaptive Capacity for Climate Change (BACCC) Toolkit	2011
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- **Underwater Sydney Program**

14 of the 15 Member Councils are now committed to the program, with the Secretariat in discussions to resolve any concerns with the final Council. An MOU and partnership agreement is currently being developed and will be in place by the end of the year. A policy workshop with Council staff is intended to be hosted in February 2011 to discuss the fundamentals of the project and how it will operate for each Council. The research diving has commenced through the help of Global Underwater Explorers, and the additional research and consultation with Council staff will be conducted throughout February – March 2011.

Oceanworld Manly has recently been going through refurbishment and have added Underwater Sydney graphics and images to the displays throughout the aquarium. The Underwater Sydney website will be launching 1 April 2011.

- **Capacity Building / Education Steering Committee (CBESC)**

The CPO informed the delegates the CBESC met for its second meeting on 16 November 2010. The Chair (the CPO) conducted a discussion regarding communication and promotion of educational / capacity building events which resulted with a recommendation that the development of a marketing / communication strategy would be very useful for Member Councils and the CPO. The next meeting will take place in February 2011.

Resolved that:

- 1) The report be received and considered.
- 2) SCCG work with Member Councils and the media to ensure effective promotion of the initiative.
- 3) Delegates help promote the SCCG Summer Activities Program now called "Summerama"
- 4) Delegates to make recommendations on any capacity building activities / forum topics for 2011.

9.4 SCCG 'Mapping and Responding to Coastal Inundation project - update report

Proceedings in Brief

The RCEO reviewed the key phases of the project.

- **Stage 1** Effect of Climate Change on Sea level Rise and Extreme Sea Levels
- **Stage 2:** Development of Model Planning provisions to integrate sea level rise and extreme sea level events into relevant planning strategies of the SCCG
- **Stage 3:** Develop and distribute community risk disclosure information and corresponding community and stakeholder education program

The RCEO apologised again to Full Group delegates that this critically important project continues to be significantly behind schedule. The Group has recently been successful in seeking an extension until mid 2011 and continues to negotiate and clarify key elements of the project with the CSIRO.

Resolved that:

- 1) The report and project be received and considered.
- 2) A further update and potential presentation be tabled at the meeting.

9.5 National and NSW Coastal Management Conferences – Outcome Reports

Resolved that

- 1) The report be received and discussed.
- 2) Delegates highlight any papers that they may wish to obtain.

9.6 Coastal User Conflicts – Waverley Council report

Proceedings in brief

Conflict issues being faced by Waverley Council were discussed at the last meeting. Waverley is increasing having concern regarding user conflict issues at the Ben Buckler area and also Bronte Bogey Hole. Delegates were referred to the report contained in the business papers kindly prepared by Ms Emily Scott, Waverley Council's Manager for Environment Services.

Clr. Sally Betts (Mayor of Waverley) provided the Group with a detailed review of the issues faced by Waverley Council in this regard and also reviewed outcomes of recent related community forums and consultations.

Delegates noted the need to work through and better clarify actions and regulations below the 'high water mark'. It was also noted that more and more people are seemingly using near shore waters for pursuits such as kayaking and ocean swimming, resulting in increased conflicts with all types of users including boaters, spearfishes and others.

Resolved that:

- 1) The report be received and considered.
- 2) The SCCG partner with Waverley Council, in consultation with USFA, to lobby the State Government to introduce license requirements for the purchase of spearfishing equipment.
- 3) The SCCG work with Waverley Council and the USFA to contact all suppliers of spearfishing equipment in the SCCG region and request the distribution of the USFA Code of Conduct handbook with the sale of any spearfishing equipment.
- 4) The SCCG in partnership with Waverley Council and Department of Industry and Investment facilitate a SCCG member council forum to better clarify actions and regulations below the 'high water mark'.

9.7 SCCG Submissions / Advocacy

- "Draft Minister's Requirements under the Coastal Protection Act 1979"
- "Draft Guidelines for preparing Coastal Zone Management Plans",
- "Draft Guide for Authorised officers under the Coastal Protection Act 1979" and
- "Draft Guide to the statutory requirements for emergency coastal protection works"

Resolved that the SCCG submissions be received and adopted.

Reports 11.6 – 11.12

9.8 Technical Committee Report

Resolved that the report be received and considered.

9.9 Beachwatch & Harbourwatch Programs – Clr. McMurdo

Proceedings in Brief

The RCEO noted that at the last meeting delegates resolved that the SCCG meet with the Beachwatch program manager to clarify the revised testing and reporting regime. Outcomes of this meeting were to be presented to the Group.

The Secretariat undertook this meeting which reviewed the monitoring and reporting processes for Beachwatch. The Beachwatch Manager also informed the secretariat that DECCW did not intend to reconvene the Beachwatch Advisory Committee and that a formal letter to this regard will be provided for the Group's consideration shortly.

Delegates resolved to invite the Manager of the Beachwatch program to address a future meeting of the Group.

Resolved that:

- 1) The report on Beachwatch and Harbourwatch Programs be received and noted.
- 2) Outcomes of SCCG - Beachwatch meeting (17/11/10) be discussed.
- 3) The Beachwatch Manager be invited to address a future meeting of the SCCG.

**9.10 (a) Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority's Update
(b) Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority's Update**

Resolved that the reports be received and noted.

9.11 NSW Department of Industry and Investment's Aquatic Biosecurity Report

Resolved that the report be received and noted.

9.12 SCCG in the Press

Proceedings in Brief

Delegates were referred to the report attached to the business papers

The RCEO noted that it was hoped to finally launch the Offshore Sands report via an article in the SMH in the coming days. The RCEO also noted that he had personally briefed the Minister's advisor with Prof. Bruce Thom and Lex Neilson (AECOM) regarding project outcomes. The Secretariat with the assistance of other experts have developed an associated press release, Facts and Figures and Frequently Asked Questions information. These materials have been sent to the case study councils and will be sent to all member councils and relevant state agencies prior to the release of the report.

Resolved that the report be received and noted.

9.13 Recent SCCG Grant Program Update

Proceedings in Brief

The SCPO informed the Group that there has been recent unsuccessful grants including:

- **Environmental Trust Research Program.**
 1. "Sydney 2100: Managing perceptions of changing coastal environments" (with Randall Pearce)
- **National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) – (Settlements and Infrastructure)**
 1. **Vulnerability assessment of critical infrastructure:** (Key project partners: Sydney Water and DECCW) Assess the vulnerability of critical infrastructure to climate change extreme events, based on historical evidence and future projections. **(invited to submit a full application)**
 2. **A National Assessment of Coastal Adaptive Capacity:** (Key project partner: Macquarie University) To develop a framework for a national assessment of coastal adaptive capacity and provide policy recommendations and decision-making tools for councils.

The SCPO informed delegates that the SCCG is working with the project partners on both NCCARF projects to identify possible alternative funding opportunities.

Resolved that the report be received and noted.

9.14 Key Activities Report for September – November 2010

Resolved that the SCCG Key Activities Report for September – November 2010 be received and noted.

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

• Representation at Full Group meeting

The Chairperson noted again the disappointment with the limited numbers of SCCG delegates in attendance. This was especially concerning with some councils who continue to regularly fail to ensure presence of their delegates.

Committee members reiterated their disappointment and sort more formal action to ensure that all Councils are present at meetings, enabling them to understand the value, functions and activities of the Group and to ensure that the SCCG continues to hear from and represent the interested of all member councils.

The RCEO noted that in the SCCG Constitution and the recently adopted Strategy Plan requirements and expectation of members and their delegates is clearly articulated. This includes

- *General Managers will ensure that appropriate Council representation is provided at SCCG meetings to ensure that interests and issues of all Member Councils is represented.*
- *Where a delegate has missed 3 meetings without notification, the Group shall write to the member Council seeking an alternative delegate.*

As a result it was resolved:

Resolved that:

- 1) The Chairperson write to all member council Mayors and General Managers:
 - Noting the value of the Group
 - Noting disappointment at the lack of attendance
 - Their requirements to send someone under the SCCG Constitution and the new Strategic Plan.
- 2) Responses to the Outcomes be reported at the next meeting.

11.1 Suggested 2011 Meeting dates / Next Meeting

Proposed Dates

Proposed location

It was resolved to have the meeting following the State election with an Executive meeting prior to address any pressing issues. It was also resolved to try attempt to bring the December meeting forward hopefully allowing more delegates to attend.

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| • Saturday 9 April 2011 at 12 noon | (Waverley Council - pending) |
| • Saturday 11 June 2011 at 12 noon | (City of Sydney) |
| • Saturday 10 September 2011 at 12 noon (AGM) | (Member Council) |
| • Saturday 3 December 2011 at 12 noon | (City of Sydney) |

11.2 Items for Press Release

Resolved that

- 1) SCCG release of the offshore sands project via the SMH and other media interests.
- 2) Items for press release be considered.

11.3 Agenda items for the next SCCG meeting

Resolved that agenda items for the next meeting include:

- 1) A potential Beachwatch Program update presentation.
- 2) Seeking quote and service details for a potential alternative Auditor.
- 3) Mapping and Responding to Coastal Inundation update report and potential presentation from CSIRO.
- 4) Plan of Management for Sydney Harbour National Park update.

11.4 Next Meeting

Resolved that the next meeting of the Group be held on Saturday 9 April 2011 at Waverley Council (pending confirmation).

Clr McMurdo wished all delegates and their families a very happy and safe Christmas, and thanked them all for their involvement and participation on the Group.

The meeting closed at 4.45pm

Confirmation of Minutes:
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