

GM minutes 15 December 2020

Welcome and apologies

Apologies: Marilyn Bruhn, Katherine Burt-Brown, Deb Cashel, Greg Cashel, Lionel Edwards, Nancy Fahey, Cr Gerard Ferraro, Cr Stuart Ghent, Rae Marnham, Anna Shepherd, Anne Wheaton

Acceptance of minutes

GM minutes 20 October 2020

Moved: Julie Whitehead

Seconded: Chrissy Schultz

Treasurer's report

Financial report same as October report (see <http://wacra.org.au/news-events/meetings/>)

Moved: Jim Douglas

Seconded: Pedro Schultz

Chairperson's report

Jim Douglas read a tribute to Val Wales, a long-term member of WACRA, who died 14 December. She was dedicated to preserving Tennyson Dunes and educating the public about their importance (through open days, lecturing etc). She was also involved with the Friends of Gulf St Vincent. Thirty seconds of silence followed the listing of her amazing achievements. The H&G community nursery will be named in her honour.

Vote of thanks and appreciation by Richard Smith and Mark Pierson (Tennyson Dunes Group)

Guest speakers

Jeremy Miller (Regional Coordinator AdaptWest): CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

AdaptWest website <https://www.adaptwest.com.au/news> provides resources such as:

- Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) – Residential Building retrofit for climate adaptation
- Which plant where?
- Map viewer – urban heat and tree mapping Adelaide metropolitan area – you can drill down to your household
- Climate Ready 2021 – training sessions to create 'climate champions', work with Red Cross, first sessions 27 February and 13 March
- Community Survey – Feb/March 2021

See also SA Water's Cooling the community interactive map:

<https://www.sawater.com.au/education-and-community/community-and-events/cooling-the-community>

Note: Presentation will be on WACRA website <http://wacra.org.au/news-events/meetings/>

Questions:

Q: Grassed areas – to what extent do they help versus a decent canopy?

A: These are in recreational areas where there aren't trees, also quicker – an interim solution – whilst canopy is growing (understory). Canopy and grass work together.

Q: 95 percent of land covered on blocks – a problem?

A: The planning and design code is a statewide system that doesn't (yet) address this problem. The iterative nature of the code means it may be addressed. The body of work AdaptWest is involved in helps provide evidence around this, demonstration projects etc.

Jim Douglas: WACRA has been very active in this space – a member of Community Alliance and involved in the development of the code.

Q: Preciousness of water – how much work is being done to store stormwater?

A: Not enough detail to answer the question properly – there is some long-term action on this. Adelaide is one of the most water resilient cities in Australia – good stormwater recovery systems.

Q: Passive heating and cooling, eaves, colour schemes etc are not necessarily something developers care about. How much will Council planners insist on addressing these aspects?

A: Difficult to address – AdaptWest is advocating for consultants around these issues. The question is how do we do it? Climate change is going to force us to change how we build.

Q: Food shortages, social disruption, in 10-15 years may be problems. Food security issues – how can we address that?

A: Producing strong and resilient communities is the aim. People have seen what could happen during COVID (eg supermarket raids). We need community unity and confidence in government. A lot of people planted gardens – we can build on that success.

Q: Fee attached to the training sessions – is there any funding coming from councils and the state for this, and what are these sessions going to do? Are people who are trained meant to go out to the community or is council going to get those people on board to work with(in) council?

A: \$15 fee is negotiable. Climate champions are targeted at cultural and linguistically diverse groups. AdaptWest is keen to work with WACRA and other groups to work out what the interests of the community are. Council is doing advocacy work and developing a database of evidence, programs and policies, plus Red Cross is involved.

Q: What funding has been given to the AdaptWest group?

A: Wages and adaptation projects (not shown in Council budget).

Q: Is AdaptWest putting together a series of case studies to show how residents, council etc are moving towards the other end of the spectrum. What are the 'on ground' stories? People need to see examples of useful action.

A: There are lots of good stories and perhaps Council needs to get on board with that. Local projects are useful for showing what can be done. This can help developers understand a different narrative. Developers say there is no demand but this is because they are not delivering that product. The Climate Champions program (eg sustainable housing) could help with this.

Q: Are AdaptWest working with the business sector?

A: It's important to understand where this group is currently at, and what adaptation measures they may have already put in place.

Janet Willoughby (Strategic Planner Open Space, CCS): COMMUNITY VERGE DEVELOPMENT

Policy, guidelines and checklist – policy was endorsed in February (speeded up by COVID and perceived need) <https://www.charlessturt.sa.gov.au/services/home-and-property/your-verge>

‘Verge garden chat’ – initiative of the Kilkenny Guerrilla Art Group (Wilpena Terrace).

CCS website will have a design page with images and information, plus 10 for 10 plant packs through council.

Adelaide Botanic Gardens Plant Selector tool <https://www.botanicgardens.sa.gov.au/science-conservation/plant-selector>

Note: Presentation will be on WACRA website <http://wacra.org.au/news-events/meetings/>

Questions:

Q: Are food-bearing trees possible?

A: No, they are hard to maintain and they need lots of water, pruning, fruit drop etc.

Vote of thanks moved by Julie Whitehead to Jeremy Miller and Janet Willoughby

General business items

1. Coastal management

Reminder: Department for Environment and Water (DEW)'s *Securing the Future of our Coastline* strategy has 3 elements:

1. Interim sand replenishment from Semaphore/Largs to West Beach. The Spring 2020 program is complete. The next will be Autumn 2021. More sand planes and trucks on beaches and more trucks through streets to West Beach. The impact assessment by Water Technologies concluded that the process could continue with some small alterations to original volumes.
2. Mass fill of 500,000m³ of external sand onto West Beach:
 - Port Stanvac investigations continuing. 3-10million m³. DEW now undertaking core sampling by divers and getting advice on effects of dredging
 - Also mini trial of 9 samples (150 tonnes each) of quarry sand from 5 different quarries (Mt Compass, Golden Grove, Wellington and Clinton on Yorke Peninsula) last week at West Beach Parks dunes. Will be monitored for grain size, look, feel, turbidity, movement along the coast with a report by late January. DEW encourages residents to go look and give feedback.
3. Pipeline from Semaphore to West Beach:
 - An impact assessment will be conducted early in 2021. WACRA recommended Doug Lord and DEW is actively trying to engage him
 - The Coastal Reference Group (CRG) continues to ‘co-design’ the pipeline, including high-level principles to be built into the design and use of a mapping tool to make specific comments on precise locations. The next meeting in February 2021 will address intake and outlet points, location of pumping stations etc. DEW now considers Grange to be a likely intake point
 - DEW has appointed a McConnel Dowell consortium including Tonkin & Cardno. Had start-up meeting last week. They will work up some alternative models, informed by the CRG input, by mid next year, for the CRG to react to. They will attend future CRG meetings. Contractual negotiations to be concluded in 2nd half of 2021. Construction to begin 2022

WACRA will continue participation in the CRG and Impact Assessment sub-group BUT we persist with our advocacy for consideration of a wider range of solutions than just the pipeline and for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

- We continue to put that position to the Coastal Protection Board (CPB) and DEW, and they continue to resist. The latest reply from the Presiding Member of the CPB does not address our concerns and we will continue to press him (and others) for a more rigorous and science-based approach.
- Our approach has been supported by other community groups and by key respondents to a survey conducted by Square Holes research group at the request of DEW. One key finding is that there is a low level of trust in the project and a high level of scepticism amongst residents and that 'The proposed pipeline to some extent feels **imposed** on the community, rather than being the result of thoughtful and collaborative discussions/research'.
- Further support for our approach has been found in a 2020 paper prepared by five scientists from Australia, the US and the Netherlands on beach nourishment which argues for an holistic, multidisciplinary approach to coastal replenishment. We will provide that paper to CPB and DEW.

Questions:

Q: Can the report be made available?

A: Yes, we will make sure it is linked on WACRA's website <http://wacra.org.au/coastal-management/> (note that it is the abstract only, full-text is not freely available).

2. Breakout Creek

Good news – the concept plan is endorsed by Green Adelaide and Minister Speirs. A full report was endorsed by Council 14 December. Some negotiations still need to take place between Lockleys Riding Club and Green Adelaide re a management plan for the horses (exit/entry and future management). Apex Park is now being set up for the horses.

Breakout Creek development will proceed early next year.

Questions:

Q: Back flushing a few years ago due to the weir caused damage, and with climate change this will happen more often. Has this been considered?

A: Yes, it has been factored in.

3. Planning and Design Code

Vicki Chapman has put out a new draft and submissions are invited (due Friday 18 December). Community Alliance (CA) has done a lot of work on this – their submissions are on their website <http://communityalliancesa.org.au/planning-reform/>.

CA concerns:

- Public notifications not satisfactory
- Private assessors will be paid by developers so a conflict of interest
- Loss of local planning policy, lack of detail
- Urban infill policy – setback requirements reduced
- Domestic storage provisions
- Encouragement for retention of trees but a developer can pay an amount of money to substitute for tree loss (see Climate Emergency Group report, Canopy cover, page 5)

Emailing Vicki Chapman is also a useful strategy.

Questions:

Q: Does anyone think that this planning will address climate change?

A: No, but it's an improvement on the previous version.

4. Telstra tower, Grange

The tower has been approved by the Grange Bowling Club (\$18,000 per annum). Residents' **SOS Grange** Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Sosgrangeresidents/> – aim is to win over the support of Charles Sturt Council. Then it would go to the ERD court (Council against Telstra). They are using the Council's development plan policy <https://www.charlessturt.sa.gov.au/council/council-documents/plans-and-strategies/development-plan-policy> to say the tower is in an inappropriate place – it's a planning argument.

Submissions go to Council (cutoff date 15 December) who must then decide what to do about it.

Questions:

Q: Has Telstra demonstrated that there is a need for this structure?

A: No, but it is a good point

5. Antunes illegal water drain – legal action

Nothing to report

6. Linear Park

Stage 1 has been approved by the State Government who are managing this project.

A walk of Stage 2 of the pathway between Terminus street and Bournemouth street was conducted by WACRA Committee a few weeks ago. There is a surveyors' map of Stage 1 between Third Avenue and Cormorant Court that is difficult to make a comment on due to its complexities; however, WACRA will seek more details for clarification. Stage 2 has not yet got ministerial approval. There will be an extensive community consultation process but this will proceed following on from Stage 1. WACRA has been approached by other coastal groups to meet and discuss the plans.

WACRA has suggested a meandering path rather than a straight path to encourage people to slow down. But the proposal in the plan is for a linear path.

7. Climate Emergency Group (CEG)**Canopy cover**

CCS is a close second to Port Adelaide Enfield in having the worst canopy cover in metropolitan Adelaide – the latest data for public and private land canopy cover in the CCS is from 2014, then estimated to be 14%. (A current report is due in early 2021.) Increased canopy is the most cost-effective way to keep our suburbs cooler with other ecological, financial and community health benefits.

To address the canopy issue on behalf of WACRA, Kate Denton from CEG is in negotiation with CCS to seek clarification of the Council's current canopy target, policy and practice, including asking about records of missing street trees and tree replacement. Her particular focus is on Council spending and budget on canopy cover, past, present and future. Kate will work with CEG member Pedro Schultz on a document that outlines a need for Council to increase their priority and expenditure for more canopy cover and greater protection/replacement of trees. After consideration by WACRA Committee, they will present this document in a deputation to Council at its 2nd meeting January 2021. They hope to influence what goes into Council's 4-year Corporate Plan which informs the Council budget and is currently under review.

Pedro is seeking details about a tree fund designed to cover the loss of significant or registered trees. The current status of the tree fund is that a mere \$94 is allocated per tree to purchase trees or land to put trees on (through the Development Act 2016) when trees have died or been removed. Pedro is trying to find out how much money has actually been used.

Tree mapping app

Another passionate and skilled local resident, Karen Hanson, is developing a mapping application prototype aiming to collect details of existing and eventually missing or removed trees of Adelaide. Karen's idea is to use a licensed digital mapping platform to list and describe trees that the public calls significant. This may include those trees that the Development Act defines as regulated or significant based on their trunk diameter, heritage etc. This record would be made publicly available on an interactive tree mapping website that anyone could contribute to using their smart phone. Karen has already prepared a draft web platform with some local trees embedded involving Henley High school. You click on a tree symbol in the aerial map (much like Google Maps) and information is uploaded about that tree or group of trees.

This project is in an early phase but already has the interest of Conservation SA and National Trust. The app could be further developed to include information such as position details, associated pictures, species' names, height, canopy area, and a description of its heritage/cultural significance. Habitat and supported species plus a range of finer details may come later. Once there is enough data, a story map could support the cause for protecting Adelaide's big trees. Initially, a team of dedicated people would be trained to work in a designated area (likely to be CCS or Port Adelaide/Enfield). There are examples of similar data sets from interstate (eg Qld Redlands survey data sheets, National Trust data sheet, Vic tree \$ values that reach to \$100,000).

Kate will demonstrate her app at the next WACRA GM in Feb 2021. WACRA is very keen to support this venture.

National Climate Change Bill

Recently there was a call for submissions to the House Standing Committee on the Environment and Energy in respect of the climate. On behalf of WACRA, CEG placed a submission strongly arguing for a national climate change policy that meets environmental clean energy needs for the long-term future of the planet. Our submission argued for the Bill to include reference to the need for fair and adequate media coverage about climate change, incorporation of new economic models that address sustainable development, as well as equity and jobs for all, including job guarantee to workers in fossil fuel industries while building renewable energy infrastructure, and taxation as a tool to get revenue from big polluters and encourage development of carbon storage.

Our submission is available on the WACRA website <http://wacra.org.au/climate-emergency/>. A record number have responded to this Private Members Bill including individuals, associations, business and unions.

Verges

To be explored in 2021, with Kelly Mader (Coordinator of Open Space Planning Policy and Assets) and Annette Martin from CCS Finance.

8. Any other business

WACRA wishes you a merry xmas and a happy new year. We also invite you to nominate as a member of WACRA Committee at the AGM, and to be members of WACRA. Thanks for your participation and attendance.

Next meeting: Tuesday 23 February 2021

Meeting closed 9.29pm