

PRESENT

Members:

Councillor Lisa Intemann (Chair)
Alan MacIntyre (Community Rep.)
Bob Jolly (Community Rep. - Lake Cathie)
John Hough (Community Rep.)
Kingsley Searle (Oyster Industry)
Patrick McEntee (Community Rep.)
Tony Troup (Oyster Industry)
Michael Northam (DPI - Fisheries)
Kate Browning (Office of Environment and Heritage)
Matt Dawson (Maritime Division - RMS)
Ray Richards (SES)
Eric Claussen (National Parks & Wildlife Service)

Matt Rogers (PMHC)
Tim Molloy (PMHC)
Gordon Cameron (PMHC)
Dan Croft (PMHC)
Thor Aaso (PMHC)
Jesse Dick (PMHC)

Other Attendees:

Jaimee Vlastuin (Lands Department)
Steve Lawrence (SES)

The meeting opened at 3.02pm.

01 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Acknowledgement of Country was delivered.

02 APOLOGIES

Graeme Sayer (Development Industry Rep.) was absent possibly due to illness. Council to contact Graeme Sayer and confirm his status on the new committee.

Jaimee Vlastuin represented Tina Clement (Lands Departments) and Eric Claussen represented Steve Atkins (National Parks & Wildlife Service).

Matt Dawson (RMS) requested that Andre Uljee be included as a member for upcoming meetings as he is the Maritime Division - RMS representative for the Camden Haven Catchment.

A contact list of all members to be circulated when the minutes are distributed.

CONSENSUS:

That the apologies from the following members be accepted:

Councillor Sharon Griffiths,
Adrian Button (Waterways User Rep.),
Laurie Lardner (Community Rep.),
John Schmitt (OEH)
Tina Clement (Lands Department)
Steve Atkins (National Parks & Wildlife Service)
Anthony Day (SES)

03 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

CONSENSUS:

1. That the Minutes of the Hastings LGA Coast & Estuaries Sub-Committee Meeting held on 14 October 2014 be confirmed.
2. That the Minutes of the Hastings LGA Floodplain Sub-Committee Meeting held on 23 April 2015 be confirmed.

04 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Matt Rogers clarified that the conflict of interest form is provided in the agenda so that if a conflict arises the relevant member can fill out the form for that particular issue.

Cr Intemann confirmed that each member should fill out a form if there is the potential for a conflict of interest to occur as the attendance register records all members present at each meeting.

There were no disclosures of interest presented.

05 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Business Arising from Coast & Estuary Committee Meeting held on 14 October 2014:

Item 07: Members were advised that Vegetation Mapping can be obtained by contacting Thor Aaso.

Item 09.01: Patrick McEntee confirmed that he had received the Flynn's Beach Seawall design plans.

Item 09.08: Matt Rogers provided an update on the following matters:

- The Sea Level Rise mapping will be placed on Council's website when the relevant web pages are reviewed in the coming months.
- An update on the Biodiversity Strategy will be presented at the next meeting and will be listed as an ongoing item on the agenda.
- There are currently no environmental education grant projects currently in place and Council has not applied for any grant funded environmental education projects for the current financial year. Grant opportunities will be monitored and collaboration will be undertaken with SES on flood related education projects where appropriate.

Business Arising from previous Hastings LGA Floodplain Sub-Committee held on 23 April 2015:

Item 08.04: Council staff confirmed that a review of all flood related information on Council's website is being undertaken. Relevant sections of the website will be updated within coming months including the coastal management sections.

06 MERGER OF FLOOD AND COAST & ESTUARIES SUB-COMMITTEES

Cr Intemann, on behalf of the committee, paid respects to Alison Kennedy who passed away earlier in the year. Alison's contribution to the committee was greatly valued and her passing will be a loss for both the committee and the community as a whole.

Matt Rogers confirmed that letters were sent out to thank all members for their past and ongoing commitment to assisting Council in the Coast, Estuary & Floodplain field.

Matt Rogers clarified that the vacancies which were apparent at the time the merger took place would not be filled. However should any future vacancies arise, these positions will be considered for replacement.

CONSENSUS:

That the report be noted.

07 DEVELOPMENT OF DRAFT COAST, ESTUARY & FLOODPLAIN ADVISORY SUB-COMMITTEE CHARTER

There was general discussion on various aspects of the charter. It was noted that issues that have an impact in the coastal area could be considered by the committee even if the cause originated outside the coastal area.

A revised charter will be drafted by Council staff with the wording based on the previous Coast & Estuary Sub-committee charter and expanded to include floodplain related matters where appropriate. The revised charter will issued to all committee members for review and input prior reporting the charter to Council for adoption.

CONSENSUS:

That a draft Charter, based on the format of the former PMH Coast & Estuaries Sub-committee charter, be emailed to members for comment and then be reported to Council for consideration.

08 PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS FLOOD POLICY

There was general discussion on various aspects of the draft Flood Policy.

Matt Rogers and Gordon Cameron provided a background on the progress made on the Draft Flood Policy to date. Future draft documents to include highlighted changes.

CONSENSUS:

That it a recommendation to Council that the Port Macquarie-Hastings Flood Policy (September 2015) be adopted.

09 FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT, ESTUARY MANAGEMENT AND COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

There was general discussion on various projects. Members queried the status of items 19, 33, 36, 41 & 44 from the Estuary Management Plan. The status of these items to be listed as ongoing as per previous resolution.

Thor Aaso to provide the Eco Health Monitoring Report to Committee as soon as this is received.

Committee members to further review projects and contact Gordon Cameron with any comments or feedback.

CONSENSUS:

That the Committee note the remaining action items for each Coast, Estuary and Floodplain Management Plans.

10 GENERAL BUSINESS

10.01 SES Presentation:

Steve Lawrence (SES) spoke to the committee about the new SES Local Flood Plan. The documentation will be open for comment when it is placed on public exhibition on the SES website in Oct -Nov 2015.

SES will contact Council staff when the documents are on public exhibition so that the committee members can review the information and make a submission if desired.

Steve Lawrence also advised that the SES will be undertaking a 'Flood Hypothetical' education workshop at the Port Panthers on 7th November 2015 with a specific focus on the Settlement Point/North Shore area. Various flood scenarios will be discussed with the goal of creating a community response plan for the Settlement Point/North Shore precincts.

10.02 Hastings River Sediment:

Kingsley Searle noted an increased amount of sediment in the Hastings River without any readily evident reason. Thor Aaso noted that the Eco Health monitoring which is currently being undertaken should be able to detect/confirm any increased sedimentation. The results of the monitoring will be made available to committee members once it is finalised.

10.03 DPI - Fisheries:

Michael Northam (DPI - Fisheries) advised that Dr Matt Taylor (senior Research Scientist - Estuarine Studies) on behalf of DPI - Fisheries will be undertaking a federally funded research project on prawn stocks in the Camden Haven River, including Queens Lake and Watson Taylors Lake)

10.04 RMS - Maritime Division:

Matt Dawson confirmed that the RMS had issued an infringement notice for pollution from a recreational vessel in the Hastings River for effluent. It was also noted that there had been changes to the navigational markers in the Hastings River due to the Dennis Bridge/highway upgrade works.

10.05 'Blue Star' Weed Outbreak:

Alan MacIntyre alerted members to an outbreak of Blue Star '*Aristea ecklonii*' weed on four properties in the Camden Haven. Thor Aaso to follow up.

10.06 Biodiversity Strategy:

Alan MacIntyre requested an update on the status of the Vegetation Management Plan (Biodiversity Strategy). Matt Rogers & Cr Intemann provided an update on the mapping technique and scale improvements that have been made since the original Vegetation Plan had been undertaken. This has vastly improved the mapping and is ultimately providing the basis of the Biodiversity Strategy.

10.07 Flynn's Beach Seawall:

Patrick McEntee commented that his comments on the design on the Flynn's beach upgrade works had not been addressed in the final design(i.e. that wheelchair access should be located behind the rock outcrop located at the southern end of the beach). Matt Rogers advised that there are many issues which must be considered when assessing disability issues and that the location is subject to multiple criteria. Council to provide Patrick McEntee with the contact details for the project design team.

10.08 RMS Bridge Runoff - Highway Upgrade:

Patrick McEntee noted that stormwater runoff from bridges crossing the Hastings and Wilson rivers and tributaries did not appear to have adequate stormwater controls in place. Matt Dawson will provide Patrick McEntee with the contact details of the appropriate person in RMS who is looking after the bridge design for the Pacific Highway upgrade.

10.09 Prawn Stocking of Lake Cathie:

Thor Aaso noted that DPI - Fisheries are planning to undertake a trial stocking program of Eastern King Prawns in Lake Cathie. Mick Northam noted that up to 1 million prawns are planned to be released into the lake system.

The meeting closed at 4.55pm.