

**Meekatharra Rangelands Biosecurity Association Inc  
Minutes of Committee of Management Meeting  
Meekatharra Sports Complex  
11th October 2022**

**1. WELCOME AND OPENING**

Chairman Liam Johns to opened the meeting at 11:05 am

**2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

Attendance

**3.**

MRBA Members

Ashley Dowden	Challa
Liam Johns	Killara
Angus Nichols	Edah
Jarrad Blair	Milgun
Murray Pens	Mt Gould
Mayne Jenour	Jingemarra

Observers

Lindsay Stronge	DPIRD
Mike Raykos	DBCA
Sarah Jeffrey	Rangelands NRM
Harvey Nichols	Sherwood
Toby Nichols	Edah
Darren Cousens	Hillview
Chris Jenour	Jingemarra
Debbie Dowden	MRBA Interim Executive Officer
Jim Miller	DPIRD
Tracey Kreplins	DPIRD
Damien Swain	DPIRD

Apologies

Clyde Hall	Neds Creek
Rob Lefroy	Nalbarra
Ellen Rowe	Carlaminda
Reg Seaman	LPMT
Jorgen Jensen	Yoweragabbie
Greg Watters	Mt Clere
Greg Payne	Badja
John Darling	LPMT

## **Election of Committee**

**Chair:** Liam Johns, nominated by A Nichols, 2<sup>nd</sup> A Dowden

**Vice Chair:** Murray Pens nominated by A Dowden, 2<sup>nd</sup> J Blair

**Sec/Treasurer:** Mayne Jenour, nominated by A Dowden, 2<sup>nd</sup> A Nichols

The chair thanked Ashley Dowden for his contribution to the MRBA executive over the last 15 years.

### **4. DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL AND NON-FINANCIAL MATERIAL PERSONAL INTERESTS**

A Dowden declared he is the S7 retailer and provides poison for the group

### **5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING 12 October 2021 AND BUSINESS ARISING**

**Motion:**

*That the Minutes of the Committee of Management Meeting held on 15 Feb 2022 be accepted as a true and accurate record, and that the committee notes the business arising from this meeting.*

**Moved - A Dowden**

**SECONDED – A Nichols**

**CARRIED- Unanimously**

### **Business Arising**

MRVC Merger with MRBA will not proceed as the MRVC have voted against the merger.

A number of cactus populations have been identified in the region, a notable amount of it on town common.

Mike from DBCA reiterated their good neighbour policy and invited landholders to phone and speak to him if they require assistance with firebreaks being cleared around boundaries.

Traps: EO is arranging an order for traps

## 6. UPDATE FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Executive Officer updated the Committee on the following points.

1. The EO is now having monthly RBG catch up meetings via zoom.
2. The operational Plan is pending budget information and once the budget is set it will be submitted
3. Spot devices needed updating and credit card needed updating
4. Meat price for the baiting was very high this year and we were 4 tonne short
5. Poison permits need renewing

### Financial position

Balance at June 30, 2022 \$527,807.17

Balance at October 10<sup>th</sup> 2022 \$379,487.71

LFH shoot planned for Oct 2023

DPIRD CAT D firearms suspended access for LFH shoot was discussed and it is likely to be resolved in the near future.

## 7. 2021/2022 BUDGET REVIEW

The committee reviewed the budget

**Motion:** *That the amended 22/23 annual budget be endorsed.*

**MOVED - J Blair**

**SECONDED- A Nichols**

**CARRIED- Unanimously**

## 8. 2022/2023 DECLARED PEST ACCOUNT (DPA) BUDGET AND OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Operational Management Plan is still in progress and will be presented to the committee on management for an out of session decision prior to Dec 1<sup>st</sup> 2022

**Motion:** *That the 2023/2024 Declared Pest Account Budget be approved.*

**MOVED- A Dowden**

**SECONDED- M Jenour**

**CARRIED - Unanimously**

## 9. DBCA Report

Mike Raykos advised the DBCA permits should be sorted out by the end of the year.

Sausage baits will be made available to the doggers

Rack days – staff will attend all rack days and will try to find additional funds for the May 2023 baiting  
 DBCA will be working with indigenous landholders on management of their properties

#### **10. DPIRD UPDATE**

Damien Swain new biosecurity officer based in Geraldton introduced himself and explained his role. EO to be in contact with Damien

#### **11. Motion to move into camera moved by A Dowden, 2<sup>nd</sup> A Nichols to discuss the executive officer position.**

The committee agreed unanimously to appoint Margi Weir to the Executive Officer position, start date Nov 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **12. RANGELANDS NRM UPDATE**

Sarah Jeffrey updated the group on potential funding opportunities to support LFH shoots. RNRM are always happy to speak to landholders about other projects.

The possibility of funding for cat baiting was discussed. Tracey Kreplins stated the density of cats in the MRBA area is higher than the national average. MRBA would be very keen to participate in feral cat control if additional funding could be sourced.

#### **13. Bank signatory motion:** that new executive officer Margi Weir and new secretary/treasurer Mayne Jenour be added to the Bendigo Bank account as a signatories and Margi Weir obtains a visa debit card associated with that account for use in MRBA transactions.

**Moved - A Dowden**

**Seconded - A Nichols.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **14. The meeting discussed returning to two baitings a year. The committee are very keen to return to two baitings and the new executive officer is encouraged to source any additional and external funding to make this possible.**

The committee agreed that a new baiting program to target foxes and cats would be highly desirable if funding can be obtained. According to Tracey Kreplins, the MRBA region has the highest density of feral cat population in the nation. She added that foxes in the MRBA region are increasing in numbers now that we are only baiting once a year. Baiting is important for mallee fowl protection, night parrot protection, and protection of other endangered species.

#### **15. TRAINING COURSES**

There is a dire need for more training courses for LPMTs and pastoral injector training. The committee discussed the possibility of MRBA becoming a registered training organisation (RTO) and with the support of Jon Hehir, to run LPMT and landholder injector training courses. The meeting agreed that this would be very beneficial for the group.

**Motion:**

That the executive may approve the MRBA applying to become an RTO. A costing and plan will be presented to AWI to see if they would be happy for the MRBA to use the balance of their training course funding for this program,

**Moved - A Dowden  
Blair.**

**Seconded - J**

**CARRIED – Unanimously**

**16. Tracey Kreplins**

Presented on her wild dog research

**17. RATE INCREASE**

This was discussed and the lines of communication need to be kept open with the Department in the event of a CPI higher than 10%.

**18. DOGGER COORDINATOR REPORTS**

<b>ACTIVITY SINCE OCTOBER 2021</b>				
<b>CONTRACTOR</b>	<b>DAYS</b>	<b>#DOGS</b>	<b>#BAITS</b>	<b>OTHER</b>
Greg Scott	93	82		
Reg Seaman	163	81		
Kris Pascoe		77		
John Heir	156	143		
John Darling	177	87		
John Mahony	39	36		

It was noted that we need another dogger in the Doolgunna or Yagahorn area.

**19. INDICATIVE BAIT RACK DATES 2023**

2023 - Autumn Dates

May baiting – dates to be confirmed with Rack Co-ordinators

**20. GENERAL BUSINESS**

Debbie Dowden presented her History of the MRVC Cell Fence Booklet and invited people to take a copy.

**21. CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING DATE.**

The Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and wished everyone a safe trip home.

The next Committee of Management Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> Feb in Meekatharra commencing at 9.30am.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 4:20