

**Meekatharra Rangelands Biosecurity Association Inc
MINUTES
Committee of Management Meeting
Meekatharra Sports Complex
14th February 2023**

1. WELCOME AND OPENING

Chairman Liam Johns opened the meeting at 9.38am

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Present:

MRBA Committee Members

Liam Johns (Chair)
Mayne Jenour (Secretary/Treasurer)
Angus Nichols
Greg Watters
Ashley Dowden
Clyde Hall
Jorgen Jensen
Jarrad Blair
Rob Lefroy

Observers

Damien Swain (DPIRD)
Jim Miller (DPIRD)
Reg Seaman (LPMT)
Toby Nichols
Darren & Kim Cousens
Harvey Nichols
Peter Savage
Chris Jenour

Margi Weir (EO)

Apologies

Murray Pens (Vice Chair), Corey Folezzani (Committee Member), Suzanne Maguire, Weldon Percy, Les Price, Phil Price, Michael Raykos (DBCA)

3. DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL AND NON-FINANCIAL MATERIAL PERSONAL INTERESTS

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

Rack Coordinators – coordinate the bait rack days and distribution of baits in their area:

- Ashley Dowden
- Liam Johns
- Peter Savage

Dogger Coordinators – coordinate the activity of doggers in their area and approve reports and invoices prior to payment:

- Ashley Dowden
- Liam Johns
- Jorgen Jensen

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING 12 October 2022 AND BUSINESS ARISING

Motion:

The Minutes of the Committee of Management Meeting held on 11 October 2022 be accepted as a true and accurate record, and that the committee notes the business arising from this meeting.

MOVED: Jarrad Blair

SECONDED: Jorgen Jensen

CARRIED

Business Arising

Traps: Jorgen Jensen organised an order of traps through Western Trapping Supplies. Cost was \$11,118.00. Additional chain will need to be purchased from DTS.

LPMT Training (AWI funding): Is there a possibility to use this funding to support Jon Hehir to provide the landholder training? EO to check with AWI for this.

LFH Shoot planned for October 23 – is this still going ahead? Damien Swain (DPIRD) gave an indication that firearms permissions will be cleared and OK to go ahead.

Chair asked if there is still a need for LFH cull in the northern area? Clyde Hall advised that aerial operators do still see plenty of donkeys, some camels. Chair to ring Krystie Bremer CRBA re Carnarvon's LFH operations.

5. UPDATE FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

- Operational Plan for 2022/2023 was submitted; however, further adjustments to budget figures meant that this is still pending. Operational Plan now meets the format requirements of DPIRD and this will make future plans easier to complete.
- Operational Plan for 2023/2024 will be submitted as soon as DPIRD give approval for previous year's plan and once 2023/2024 budget is reviewed.
- Reporting for Royalties for Regions / Wild Dog Action Plan funds is due now, along with next invoice.
- Meat order has been lodged with Pets Meat Suppliers; need confirmed amounts and dates for delivery to each bait rack station.
- NEED TO GET 3 TO 4 QUOTES FROM SUPPLIERS FOR BAIT MEAT
- Grants available through DPIRD: Capacity Building and Research, open now, closing October 1, 2023, up to \$3K.
- Grants available through DPIRD: Competitive R&D grants (WA WDAP 2021 – 25), closing March 3, 2023, minimum \$20K, maximum \$100K.
- **DBCA**
 - MoU
 - Operations on DBCA managed land
 - Impact of this on future R4R funds for LPMTs
 - Much correspondence with DBCA regarding wild dog control on their properties.
 - Need to approach ministers and/or DBCA from MRBA, CRBA and GNRBA. Ask a direct question – do you want dogs controlled on this land? Why? What is the reason? Go to Nigel Sercombe first. BAM Act requires land owners to managed declared pests. Are DBCA exempt? Then go to Minister with the argument.
- **Motion:** MRBA's EO write to DBCA demanding clarification on contractual arrangement for management of wild dogs on DBCA land.
Moved: Ashley Dowden
Seconded: Angus Nichols
CARRIED

6. 2023/2024 BUDGET REVIEW

6.1 As of 31st January 2023, the cash balance in the MRBA account was \$257,948.06. This includes funds from the Declared Pest Account through DPIRD and other sources such as the Wild Dog Action Plan / Royalties for Regions, AWI, etc.

Recommendation: *That the 23/24 annual budget cannot yet be finalised as DBCA's changing approach to management of wild dogs means we cannot make firm estimates.*

6.2 Superannuation for LPMTs

Payment of Superannuation to LPMTs is still an issue that requires clarification.

Motion: EO to contact legal advisor for clarification on superannuation obligations to LPMT contractors.

Moved: Ashley Dowden

Second: Angus Nichols

CARRIED

7. DPIRD UPDATE

Damien:

- LFH cull authorisations should be cleared by next month;
- Damien is located in DPIRD Geraldton not far from MRBA EO's office so good opportunities for collaboration;
- Please raise any concerns directly with Damien;
- Asked for DPIRD's views on ACH Act Damien said that he cannot comment on behalf of department.

8. DOGGER COORDINATOR REPORTS

ACTIVITY SINCE August 2022				
CONTRACTOR	DAYS	#DOGS	#BAITS	OTHER
Greg Scott	54	10T		1 Cat
Reg Seaman (Mt Magnet)	60	22T		7 Cat
John Heir	105	24T	1020	6 Donkey
Tim Mahony (Yagahorn)	25	3T	600	1 Cat
John Mahony	12	11T, 2S	-	2 Cat 3 Camels
<i>Reg Seaman (Paynes Find North)</i>	33	13T		11 Cat
<i>Kris Pascoe</i>	39	7T	-	5 Cat 1 Fox
<i>John Darling</i>		20T, 1S		
<i>Tim Mahony (Doolgunna)</i>	23	2T		5 Camels 1 Horse
TOTAL DOGS		115		

Note: This is an incomplete summary as some doggers' reports have been mislaid in the period between the past and current EO roles. EO will confirm with each dogger for correct figures.

9. INDICATIVE BAIT RACK DATES 2023

2023 – Autumn Dates

Killara: Friday 19th May
 Yarlarweelor: Monday 22nd May
 Ilgararie: No Autumn baiting
 Delivery to Sherwood for Killara, Ilgararie, Yarlarweelor

Melangata: Tuesday 23rd May
 Delivery to Yalgoo Shire

Pullagaroo: Monday 22nd May
 Challa: Wednesday 24th May
 Yarraquin: Friday 26th May
 Delivery to Mt Magnet – Pullagaroo, Challa and Yarraquin

2023 – Spring Dates

Melangata: Saturday 23rd September

Ilgararie: Thurs 14th & Fri 15th September
 (Chandra at Bulloo coordinating)
 Killara: Monday 25th September
 Yarlarweelor: Saturday 7th October

Pullagaroo: Tuesday 26th September
 Yarraquin: Tuesday 26th September
 Challa: Thursday 28th September

These are indicative dates subject to change by Rack Coordinators.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

PIGS: Noticed on Mt Clere

Recommend that MRBA write to Peter Adams DPIRD requesting neighbouring properties control feral pigs on their properties.

Similar to donkeys out of Boolardy and Manfred, moving into Kalli and then Belele country. Might be worth talking to Murchison Shire regarding CSIRO / SKA obligations given that they are a landholder and are still obliged to control declared pests.

LPMT Rates:

Recommended: \$600/day (plus GST) for a 10 hour day, however, the budget actuals need to be updated and then forecast budget confirmed, prior to revising LPMT rates.

Also need to revise and update LPMT Contracts.

Committee Members:

Clyde Hall still keen to stay on committee.

Murray Pens likely to be retiring from committee in near future.

S7 Poison Retailer:

Ashley Dowden: seeking someone else to take on the S7 Retailer business.

Mt Magnet Compound:

Peter Savage: Access to compound at Mt Magnet? Situation arose where Peter planned a collection from the compound, but on arriving found that the only person with the key to access this was out of town. Needs to be clarified as to who provides this access, and ensure that if that person is absent, that there is a back-up.

Minister Jarvis:

Jorgen: Need to keep contacting Minister / Policy Advisor / Chief of Staff for a meeting with Minister Jackie Jarvis. EO to email weekly.

WDAP/R4R/DBCA Land:

EO: to talk to Tim Thompson FIRST regarding WDAP / R4R funding. Ask him about the need to manage / control BUFFER ZONES around DBCA managed lands, and ongoing funds to do this work.

11. 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 and AGM is scheduled for Tuesday 17th October 2023 in Meekatharra commencing at 9.30am.

The Chairman closed the meeting at: 2.40 pm