

MINUTES OF MEETING (Final)

STRATHALBYN COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday 21 May @ 7.00 pm
Senior Citizens Hall, 6 Parker Avenue, Strathalbyn

PRESENT:

Charles Irwin (Chair) Sue Jettner (SJ) Malcolm Twartz Adrian Pederick (AP)
Ann Woolford (AW) Mark Dale (MD) (MT) Rhonda McCarthy (RM)
Merri Tothill - Sec Mike Farrier (MF)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE DEVELOPMENT (DSD) (PREVIOUSLY DMITRE):

Antonia Scrase (AC) Greg Mitchell (GM) Diona Antonas (DA)

TERRAMIN:

Matt Daniel Joe Ranford Mike O'Reilly Katie Fetchner

EPA:

Greg Tyczenko

APOLOGIES:

Fred Carrangis, Julia Currie, Ben Brazzalotto

Gallery – 10 people

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

Charles Irwin opened the meeting at 7pm and welcomed everyone. Special welcome to Greg Tyczenko - the new EPA rep.

Apologies recorded as above.

2. REVIEW OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The previous minutes (19 February 2015) have been circulated.

Amendments to minutes:

- spelling – Peter Dinning – CEO Alexandrina Council – (page 2; 3 and Action List page 17)
- spelling - Katie Fetchner
- LMA – (Page 11)

Minutes accepted with changes.

Matters arising from previous minutes - see Action List at end of the minutes on page 17.
Chair has written to Peter Dinning CEO and Alexandrina Council. Chair has copy of letters.
All other matters to be covered as part of agenda.

3. Chairman Mr Charles Irwin: Resignation / Process for Appointment of new Chair

Greg Mitchell DSD reported the following:-

The process as decided last meeting has been followed to a point. Selection panel formed consisting of Martin Janes (Terramin), Greg Mitchell (DSD) Mike Farrier (SCCC) and Ann Woolford (Council).

Identified candidates in conjunction with current Chair. These people were rung to see if willing to provide CV. Panel met to discuss but have not recommended a particular selection.

Minister has been briefed on process including all names of candidates and he is currently considering this. A committee member's view point privately submitted is also being considered by Minister. However, this was more than 1 month ago.

Question – Was a recommendation to the Minister made by the Selection Panel ?

Answer - No. the Minister has five names and he will make the decision.

DSD will follow up, hopefully obtaining an answer soon.

Current Chair has not been involved. Current Terms of Reference state that it is a Ministerial appointment. However, noted that there is a considerably higher stakeholder investment in 8 years since the committee was formed.

As this is Charles's last meeting as Chair, the SCCC will be without a Chair as at end of this meeting. Hopefully it will be sorted by next meeting in August. If not Deputy Chair- Fred Carrangis will need to take on the role.

4. DSD: COMPLIANCE OVERVIEW - Compliance and Inspections report Site Inspections and Compliance updates - Antonia Scrase

Visited site recently.

- Noted that have been fires at site (hay bales). These have been moved so can't happen again.
- TSF – slight drop in level.
- New contractor doing weeding. No other activity on site.

5. PEPR AND CLOSURE STATUS

Diona Antonas (see copy of presentation on DSD website).

Includes an update since last meeting, PEPR technical review and Where to next.

Assessment

- PEPR received in Dec 2014 and reviewed in Jan 2015.
- Technical reviews completed by DSD; Consultant; DEWNR and EPA.
- Technical/ formal assessment made and sent back to Terramin this week, Tuesday 19 May.
- Conclusion is that PEPR going in right direction but the letter from DSD outlines alterations required before resubmission.

Examples of clarification required include provision of appendices and FMEA failures including how Terramin will be working towards addressing risks.

Examples of alterations/further information required include TSF information - more detail on engineering design; surface water management – seepage assessment and long term stability, and addressing net percolation – addressing if it works its way through the tails and whether this matters?

Ground water model to be up dated to include tailings drainage as a source. Note that all points link and are interdependent.

Question – Long term stability – what is that? 10 years – 100 years – 1,000 years

Answer – Everyone asks this. 100 years plus taken into consideration in the modelling. Joe R – Terramin modelling based on 1,000 years.

Further works required includes:-

Additional data on erosion; analysis of data, including on drainage, more information on models for erosion and groundwater

Next steps:

Terrain received feedback on Tuesday and need to address this.

At the next SCCC meeting DSD will provide full written technical review for discussion. Terramin will have a way forward, (not just raw data).

Question – Noting that TSF cover is cutting edge technology, are the questions posed by DSD answerable?

Answer – Yes, clarification is required to make sure everything possible is considered. So by addressing the next steps, Terramin will be in a better position. This is definitely best practice and what DSD is asking for is a base level of information. It is vital that questions answered. Emphasis is on site specific (as this technology is used around the world). Important that the information provided is detailed enough so DSD is confident that it will work.

Question – A hypothetical – if Bird in Hand Mine goes ahead, are the current operations and TSF changes a waste of time?

Answer – We are addressing what we have here and now. DSD does not yet have a Bird in Hand Mine proposal. Joe R – the basic design needs to work, regardless of when the closure occurs. This work is still worthwhile even if Bird in Hand Mine goes ahead.

DSD is committed to completion of a closure plan, as the site is currently is, regardless of Bird in Hand.

Question – Has all of the preliminary work done?

Answer – Yes, this has been assessed as part of the technical review and feedback given to Terramin. Terramin need to address this and resubmit the PEPR and it will be reviewed again.

The Land Management Agreement (LMA) is with the Crown Solicitor. We want to get it right, so this is being worked on.

Care and Maintenance Plan is approved.

Closure plan/PEPR – still in process.

Environment Monitoring Plan – to be done when LMA and Closure Plan/PEPR finalised.

Still waiting for information but progressing in right direction. Do not have final technical review documents.

6. TERRAMIN: UPDATE AND REVIEW (see copy of presentation on website)

Update – Joe Ranford

At Premier's Awards for *Environmental Excellence in Mining*, awarded at the *SACOME Annual Resource Dinner* on 13th April 2015, a Special Commendation was awarded to Terramin for the work undertaken for the TSF Phytocap Cover design, including vegetation cover trials, landfill cover soil moisture test work, geotechnical soil test work and the conceptual design for the Phytocap.

Key points for Quarter 1

Closure Plan feedback received from Regulator. Currently working through a list of issues that need to be clarified from the Regulators. Formal feedback from Regulator only received Tuesday 19 May 2015.

Four spot fires along AZM boundary and across the road, have been attended by CFS in February/March, not caused by Terramin. No damage to infrastructure but trees burnt and to be replaced in Winter 2015. Reported to police and Regulator as required.

Non-mine related noise queries from people living in the town who rang up and reported noise but the mine is closed down so not mine related.

Terramin Upcoming Activities

Lime continues to be stored onsite.

Normet trials - research and development of equipment

Bird in Hand Mine pre-feasibility and baseline environmental monitoring continues.

Quarterly Environment Report No 31, Jan to Mar 2015- Environment and Community Superintendent, Matt Daniel.

Apologies that Dust Deposition - PM10 left out of last QER.

Environment News at AZM

- Care and Maintenance (C&M) Plan approved 23rd March 2015
- 2014 MARCR submitted and currently being reviewed by DSD
- Annual TSF audit completed in February and arsenic trends in TSF D confirmed to be endemic to the region
- School leaver employed to help with weed management around site and implement weed management plan
- All environmental monitoring as per C&M Plan continuing
- Groundwater model being updated

Presentation on points of interest that relate to feedback from DSD.

1. Mine void recharge is close to what aiming for, mitigation strategies been successful. Putting water back in to limit oxidisation.

Question – Diagram on Power Point shows that most are filled?

Answer – Yes, most are filled with 93% paste, aiming for rest with water as quickly as possible.

Question – How has the bore been “constrained”?

Answer – The top was hit by a large truck and so have limited access. Need to dig down at least 4m to rectify.

2. Seepage flow rates and TSF decant pond volume.

Seepage water has to go through the plastic liner to register, leaving behind elements such as zinc and lead. The power point presentation has provided a snap shot but Terramin will do further analysis.

3. FMEA Risk Assessment of leakage of TSF over 1000 years.

Worst case scenario would be TSF decant water quality, not seepage water quality, with no HDPE liner at base and decant pond at highest volume (17ML)

Haven't allowed for proven ability of the soil to neutralise some acidity and to lock up metals through adsorption. If worst case scenario is used, the water will be within background parameters if it reaches the Angas River (≈424 years).

4. Ecosystem Function Analysis

Uses four sites to assess landscape function; erosion and vegetation, including control site – Betty Westwood Reserve. Repeated over time and provides evidence that a site is recovering from an impact (such as mining). It is a diagnostic tool and provides evidence that sustainability is being achieved.

2014 Key Points

Soil surface indices are positive; erosion in transects is limited; vegetation is growing well.

Recommendation for improvement – do 2 transects at each site to improve statistical strength.

Outlook – 2015

Environmental monitoring as per Care and Maintenance Plan; National Pollution Index report; continuing Ecosystem Function Analysis; Closure Plan feedback incorporation and infill planting during winter 2015.

Question – Zinc and lead content: why is there a difference between water in TSF and that measured on top of (lower) liner via drains?

Answer – There are seepage drains in between the two liners.

Question – But is the difference due to movement through the TSF silt above the upper liner or is it due to seepage through the black plastic liner?

Answer - If it is just black liner, then if that breaks down.

Question – The upper liner is slightly porous, can water can get through?

Answer – Yes. **Relates to net percolation and will take this question on notice.**

7. Terramin: Community Engagement - Newsletter; Website and any other publicity

Newsletters from Woodside – may be available at a later date.

Request that have a photograph with current Chair and rest of group.

8. Other Business/Round Table Discussion

Council Representative has been ratified by Alexandrina Council – see Action Item up date.

New Terms of Reference – Not yet circulated by DSD. Now to be left for new Chair to deal with but not too late for SCCC members to provide further feedback.

Round Table discussion

AP –commendation to Terramin for wining award. Plant and equipment – is it in care and maintenance mode and if so, how long to get up and running again if required?

JR – 6 months to get it up and running, if 12 months after approval, then maybe replacements will required.

MT – is future use still in limbo?

Yes.

JR – thanks to Charles for representing the team over the years, want to give due recognition for chairing committee, appreciate opinions and effort, it's not easy job and have seen lot of people come and go.

Presentation of special “rock” to Charles.

GM – on behalf of DSD, thanks to Charles, Chairperson since 2007. He had good credentials and recommendation from Dean Brown and lots of experience that has been appreciated. He has guided the group during some difficult times and so wish him all the best. Ted also passes on his gratitude.

SJ –Thank you, all the best for the future.

AP – as Local Member of Parliament, thank you Charles for your input. You must have nerves of steel. Thank you for your leadership.

CI – Thank you. Thank you to the regulators, including Hans Bailiht for his decade of extraordinary service. Thanks too to Terramin for taking on this challenge and diversifying the local economy; the past eight years has seen the company go through a change in corporate culture and it is now a very different Terramin and for the better.

Most importantly, thanks to the community members of the SCCC for your unflinching interest, your time and your exceptional effort. We have come a long way since the stakeholders sat on different sides of the room. The Committee is a group of volunteers and your effort is a measure of your commitment to and concern for your community, and not just for your own lifetimes.

More broadly, this group has consolidated a useful precedent for the future that may become increasingly important if early colonial mines are reworked given their proximity to now-substantial settlement and the diversity of current neighbouring interests. The expertise developed in this committee will be useful in the future.

Good luck. Thanks to Don and Ruth.

Meeting closed 8.20pm.

Next Meeting 19 November 2015 at 7:00pm, Parker Ave. Hall. (NB scheduled meeting on 20 August postponed).