

Goolawah Co-operative General Meeting Minutes

11 June 2022

Commence: 9:05

Minute Taker: Rose Mahar

Chairperson: Craig Singleman

Acknowledgement of Country Yahway - Barri Dhungatti

Housekeeping: Reminder regarding meeting etiquette (Rule 49 Standing Orders at GMs). Craig requested that everyone sit in the circle so that everyone can be seen and that individual members raise their hands to call a point of order.

COVID: check current restrictions before attending the GM, please don't attend if you are unwell.

Voting: Inactive members are not permitted to vote at a GM either in person or via proxy (Rule 41).

Attendance: Jenny Skinner, Lee Albert, Jac Larsen, Mog Leech, Alwyn 'Alby' Hunter, Stephen Campbell, Natalie Lawler, Marty Cole, Gordon Hook, Mark Doonan, Alexandra Gonzalez, Peter Wells, Nicola Hore, Aliya Aamot, Shantellea Byron-Cvetkovski, Leah Skinner, Wayne Ellis, Belinda Ball, Rob Hewitt, Chris Jones, Jim Ronchetti, Anna Du Chesne, Andrew Barson, Samantha Wong, Christina Meyer, Justine Shaw, Sainttina de Moleay, Mark Green, Marc Rosenstedt, Rose Mahar, Larry Knight

Directors: Kevin Harper, Wayne Skinner, Bron Little, Nick Reid, Craig Singleman, Cindee Pascoe

Apologies: Ralph van Hulst, Elizabeth Locke, Ric Marie, Adam Cvetkovski, Denise Cobourn, Dennis Cobourn, Roger Ball, Steve Hall, Ralph Erthel, John Tennock, John Brumpton

Visitors: Janet Hope, Libby Stewart, John Robson

Confirmation of previous General Meeting Minutes: (Chairperson)

PROPOSAL: To accept the previous minutes (signed by Chairperson)

PROPOSED: Wayne Skinner

SECONDED: Rose

APPROVED

Call for any New Business?

To be discussed in General Business if time permits.

Treasurer's Report

PROPOSAL: To accept the Treasurer's report

PROPOSED: Wayne Skinner

SECONDED: Kev

APPROVED

Work Claims:

No work claims

Business arising:

Landcare Report update: (Landcare Group - Craig)

- On Tuesday 14th June there will be a fire management workshop on cultural burning run by LLS and Coffs Harbour Aboriginal Land Council. A few co-op members will be attending.
- Craig has continued to liaise with LLS regarding a koala habitat grant of up to \$20000. It would be for the next financial year. The money will be managed by Macleay Landcare and will then be allocated for work at G. No decision on how it would be spent has yet been made. It could be used for firefighting equipment, fencing, weeding etc..
- The Landcare grant of \$5000 is being used to eradicate camphor laurel. A lot of it involves physical removal and larger trees are poisoned using tree injection.
- Representatives of the Nature Conservation Council in conjunction with the RFS are planning to visit in July in order to plan a workshop on hazard reduction for next Autumn. Denise and Michael Clancy are working on this program. (see below)

Hotspots Fire Project

<https://hotspotsfireproject.org.au/>

The Hotspots Fire Project is an education and training program the Nature Conservation Council runs with the NSW Rural Fire Service to increase understanding of the role of fire in the bush and how it can be best managed for a variety of outcomes.

The 2 day workshop gives landholders the knowledge and skills they need to develop fire management plans and conduct burns that reduce the risk of dangerous wildfire damaging their property, while also enhancing wildlife habitat.

Directors Meeting: Minutes posted to the Web 14 April 2022.

Finance Committee Meeting: Minutes posted to the Web 4 May 2022.
A Draft budget has also been posted awaiting feedback.
The final budget will be put to the AGM on August 13 2022 for approval via a Special Resolution.
Members are encouraged to review the draft budget in preparation for the AGM in August.

Membership Committee Meeting: Minutes posted to the Web 27 April 2022.
DA Committee Meeting: Minutes posted

Secretary's Report: A few membership and land enquiries.

Insurances via our Brokers Coverforce have been paid. The costs were:

Insurance	2021/22	2022/23
Business Insurance :	\$2064.23	\$2922.92
Management liability:	\$1487.43	\$1487.43

Note: Because of the horse on the property we are limited to QBE as other insurers will not cover Goolawah or are exceedingly expensive. As it stands QBE will not cover damage caused by the horse. Wayne is following up on why the increase in Business insurance has occurred.

There was some discussion about the liability of having horses on the property and how that impacts both the cost of and the choice of insurance. Tarrik has stated he will obtain horse insurance before he brings the horse on Goolawah property.

Clarification was also provided by Wayne in respect to Goolawah by-laws. Horses are only permitted on the members site and not Goolawah common land. Insurance must be obtained before the horse is permitted on the Tarrik's site.

DA Report: (Wayne)
Directions Hearing scheduled on 23 May.
S34 Conciliation Conference scheduled for 9 August.
Refer to Finance report for budget update.

Proposal:

That Goolawah Cooperative provide authority to the representative members of the board who attend the Conciliation Conference on 9 August to agree or disagree with Kempsey Shire Council response to our DA Amendment T6-02-109 Rev 4.

Proposed by: Wayne Skinner

Seconded by: Nick Reid

Rationale:

The courts require that the representatives at the Conference must have authority to make decisions in regards to the conference. The implications are that Council may refuse to negotiate and leave Goolawah with the decision to either accept Councils refusal or continue to court action. The costs for court action are detailed in our Lawyers cost agreement 31.3.22. The additional costs to go to Court could be up to \$147,000 so this decision cannot be taken lightly. The costs to accept refusal could be up to \$800,000.

However, Council may agree to something in between, for example, only sealing where houses exist on Nevertire. Cost for that per the GME quote for the first stage was \$250,000.

Calculation of costs for roads would be as follows:

Nevertire Road \$530,000 plus 10%, plus Supervising engineers \$10,000 - 20,000.

Illa Langi road - \$100,000

Internal Crown road - \$100,000

Total costs approximately \$800,000.

There was a long discussion about this proposal and the relative merits of the different courses of action open to us. Only 2 people thought we should just accept the council's requirement that we seal Nevertire Road.

VOTE:

FOR: 31 AGAINST: 0 ABSTAIN: 2

Road Report: (Kevin)

Contractors engaged. Awaiting clear weather.

Note: The community should be aware that we have had feedback from our contractors regarding members approaching them. This has caused some consternation leading to loss of contractor services. As such, we ask that no

Member has contact with engaged contractors without the written approval of the board and that members, other than those authorized, do not speak with the contractors while they are performing services for Goolawah. If any member wishes to contact Goolawah Contractors, they must ensure they are not representing Goolawah Cooperative's interests.

Gorilla road work by Dave and Clint – they are doing a good job on the internal roads. Vote of thanks for Clint, Dave and others who have worked on the roads. Work by Dekka meant to commence next week. No final quotes have been received yet due to the increase in fuel costs. They will come as 3 separate quotes for Illa Langi, Nevertire and internal roads. Neighbours have been contacted to apologise for the delays in maintaining our access roads.

Machinery Report: (Kevin and Ralph) Postponed

Membership Report: (Cindee/Justine)

Progress of current applications:-

1a. Community review of Anadean Douglas and Jay Keenan Membership Application (Trinh/Justine/Cindee). All positive.

1b. Proposal: To vote for Anadean Douglas and Jay Keenan to be eligible for membership of Goolawah Cooperative.

Rationale: Jay and Anadean have completed all requirements of the membership process and are eligible for membership.

APPROVED

2a. Community review of John Robson's Membership Application (Ish/Cindee). Discussion noted some negative comments relating to John's application but it was decided that voting was appropriate at this time.

2b. Proposal: To vote for John Robson to be eligible for membership of Goolawah Cooperative.

Rationale: John has completed all requirements of the membership process and is eligible for membership.

DECLINED

3. Janet Hope (Marty/Cindee) Choosing to be Guest of a Member (Steve Campbell) rather than membership. Awaiting signed application and police check for approval. (Marty)
4. Jonathan Matterson & Hazel Ortega, with Emily (Justine/Ish); presently too busy to continue membership process
5. Ginny Reid (Ish/Justine) - no new information
6. Andy Ellen & Belinda Elliot (Marty/Ish) - not in a hurry
7. Libby Stewart (Justine/Marty) has been contacted by Justine, application posted to our website. Attended the June meeting. Justine to follow-up on Libby's intentions.

Fire and Flood Report: (Craig)

It is a good time to burn off and clear sites. After an exceptional growing season there is a huge fuel load so members are reminded to maintain their sites. It was pointed out that the road behind Red Hill and adjoining Chris Robbins' place is becoming overgrown with saplings and may need mulching. Normal reviews re ongoing fire safety will happen in due course.

Rule Breach, Complaints and Dispute Policy: (Wayne and Nick) Postponed Discussion. This is to be put to the community as a special resolution for change.

Roles and Responsibilities: (Wayne) Postponed
To update to include Project Managers.

Project Updates:

Camp Kitchen Disabled Toilet. (Wayne)

Men's shed has painted and started work on the bleachers and railings.
Gratitude round for men's shed.

Red Hill Playground Safety project. (Wayne)

Wayne has put up signs and the areas for edging and softfall have been marked out.

Red Hill Playground project. (Marty)

A working bee was held and a lot of logs were barked and trimmed to make stepping stones for the playground. The men's shed removed the old damaged shade sails. Next step is to dig holes for the logs. Once the logs have been put in place some of the budgeted money will be spent on purchasing new equipment.
Vote of thanks to all who attended the working bee.

Red Hill Boomerang Garden. (Jac)

There has been some damage from wallabies, roos and frost. Alby and Jac have been working on the garden near the playground. Rob has a lot of tube stock available but new planting will be delayed until after the last frost. Bark from the playground logs available for mulching.

Red Hill Last Resort project. (Steve)

Very little progress has been made lately. The internal cladding is ready to go. Steve is researching products for sealing the walls and the earth floor. Jay has offered to complete work inside the turret. More volunteers are needed.

Approved Works Register Proposal: (Nic) Postponed

General Business:

1. Nominations for directors for AGM.

Nominations for directors have been called. Please provide your nomination to the Secretary. Nominations close 2 weeks prior to the AGM date. The community will be notified again at least 6 weeks prior to the AGM. Some confusion exists about the form requiring qualifications – all that is needed is that the prospective director is over 18 and is a member of the co-operative.

Kevin formally announced he will retire as a director at the AGM.

2. Survey (Kev)

There were 20 written responses to the survey from 65 handed out. Kev has put together a summary of suggestions etc. for discussion with directors and the broader community. Leah also reported on the vision circle held recently. This was seen as a very positive event and most people were eager for more such opportunities to express their opinions outside formal meetings. Suggestions were made that these vision circles could possibly be held bimonthly and on a weekend so that more people could attend. Round of gratitude to Leah for instigating this event.

3. Animal Management Plan (Dan)

Dan spoke about his animal management plan in which he proposes to allow his girlfriend to bring a dog onto his site for up to 3 days once every 2 weeks. The dog would be kept indoors or contained at all times.

There was a lot of discussion about this. As it contravenes our by-laws it would require a special resolution to change it. Dan was encouraged to first of all seek approval from his immediate neighbours and then bring a formal proposal to a subsequent meeting. Some points from the discussion:-

- As a community we are trying to establish ourselves as a koala sanctuary. As such, allowing dogs works against that.
- It would set a precedent to allow others to bring in dogs. This would require a lot of rules and policing.

- Dogs are used to hunt pigs.
- One neighbour was reported to have claimed that HIS dogs had no adverse affects on koalas breeding.
- In the past there have been proposals put forward to allow visiting dogs. These were defeated.
- In the past a member who had a dog made a request on compassionate grounds but was turned down by the co-op.

4. Sainttina.

Wanted to know if meetings could be or were recorded electronically. She also requested a full contact list of all sites and members details. It was suggested she avail herself of the Who's Who list compiled for new members. Access to the share register is inappropriate as it would contravene privacy regulations.

5. Nick's dam. (Responding to concerns raised by some members over the approval of Nick's new dam, and the level of the Frog Hollow dam.)

- Nick pointed out that, contrary to the points raised at the April GM, the new dam on his lot had been approved by the directors, community input was sought, and in the absence of any concerns, was given approval. Nick expressed his puzzlement that the only dam targeted for criticism concerning process was also the only dam for which the official process had been followed.

- Nick explained that the spillway of the Frog Hollow dam had been switched to the NW end, so that any overflow ran into the new dam and then into the forest, rather than directly into the forest. The spillway level is at the same height as before, so any drop in Frog Hollow dam water level can now only be due to evaporation or pumping.

Meeting end time: 12:45

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Camp Kitchen on 13th August 2022 at 9am.