



MINUTES

Wild Dog Management Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 12 May 2021

**MINUTES OF WINTON SHIRE COUNCIL
WILD DOG MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE WINTON SHIRE COUNCIL SUPPER ROOM
ON WEDNESDAY, 12 MAY 2021 AT 3.02PM**

1 COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

The Chair, Mr Ben Ogg welcomed everyone present including special guest Robert Ellis and declared the meeting open at 3.02pm.

2 PRESENT

Ben Ogg (Chair), John Banning (Deputy Chair), Ricki Bruhn (CEO), Geoff Cox (Rural Lands Manager), Cr Cathy White, Cr Anne Seymour, Leah Mitchell, Bret Elliot, Rob Banning, Andrew Richardson, Shane Axford, Frank McKerrow, David Baker, Suneil Adhikari (Director of Works), Karen Bates (Works Administration).

IN ATTENDANCE:

Robert Ellis, Michael Kaminski OTB Spatial.

3 APOLOGIES

Cr Gavin Baskett, Harry Elliott, Adele Pentland, Ray Foxwell.

21.05.01

Moved: Shane Axford

Seconded: Cr Anne Seymour

THAT the apologies be accepted.

CARRIED

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

21.05.02

Moved: Shane Axford

Seconded: Bret Elliot

THAT the minutes of the Wild Dog Management Committee Meeting held on 10 February 2021 be confirmed.

CARRIED

5 CORRESPONDENCE

1. Mr Robert Ellis was present during the discussion of his proposal for a trapper to be employed. Mr Ellis made the following comments: -
 - Does not believe the aerial 1080 baiting is as effective as it used to be;
 - Along with his brother, they have already shot over 80 dogs this year with all forms submitted to Council with locations;
 - Recommended funding should be made available for a trapper and less funding for aerial baiting;
 - Recommended trapping for the first 4 months of the year and the last three months;

Ben Ogg

Agreed, trapping has been very successful in the past couple of months and would like to source outside funding specifically for trapping.

Leah Mitchell

Asked Mr Ellis what pay rate would be expected if he were to become the Council trapper.

Robert Ellis

Responded, suggesting a day rate of \$300 + \$100 per dog. Cost recovery is important.

Ben Ogg

This financial year funds are spent, however, this is a good opportunity to get the services of a good trapper.

Shane Axford

The Committee needs to focus on getting outside funding for a trapper and the \$100/dog rate needs to stay in place.

Robert Ellis

Suggested, ground baiting and save \$34, 000 on aerial baiting.

The Chair thank Mr Ellis for attending and putting forward his trapper proposal.

2. Wild Dog Committee Budget Letter to Council Tabled.

6 UPDATE ON DATA GATHERING

Michael Kaminski

Has been trialing a thermal camera, however there is currently too much heat in the ground to use to full potential. Would like to test infra-red sensors to monitor and track animals, however requires landowner's approval before entering properties. OTB is willing to fund the project. The main issue will be gaining access to properties.

Ben Ogg

The Committee will be having a public meeting in August, property access for monitoring sensors could be tabled.

7 WINTON AGRICULTURAL SHOW SOCIETY TALKING TENT

21.05.03

Moved: Shane Axford
Seconded: John Banning

THAT the Wild Dog Management Advisory Committee flyers be approved for distribution at the Winton Show.

CARRIED

8 DIVISION LEADER REPORTS

21.05.04

Moved: Shane Axford
Seconded: Bret Elliot

THAT David Baker be appointed as Division Leader.

CARRIED

John Banning

New baiting areas: Middleton, Makunda area's. Baiting day went well are dogs are quiet at present.

Brett Elliot

Barcaldine has recently baited and Julia Creek baiting is this week.

Shane Axford

Great baiting. One dog in Collingwood Reserve two weeks ago. Possibly one near the 20 mile.

Frank McKerrow

- Baiting went well. The meat was a bit too frozen. Dogs are quiet with some inside the fence. Robert Ellis is trapping out there at the moment. One dog at Happy Valley.
- Suggested payment by the landowner per dog trapped.

Leah Mitchel

Baiting went well. Caught 1 dog a month ago.

Dave Baker

A few sightings before baiting. Previously 3-4 dogs running around the sandstone area.

Rob Banning

Good baiting at Cork. Dogs have been quiet since.

Ben Ogg

Positive feedback regarding baiting.

9 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Ricki Bruhn

Total expenditure is just under \$200,000 with \$61,298 in commitments.

Remaining Funds \$18,765.66

The remaining funds can be used before the end of the financial year.

Geoff Cox

Still waiting for some bills to come in.

10 GENERAL BUSINESS

Shane Axford

Would like the Committee to send a letter to Robert Ellis regarding the trapper proposal. Also, asked the Committee if any new equipment is required for baiting.

Geoff Cox

Suggested, purchasing a drying shed and using bags instead of boxes.

Ben Ogg

- The date for the Public Meeting will be Wednesday 28 July at 9am in the Supper Room followed by a General Meeting.
- Email to go out to all landowners as well as notification in the Winton Herald.
- Morgan Gronald to be invited.

Cr Anne Seymour

Would like to invite Councillors from other Shires to attend.

Brett Elliot

Asked if 1080 is hard to access?

Geoff Cox

Responded, a grant was submitted to purchase the poison, ½ of the application was approved.

Noted, the Biosecurity Officer has now resigned.

Ben Ogg

Notified the Committee he is stepping down as Chairman and will be handing over to John Banning. Ben thanked everyone for their support during his time as Chairman.

21.05.05

Moved: Ben Ogg

Seconded: Bret Elliott

THAT John Banning be appointed as Chair of the Wild Dog Management Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

11 CLOSURE AND NEXT MEETING DATE

28 July 2021 following the Public Meeting

The Meeting closed at 4.30pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Wild Dog Management Committee held on 28 July 2021.

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CHAIRPERSON