



MINUTES

Wild Dog Management Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 3 May 2023

**MINUTES OF WINTON SHIRE COUNCIL
WILD DOG MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE WINTON SHIRE COUNCIL SUPPER ROOM
ON WEDNESDAY, 3 MAY 2023 AT 2.00PM**

1 COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

The Chair, Mr John Banning, welcomed those present and declared the meeting open at 2:18pm.

2 PRESENT

Mr John Banning (Chair), Cr Gavin Baskett (Mayor), Cr Tina Elliott (Deputy Mayor), Cr Cathy White, Cr Anne Seymour, Miss Adele Pentland (Vice Chair), Mr Frank McKerrow, Mr Andrew Richardson, Mr Rob Banning, Mr Brett Elliott, Mr Harry Elliott.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Geoff Cox (Rural Lands Manager), Dache Geigher (Biosecurity Officer), Shannon Van Bael (Acting Director of Community & Economic Development) and Lacey Arthur (Minute Secretary).

3 APOLOGIES

23.05.01

Moved: Cr Anne Seymour

Seconded: Adele Pentland

That an apology received from Leia Mitchell, Shane Hume, Robert Ellis, David Baker, Charles Dyer, Rob Fawcner and Ben Ogg be accepted.

CARRIED

4 SIGHTING AND COMPLETION OF DIVISION MAPS

Division Leaders completed maps.

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

23.05.02

Moved: Cr Cathy White

Seconded: Frank McKerrow

That the minutes of the Wild Dog Management Committee Meeting held on 23 February 2023 be confirmed with amendments.

CARRIED

6 BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr John Banning informed the committee that the cold room was ineligible for insurance as it was declared at zero value.

7 CORRESPONDENCE

NIL

8 ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

8.1 Q-Dog Report Cathy White

Cathy White

- Next Q-Dog meeting to be held in Longreach on the 23rd of May 2023.

8.2 Update on OTB Data and Timeline

John Banning

- Updated that the next step in the process is to put in and position small towers across the area.

8.3 Update on Drying Tables

Frank McKerrow

- States the drying tables worked well, approximately two flights were distributed to a table of meat.

John Banning

- Informed the committee of a recent quote he acquired from Diamantina Engineering for the next four tables, with the option of also using the same manufacturer of the recently purchased drying tables.
- The committee agreed on using the previous manufacturer, the same design but adding legs.

Cr Cathy White

- Recommended that on the new tables include a moveable bag holder that can hold the bag to the table for efficiency.

8.4 Future Baiting dates

John Banning

- Discussed the option with committee that the supposed future baiting dates are 9th to the 13th of October 2023, yet to be confirmed.

8.5 Recommendations for FY 23/24 and ongoing future

Harry Elliott

- Recommended the possibility to ground bait certain areas to assist with costs.

ATTENDANCE

Geoff Cox and Shannon Van Bael attended at 2:47pm.

Geoff Cox

- Stated that prices of meat are on the rise and we are going to need to work with the stores and procurement officer to ensure we are following the procurement policy

8.6 Meat Coordinator Position moving forward

- Discussions were held and due to Councils Procurement Policy it was decided that the procurement of meat would stay with the Rural Lands Manager.
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9 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT*John Banning (Chair)*

- Stated that the next Wild Dog Management Meeting is a public meeting.
- Informed of the decision to step down from position as Chair and for Mrs Adele Pentland to step up as chair.
- He hopes for all committee members to improve communication with each other.

10 DIVISION LEADERS REPORTS*Harry Elliott*

- Shared opinion that baiting went well.
- Sightings of two tracks, one caught in trap.

Andrew Richardson

- Noted baiting went well.
- Trapped fifteen dogs at Milrose within the last two weeks.
- No activity seen since baiting.

Brett Elliott

- Stated that dogs are on the move, have sighted two.
- Kynuna Station has seen movement as well as the Kynuna Common, sighting four last week.
- Unable to bait one spot at Fairwater due to remaining water.
- Dog tracks sighted at home.

Rob Banning

- Covered lots of country with baiting and have not seen much movement since.
- Inconsistent numbers of staff each day.

Frank McKerrow

- Stated he had plenty of help at the baiting station.
- Two dogs shot, one on their property and one out of the fence at Glenkyree.
- Tracks outside of property border.

John Banning

- The Franklin baiting went well, had few staff at baiting station but staff numbers were limited.

- Sighting of dog at Collingwood.

Shane Hume – on behalf of John

- Sighting of a bitch and pup tracks at Nugget Creek.
- Have not seen sightings since ground baiting.
- Three dogs sighted at Gilma.
- Believes baits are working.

Leia Mitchell – on behalf of John

- Heard dog outside of house yard.
- One dog caught on common muster.
- Lost thirty sheep in March to dogs.

David Baker – on behalf of John

- Dogs are still moving.
- Lots of dog movement in the north towards Kynuna/Diamantina.
- Quieter on the downs with some travelling dogs moving through.

11 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

11.1 DIRECTOR OF WORKS UPDATE

Cr Gavin Baskett (Mayor)

- Informed the committee that Winton Shire Council's recently appointed Director of Works will commence work on the 21st of May 2023.

11.3 RURAL LANDS OFFICER REPORT

- Wild Dog scalps submitted update
- Dache Geiger informed the committee that there have been sixty seven scalps submitted since the beginning of January.
- The amount of places we have baited this year compared to last year it was 65 its now up to 75.
- Baiting was successful.
- Plans to do a pig day bait, date to be confirmed.
- States that we still have poison locked in quarantine, unsure when we it will be released.
- Brief overview of financial report, states report needs attention and detailing.

12 UPDATES ON DATA GATHERING

12.1 - Biosecurity Officer to provide an update on Public Surveys.

- One submission on public survey to date.
- Trialled mapping with dogs again, not much to report.
- Twelve dog scalp claims digitally submitted.

13 ACTION LIST

Nil

14 MOTION LIST

23.05.03

Moved: John Banning.
Seconded: Frank McKerrow

1. THAT Council engage the previously used external contractor to build four drying tables for the southern division, to be made the exact same as the last but with legs.

CARRIED

15 GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Gavin Baskett

- Confirmed the next public and general meeting date, encourage to provide a save the date for public meeting through rural newsletter and Facebook.

DEPARTURE

Cr Gavin Baskett departed meeting at 3:57pm.

Cr Cathy White

Gave thanks to the staff for the efforts put into baiting.

Brett Elliott

Suggest we source ways to find baiting staff.

Dache Geiger

Suggested the need for more environmentally friendly way of handling waste and bags during baiting.

16 CLOSURE AND NEXT MEETING DATE

Next meeting 2nd August.

The Meeting closed at 4:02pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Wild Dog Management Committee held on 2 August 2023.

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CHAIRPERSON