

## **Stockton Community Group Meeting Minutes: 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

*Meeting followed Covid Rules & guidelines as per NSW Health*

### **1. Present and apologies**

#### **Present:**

*In attendance:* Jenny Allen, Ron Boyd, Scott Brooks, Keith Craig, Gary Cullinane, Jeanette Dib, Willow Forsyth, Ron Holbrow, Kathleen Kerr, Sue Luke, Sue McIntire, Mark Mulholland, Alan Newberry, Sheldon Newey, Gina Owens, Margaret Raphael, Alison Rigby, Ian Taggart, Melanie Taggart, Vic Turrin, Sue Watson, John Watson

**Apologies:** Boyd Allen, Rainnie Carter, Barbara Witcher, Mark Rigby, Shelia Moran, Les Moran

**In attendance:** Angus Seberry & Jen Pritchard ( Hunter Water)

Acknowledgement of Country

**2. Declaration of conflicts of interest** - Nil

**3. Confirmation of Previous minutes** - Previous minutes from March Moved by Keith Craig seconded by Scott Brooks

**4. Guest Speaker – Angus Seberry**, Group Manager Environment, Governance and Assurance – Hunter Water.

Angus provided an overview of the works undertaken at North Stockton site and future activities

- *Update on impacts of latest erosion event on North Stockton site*
- *Summary of work undertaken on Hunter Water Stockton landholding since 2018*
  - Removal of approx. 9400 tonnes of landfill
  - Built temporary sea wall
  - Removal of bitou bush
  - Restoration /revegetation across Corroba Landfill site
  - Removal of tank traps
  - Rubbish & asbestos removal
  - Obtained Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit for site
  - Response to storm & erosion events
  - Liaison with community groups & agencies (re fencing, site management &CMP)
- *What's happening in the next 6 months*
  - Proceed with landfill & site restoration works
  - Work with CON on CMP
  - Remove hotspot contamination
  - Management of ongoing erosion 'progressive removal of landfills

Angus answered questions on the following:

- Lifesaving support emergency access to Stockton North in Winter (conversation could include NCC surf life savers & Surf club in winter)
- North Stockton Hunter Water Temporary Sea wall (5-7 years) budget should cover until mass sand nourishment. Contingency plan to continue to remove landfill. Difficult to provide timeframe for clean-up anticipated will be completed by July 2022, though may be delayed if DA required. Awaiting approvals for removal. CMP should be on display early 2023.
- Discussion on the rehabilitated area looking messy /untidy especially as on only road into Stockton.
- Hunter water carbon footprint
- Monitoring of Water Quality & customer reporting mechanisms
- Proposed desalination plant on Walsh Island
- Fluoride in the water ( see link to information sheet below)
- CMP
- Loss of water through leakage (taps/leakage, pipes etc)

Actions: Information for SCG newsletter on hazardous areas.

- Hunter Water to discuss rehabilitation area with Landcare

Information links

Carbon and renewable energy projects

<https://www.hunterwater.com.au/community/major-projects-in-your-area/renewables>

Lower Hunter Water Security Plan – info on planning our water future

<https://www.hunterwater.com.au/haveyoursay/planning-our-water-future>

Information on school and community water education

<https://www.hunterwater.com.au/community/education-schools/education-resources>

**Fluoride:**

Fact sheet: <https://www.hunterwater.com.au/documents/assets/src/uploads/documents/Fact-Sheets/Water-Quality/Water-Fluoridation-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

## Algae

- Hunter Water monitors algae cell counts in our water sources on a weekly schedule. This includes inspections for the presence of algal scums.
- Algal monitoring is increased in frequency following trigger levels for cell counts of certain types of blue green algae.
- Hunter Water monitors the concentration of taste and odour algal metabolites in our raw waters on a weekly schedule. When levels rise above trigger levels, sampling frequency increases and monitoring is also undertaken on treated waters. If taste and odour metabolites in treated waters reach trigger levels which can be detected by customers, then dosing with powdered activated carbon will commence.
- Toxin testing is undertaken when algal cell counts rise above trigger levels.
- Powdered activated carbon adsorbs taste & odour metabolites and allows removal from treated waters through settling and/or filtration. If algal toxins are present in raw waters, then Powder Activated Carbon can also be used to remove algal toxins in the same way as described for taste & odour metabolites.
- Filtered water is chlorinated following filtration for the purpose of disinfection. Chlorination is also an effective barrier for destruction of algal toxins.

## 5. Outstanding Actions

### Updates

*Presidents Report* - JA updated the group on

- Upcoming newsletter
- Brief discussion on Prime Ministers visit to the region
- the meeting with Federal Member for Newcastle Sharon Claydon (5/4/22)
- Crown Land draft plan will be circulated prior to next meeting for comment.
- Your Voice Survey PCWS

*Crown Land* – MT updated the group on the meeting held 24/2 to discuss the location for tap/Shower & toilets. Awaiting response from CON to SCG email

April Newsletter – Melanie Taggart updated the group on the next newsletter & asked for contributions and production support.

No response yet on toilet inquiry as to why toilet blocks are closed so early, as public areas are still in high use by community until 9pm. AR

## 6. Standing Items

### Standing Agenda Items:

#### 6.1 Treasurers Report –

- Club Account \$4252.40
- Treasure Island \$2625.00
- Donation for use of Senior Citizens Hall

Working Party Reports. (If meeting held)

#### 6.2 Stockton Beach inclusive of Newcastle CMP (No meeting held)

(Leader of this group is vacant, please contact SCG if interested in this position.)

#### **Weather event 1<sup>st</sup>,2<sup>nd</sup> April**

- The meeting discussed the weather event of last weekend & the condition /damage of Stockton Beach. Media coverage has highlighted the issues & degradation of the beach
- **Beach Rally** - Willow Forsyth has reconvened a subgroup to work on the logistics and actions for a beach rally. WF called for volunteers. Anyone interested in joining the group please email SCG.Inc & details will be passed onto WF.

#### 6.3 Air Quality & Environment – Ammonium Nitrate Storage Kooragang Island/NCCCE

Keith Craig - Next NCCCE meeting in May. Will include quarterly reports.

SCG June meeting will have Orica representatives as the guest speakers. Topics will include Nitrate storage.

#### **6.4 Stockton Community Environment (no meeting held)**

(Leader of this group is vacant, please contact SCG if interested in this position.)

#### **Shopping centre complex (MT & JD)**

- Cleanliness and pigeon droppings in Stockton IGA arcade. Flooding of car park continues. SCG.Inc has now obtained copy of DA for shopping centre. Have consulted with town planner and lawyer and will now plan a path forward with the new information.
- Issue of lack of public toilets in the complex was raised by other community groups. Encouraging community members to log a call with CON and get a ticket

#### **6.5 Stockton Community Liaison Group**

Ron Boyd provided the group with an overview of the SCLG meeting held in March 24/3 & outcomes of the meeting of the Deputy Premiers Taskforce. See attached report

- RB delivered presentation to the taskforce outlining the key points of beach erosion.
- \$50 Million resilience funds available Australia wide. Discussion on how applications can be made for funds.
- BW delivered message that time is of the essence.
- Clarity required on which state government department is responsible for the work on Stockton beach.

JA acknowledged the work of the Stockton beach group and SCLG.

RB also updated the group on the dredging permit (from march meeting). Resubmitted permit application again rejected & requires significant revisions over next 12 months including the environmental impact of the dredging.

**Action:** place SCG.Inc letter on dredging on SCG website for members to view

#### **7. Correspondence - list available upon request**

#### **8. General Business and Business without notice**

- JA /RH attending PWCS function 7/4/22

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

**Next Meeting 7:00pm May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Venue: Senior Citizens Centre, 76 Mitchell St Stockton**