The meeting commenced at 9.10am.

ATTENDANCE:
Phil Curran Chairman
Cameron Bulstrode Department for Planning and Infrastructure (Planning)
Cr Paddi Creevey City of Mandurah
Marilyn Gray Community
Bob Pond Coordinator, Peel Waterways Centre
Cr Laurie Snell Shire of Waroona
Richard Williams Department of Environment and Conservation
Kim Wilson Community
Colleen Yates Peel Development Commission

APOLOGIES:
Martin Baird Department for Planning and Infrastructure (Maritime)
Cr Morris Bessant Shire of Murray
Tony Cappelluti Department of Fisheries
James Holder Department for Planning and Infrastructure (Maritime)
Dorothy Lucks Community
Bruce Tatham Community

EXECUTIVE SUPPORT:
Brett Dunn Senior Natural Resource Management Officer, Department of Water
Debbie Colquhoun Minute Secretary, Department of Water
Kelly Faulkner Program Manager, Drainage, NRM and Waterways, Department of Water
John Pszczola Executive Officer, Department of Water
John Ruprecht Director Water Resource Management, Department of Water

1. WELCOME AND AGENDA REVIEW

The Chairman opened the meeting and announced the apologies. He welcomed Mr John Ruprecht, Director Water Resource Management from the Department of Water.
2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND CONTACT WITH A LOBBYIST

Noted.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved:
That the minutes of the 24th meeting held on 16 April 2008 were received and adopted.

Moved: Paddy Creevey
Seconded: Kim Wilson

(a) Action List

1. Action Item no. 1 – Economic and Recreation Management Plan Strategies
   Mr Pond reported that he had received 2 replies to the request for comments on the list of strategies. These related to the process rather than particular strategies.

2. Action Item no. 2 – Peel Regional Park
   To be dealt with later in the meeting.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Letter to Aboriginal Elder Mr Clarry Walley acknowledging his appointment as an Indigenous advisor to the Council.

5. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND RECREATION MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE PEEL WATERWAYS – PROGRESS REPORT

Mr Pond gave an update on the following items:

(a) Strategic Recreation Sites

The Ec Rec Committee will be meeting to review an early draft of the plan.

(b) Peel Waterways Institute

Ms Yates reported that Murdoch University has not yet made an announcement about the proposed Institute.

(c) WA Marine Science Institute

They are funding a number of current projects in the Region, such as ecosystem modelling of the fisheries.
(d) **Review of Strategies**

Progress to date in reviewing the strategies.

(e) **Communication Strategy**

Mr Pond outlined the need to review the 1992 Peel Inlet Management Programme.

Discussion then focused on the lack of progress in establishing the Peel Regional Park. It was noted that the Minister for the Environment; Climate Change; Peel had responded to his copy of the PRP CCC letter regarding this issue to the Minister for Planning. A response has not yet been received from the Minister for Planning.

It was acknowledged that Mr Pride from the Department for Planning and Infrastructure had completed a lot of the mapping work. The Department of Environment and Conservation will be preparing an establishment plan when they receive the mandate.

Mr Bulstrode advised that the Chairman of the Western Australian Planning Commission will be attending this Friday’s meeting of the Peel Planning Committee. Cr Creevey agreed to broach this issue at that meeting, and that the Minister for Planning has not yet responded to the Council’s correspondence.

The Chairman urged the members to read the Partnership Agreement and stressed that the Council needs to take a more active and aggressive approach to important issues.

Mr Ruprecht suggested that as a matter of procedure the Council should write to the Director General of the Department of Water and the Minister for Water Resources appraising them of the Council’s concerns on this issue.

**Resolved:**

1. Write to the Director General of the Department of Environment and Conservation requesting a relevant officer present the Establishment Plan for the Peel Regional Park at the next meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 20 August 2008 and report on the progress of the management plan; and

2. Write to the Minister for Water Resources appraising him of the concerns that the Council has regarding the delays in establishing the Peel Regional Park; and

**Moved: Paddy Creevey**

**Seconded: Kim Wilson**

Dr Williams abstained from voting.

*Moved: Marilyn Gray
Seconded: Kim Wilson*

**Action:**
1. Write to the Director General of the Department of Environment and Conservation;
2. Write to the Minister for Water Resources; and

*(John Pszczola/Bob Pond)*

6. **REVIEW PEEL REGION BOATING FACILITIES STUDY 1996 – PROGRESS REPORT**

Deferred to the next meeting.

7. **DEPARTMENT FOR PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE - PEEL BOATING COMMUNITY GROUP**

Mr Curran reported on the items raised at the recent meeting, including:
- 95,000 Skippers tickets issued
- Issuing infringement notices
- Space problems at new Peel Operations Centre
- Moorings
- Canoe Trails Group seeking support to implement bird sanctuaries around the Estuary

The meeting adjourned at 10am and resumed at 10.15am.

8. **HEAVY METALS IN SEAFOOD MONITORING PROGRAM**

The Chairman welcomed Ms Sharma Walsh from the Department of Health and invited her to address the meeting.

Ms Walsh briefed members on the objectives of the program. Sampling is being carried out in the Swan River, Cockburn Sound, Peel Harvey, South Coast, Exmouth gulf, Shark Bay, with Jurien has the control site. The monitoring is being undertaken at each site 3 times a year targeting sand whiting, blue swimmer crabs, blue mussels and shark. The final report on the results of the monitoring program will be published in due course.

Ms Walsh to be provided with information on the other similar studies being conducted in the Estuary.
Action:
4. Email the Department of Health’s heavy metals in seafood monitoring program survey proposal to members for their information.

(John Pszczola)

9. STRATEGIC LAND USE PLANNING

Mr Dunn gave an update on the following items:
- Eastern Estuary Environmental Assessment State of Play. The State of Play is currently being updated and will be available on the Department of Water’s website in due course.
- Murray River Drainage and Water Management Plan. An overall drainage strategy for the greater Murray Region is currently being prepared followed by drainage management plans for 9 sub-catchments. The first sub-catchments to be prepared will be Ravenswood and West Pinjarra.

Cr Creevey congratulated the Department on this initiative. Discussion ensued on climate change affecting drainage and flood levels and the possibility of factoring this into the drainage management plans.

Mr Ruprecht reported that the Department of Water is currently:
- making datasets detailing land contours from Gingin to Dunsborough
- preparing a report on the implications and scenarios of rainfall on water resources, a copy of which will be made available to members.

The Department to consider sending a Chairman or member to the Spatial Industrial Conference in Queensland held from 17-19 July 2008. Another conference directed specifically to engineers is being held in New South Wales on 3-5 August 2008 called Responding to Sea Level Rises (Engineering Practical Climate Change Solutions).

Southern Gateway Alliance will shortly be forwarding their proposed landscape and rehabilitation plan for the southern extension of the freeway to the Department for consideration.

Action:
5. Provide a copy of the Department of Water’s report on the implications and scenarios of rainfall on water resources to members when available;
6. Consider sending the Chairman or a member to the Climate Change Conference in Queensland on 17-19 July 2008;
7. Invite a representative of the Southern Gateway Alliance to the next meeting to address the Council on their proposed landscape and rehabilitation plan for the southern extension of the freeway.

(John Pszczola)
10. EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

Further information was provided on:
- Cotton bush control at Lake Navarino
- Weed storage at Erskine
- Barbed and electrical (unconnected) wire fencing across the Murray River –DoW advice being obtained
- Acknowledged the lecture given by Mr Tatham last month
- Friends of Rivers Peel were awarded the Telstra Channel 10 Environment Award

11. CURRENT DREDGING, DISPOSAL AND RETAINING WALL LICENCES

(a) South Yunderup Channel Dredging
Dredging operation commenced on 28 April 2008 and is operating within parameters.

(b) Eastport Stage 5
Currently operating within parameters.

(c) Murray River Crossing
Dewatering licence amended

Ms Yates advised that a meeting of the long term dredging and disposal committee will be held next month.

Ms Wilson and Mr Dunn left the meeting at this point.

12. PEEL HARVEY CRAB STOCK RESEARCH PROGRAM

The Chairman welcomed Mr David Harris and Dr Danielle Johnston from the Department of Fisheries and invited them to address the meeting.

Dr Johnston gave an overview of the 3 year $300,000 research project into the blue swimmer crab stocks in the Peel Harvey. The project was funded due to community concerns and a reported decline in catch rates. The last survey was undertaken in 1998/99. The program has been going for 15 months.

Mr Harris then reported on the sampling program and results to date.
Resolved:
That the Council write to the Minister for Fisheries acknowledging his support of a 3 year research program into the blue swimmer crab stocks in the Peel Harvey Estuary.

Moved: Paddy Creevey
Seconded: Kim Wilson

Action:
8. Write to the Minister for Fisheries.
   (John Pszczola)

13. PEEL INLET MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Mr Ruprecht briefed members on the establishment of the dissolution of the Water and Rivers Commission and its Board and the establishment of the Department of Water and a new Water Resources Council. The Minister for Water Resources and the Department have formally endorsed the continuation of the Council to 31 December 2009 and to take over the role of the Economic Development and Recreation Management Plan for the Peel Waterways Implementation Committee.

This matter to be discussed with the Economic Development and Recreation Management Plan for the Peel Waterways Implementation Committee.

Resolved:
That the Peel Inlet Management Council accepts the proposal by the Department of Water, and which has been endorsed by the Minister for Water Resources, to assume the role of the Economic Development and Recreation Management Plan for the Peel Waterways Implementation Committee.

Moved: Marilyn Gray
Seconded: Laurie Snell

Action:
9. A new Partnership Agreement including terms of reference to be presented at the next meeting for consideration.
10. Letter be sent to MLC Dr Sally Talbot Chair of the Economic Development and Recreation Management Plan for the Peel Waterways Implementation Committee.
   (John Pszczola)

14. GENERAL BUSINESS

(a) Meeting Dates
The meeting dates for August, October and December 2008 were accepted.

(b) Boat Trip
The Peel Development Commission has organised a boat trip on Tuesday 24 June 2008 for the Minister for the Environment; Climate Change; Peel and various heads of departments. Ms Gray will attend on behalf of the Council.

(c) **Update on Ec Rec Implementation Committee**
Ms Gray requested an update on the progress of the Ec Rec Implementation Committee prior to their next meeting.

(d) **Partnership Agreement**
The Chairman reiterated his previous advice for members to read the Partnership Agreement so that they could become more proactive and how they could better align with Department of Water policies.

(e) **Community Groups**
Discussion ensued on preparing a master plan of restoration works being carried out by various community groups. The Peel Waterways Centre can assist in providing funding, and the Department of Water and Peel Harvey Catchment Council can assist with coordinating using equipment and advice.

It was suggested that the location of the various restoration works could be linked electronically to the new Peel Inlet Management Programme when it becomes available on the Department of Water’s website.

### 14. NEXT MEETING/CLOSE

The meeting closed at 12.20pm.

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 20 August 2008** in the Peel Waterways Centre, Mandurah.

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Chairman