



WBAC Climate Alliance Reference Group Meeting

Date: Friday 11th October 2024

Location: Shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes administration office, Council Chambers

Meeting open: 9.20am

1. Welcome

a) Acknowledgement of Country

b) Attendance:

Voting:

Cr Alexis Davy, SODB
Cr Mike Christensen, SOGB

Non-Voting:

Matthew Tartaglia, WBAC
Alexa Tunmer, SOGB

Apologies for absence

Cr Donelle Buegge, SOM
Cr Vicki Hansen, SON
Cr Phil Kaltenrieder, SOBB
Ann Bentley, SOM

Discussion

- Alexa from SOBGB sent new recycling flyers out with rates notices
- WALGA Conference Attendance: Many absent members were present at the recent WALGA conference.
- Tony Dean has vacated the CARG chair role, leaving an opening.
- Cr Donelle Buegge will be acting chair until next CARG meeting
- Cr Alexis Davies has been approached to fill the position

- Cr Alexis Davies shared that Albermile has spoken with the Shire President and CEO of SODBG regarding a significant lithium deposit extending from Balingup to Kirup.
 - Councillors have expressed interest in further discussions and would like additional information to better inform the community.
 - There are three new tenements being acquired by Albermile in the area.

- Kula Gold is interested in conducting exploration within the official town site, specifically in the general industry area near Sand Hills
 - There appears to be some misunderstanding among staff regarding the full implications of granting consent for exploration in this area.
 - Once the company assesses the value of the asset, they can present this information to the government, potentially leading to further complications
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2. Declarations of interest

None declared

3. Becoming Waterwise Councils

- A motion was passed by WBAC for all relevant shires to sign MoU's
- There were concerns that Waterwise Councils could strain resources
- Applying for the Waterwise Aquatic Facilities Program could be ideal for facilities like Donnybrook Rec Centre.

- SOBGB to look at updating Waterwise action plans to reflect changing goals. As well as:
 - Reestablish the departmental waterwise team. building maintenance, parks and gardens, infrastructure to make sure on same page
 - Waterwise Greening offers co-funding opportunities, including initiatives like waterwise verges, competitions, and prizes to support community education.
 - A verge policy needs to be in place to ensure eligibility for these programs and to encourage more sustainable urban landscaping practices.
 - SOBGB working on annual report. Looking at water use. Community water use.

Action: Climate Alliance Officer to collaborate with CEOs to sign the MoUs and assess resource availability.

4. City Power Partnership Update

- The City Power Partnership is no longer operational. It seems they have pivoted into a new direction, potentially due to funding issues.
- There is uncertainty regarding what happens to councils that have already signed up for the program, such as SODBB
- Short-term action plan included joining the CPP, this goal may need revision due to recent changes.
- An alternative, the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), was identified, offering a similar toolbox on a global scale.
- ICLEI membership costs \$1,200 per year, which may exceed current budgets.
- A suggestion was made to consider signing up as a group and splitting the cost.
- Many similar organizations also have annual fees.
- Discussion highlighted the possibility of focusing more on acting rather than joining new networks, emphasising practical steps going forward.

Action: Climate Alliance Project Officer Investigate the City Power Partnership's new direction, assess its value, and explore alternatives, including government support for similar tools.

5. Community Survey Update

- Discussion around aligning community surveys across shires for consistency,
- SOBGB are currently working on their strategic plan.
- It was noted that comparable data across shires would allow the use of shared business cases.
- SOBGB are using Catalyze to conducting surveys. The group is considering whether using the same provider would benefit data consistency.
- Catalyze is a more affordable option and offers broad, comprehensive surveys

Action: Climate Alliance Officer to liaise with Shires about who developed their survey questions in their strategic plans.

6. Net Zero Partnership meeting on the 24th of October

- DWER are presenting and have asked for a series of questions to be answered before the meeting.
 - What are your top water related challenges?
 - What barriers did you experience when endeavouring to overcome them?
 - What, if any, strategies have you undertaken to address them?
 - Are there any lessons learned, information needs, and/or ideas for the future?

Action: Climate Alliance Officer to circulate questions to CEO's

General Business

Charging Infrastructure and Grants Discussion

- Second phase of the Charging Up Grants program offers 50% funding for EV charging infrastructure, including purchase, installation, and two years of maintenance and software upgrades.
- SOBGB is already applying for the second stage with the tourism office. Architectural plans for the EV charging stations have been finalised, with plans to install fast chargers.
- Talison will cover the other 50% of the application
- A revenue model is being considered where the tourism association collects income from the charging stations.
- Once the project is operational, invite grant stakeholders to share insights with the CARG, highlighting challenges and opportunities encountered.

Irishtown Bridge Fire Incident and Community Response SODBB

- A bridge fire cut off key community access; a meeting was held the same afternoon to address the situation.
- A second meeting provided further updates, and a special council meeting approved emergency funds while awaiting an insurance decision.
- The fire impacted access for trailers, school buses, and produce transport; a temporary road using private property is now in use for 600 vehicle movements daily.
- A new 8-meter-wide road is under construction, potentially impacting trees and requiring clearing and heritage approvals
- The Shire is advocating for updated risk management to include climate change adaptation and bushfire risk.

7. Date and location of next meetings

- Friday 13th December 2024, Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes

Meeting Closed: 10.30am.

