

## DRAFT MINUTES

### WBSA BOARD MEETING 5:00 PM 2 FEBRUARY 2010 – MANJIMUP

- 1. Present:** Wade DeCampo (Chairman), Tim Clynch, Terry Ginnane, Brian Moore, Shirley Broadhurst, Tony Pratico, Barbara Dunnet, Tony Goode, Shane Collie, Tony Doust (Deputy Municipal Delegate), Alan Lamb, Graeme Baesjou (SWDC), Jeremy Hubble, Guest Speaker - Colin Holt (MLC Nationals, South West).
- 2. Apologies:** Brad Farmer & Dan Tenardi (Bauxite Resources), Paul Omodei, Robin Mellema and Don Punch.
- 3. Minutes of Previous Meeting:**  
Motion: That the minutes of the meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2010 (held in Bridgetown-Greenbushes) are accepted as a correct record.

Moved – Shane Collie

Seconded – Shirley Broadhurst

Carried

At this point, Terry Ginnane requested that he be allowed to step aside as Boyup Brook Municipal Delegate in favour of Tony Doust. Wade raised issue of letter written by Boyup Brook. The CEO acknowledged that there were a range of Constitutional matters that should be addressed over time and we discussed the best way of moving forward.

A discussion then took place with a range of comments made including Wade De Campo saying that it was only a template Constitution that was used successfully by thousands of groups. Tony Doust mentioned a problem with the clarity of section 11.2 regarding the Composition of the Board and then asserted that the Alliance did not have power under the Alliance Constitution to determine who could vote on Royalties for Regions matters. The Chair ruled that we should defer this discussion to Item 8 of the Agenda.

#### **Report on Business Arising:**

Matter: Arranging a meeting with Director General Dept of Planning - Eric Lumsden. A meeting had been arranged for February 9<sup>th</sup> but this was subsequently changed as a result of a conflict with a LG Reform meeting. The meeting with Eric has now been rescheduled for Friday March 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm in Manjimup.

Matter: In relation to selecting projects for Royalties for Regions CLGF monies (Country Local Government Fund), each Board member who was a Shire Councillor was eligible to vote. Several Board members raised concerns about this process in terms of disadvantaging shires whose Community representative

was not a Shire Councillor. The CEO undertook to verify this ruling with the Department.

The CEO verified the ruling via an email stating the following -: This does mean that it could be asserted that a Shire with a community representative who happened to also be a Councillor, held an “advantage” compared to another Shire that had a non-Councillor as their community representative. On our body, Nannup and Bridgetown-Greenbushes would have two votes each and Boyup Brook and Manjimup would each have only a single vote. This issued will be addressed at Agenda Item 8.

Matter: It was agreed that the CEO invest a limited amount of time to produce a 1-2 page Discussion Paper on the issues of a regional airport for consideration at the next Board meeting. A paper was prepared and is included in the meeting documents. It concludes that we should set the issue aside while future development plans for the Manjimup Airport are being investigated by a consultancy.

Matter: The potential deficit issue was then discussed generally and it was agreed that the matter will have to be tackled by the Board after the release of the R for R guidelines. The CEO advised that this would be included in the post Christmas Budget Review and addressed at our next meeting. This matter will be covered at Item 12.

#### **4. Correspondence (as circulated):**

Motion: That the Correspondence in was noted and the Correspondence out was approved.

Moved – Wade De Campo                      Seconded – Shirley Broadhurst                      Carried

#### **5. Member Elections/Resignations:**

Manjimup Municipal Deputy – Denise Jenkins

Manjimup Community Member – Ray Curo

Boyup Brook Municipal Deputy – Tony Doust

Motion: That the above nominees are duly elected as WBSA Board Representatives.

Moved – Shirley Broadhurst                      Seconded – Barbara Dunnet                      Carried

At this point of the meeting Chairman Wade De Campo stepped aside from the Chair in favour of the Deputy Chairperson - Barbara Dunnet. Mr. De Campo cited a desire to ensure that a full and open debate on various matters be able to be conducted without any inference of undue influence. He went on to say that it was important for rather trivial matters to be put to bed so that we could concentrate on matters that were placing us on the cusp of great success. He was keen to put behind us the debacle of shire amalgamations which had been very tough on Alliance relationships and he wanted to try to repair any damage before it became irrevocable.

## **6. Guest Speaker – Colin Holt (MLC Nationals, South West)**

Colin commenced his role as a MLC for the South West in May 2009 and retains his position as Nationals Party President. Whilst it was all very challenging, he is enjoying working with Minister Grylls on regional development. He regards his role as essentially three fold; firstly he has a reactive role in responding to constituents issues. Given the broad geography of his area which stretches from Mandurah to Albany and east to Boyup Brook, he receives and tries to address a wide variety of constituent concerns.

Secondly, he has a substantial role in reviewing legislation placed before the Upper House. The amount of material brought to his attention in relation to legislation was enormous.

Thirdly, the Royalties for Regions program was of course a major component for him and his colleagues to deal with, it constitutes some 4% of the state budget and was worth about \$500 million per annum. The Pensioner Fuel Card System, Ord Stage 2, Pilbara Revitalisation, Mid-West Iron Ore Infrastructure and Essential Housing Programs are all part of Royalties for Regions. Colin believes that it is part of his job to ensure that the South West is included in the scope of considerations whenever regional spending opportunities arise. In the South West he feels that the commitment to the Bunbury to Albany gas pipeline would give rise to further opportunities.

Colin reaffirmed the Government's principal of empowering locals to make local decisions. However, it is also important for local communities themselves to support those decisions and to reassure the Government that funds were being expended sensibly. The Government faced a high level of scrutiny on these matters but is prepared to defend the decision making process and the projects that local communities have identified.

The move to regionally focussed projects was necessary, especially in order for improved infrastructure outcomes to be achieved. It was essential to look across shire boundaries in many instances; for example in considering roads and power and for gaining the maximum strategic advantages from spending decisions.

Note: Delegates from Bridgetown arrived at the meeting at this point (5:45 pm).

Colin concluded his general comments by stating that working with the Alliance added credibility and that it was better set up than other groupings, for example, the regional transition groups being suggested by Minister Castrilli. The Alliance should focus on capitalising on its position and he was happy to take Alliance views to the Government as representative of regional perspectives.

Question and answers: Barbara Dunnet queried Colin about the deferral of Royalties for Regions. Colin responded by explaining that this decision was essentially mathematical in the sense that it is tied to 25% of state royalty income which had been adversely effected by royalties revenues reduction including a deterioration in the exchange rate. Wade De Campo commented that other options such as deferring Ord Stage 2 or other major projects could have been

considered. Mr. De Campo also expressed frustration at the poor delivery of the program and the difficulty in getting useful assistance from the Department of Local Government. He also suggested that it would be useful for the Alliance to have access to information from other quarters regarding appropriate regionally flavoured projects.

Mr. Holt encouraged the Alliance to bring forward genuinely regional projects whereby everyone was a winner and that the projects nominated were sufficiently commendable for them to be sensibly defensible in Parliament.

**7. Guest Speaker - Brad Farmer (Bauxite Resources) – Item cancelled.**

**8. Voting Rights – Royalties for Regions**

The CEO was asked to confirm his earlier advice that only a Shire Councillor was eligible to vote on Royalties for Regions matters flowing from the CLGF. A discussion followed around the notion that the Alliance should determine that a single Councillor from each member shire should therefore be entitled to vote.

Mr. Doust then put the view that such an approach was not allowable under the Constitution and he made specific reference to Section 11.2 (c) “Each member on the Board is entitled to vote...” The CEO responded by making reference to Page 1 of the Constitution which states that -: “In the event of any question arising as to the interpretation or application of these Rules, the Board, shall decide the matter...”

After some debate it was acknowledged that the determination of voting rights for Royalties for Regions was not especially urgent, given that the guidelines were delayed and that there remained a number of unanswered aspects of the CLGF still to be resolved. There was general agreement that the matter of voting rights along with other Constitutional issues should be addressed by reviewing and amending the Constitution by the end of June 2010.

Motion: That the CEO issue an electronic copy of the Constitution to all Board members.

Moved – Tony Doust

Seconded – Brian Moore

Carried

**9. Review of Strategic Plan**

The CEO advised that had had not completed revising the Strategic Plan having only just concluded making contact with all Board members. It was his intention to incorporate points raised and then to issue a revised version for scrutiny prior to the Strategic Plan being submitted for ratification.

**10. Discussion/Status of Other Key Regional Identified/Possible Issues inc:**

○ **Royalties for Regions**

The deferral of the CLGF program was touched upon earlier in the meeting and during general discussions with Mr. Colin Holt.

- **Recreation Trails Project**

The meeting was informed that a submission for R for R second round grant application was almost complete. The embryonic Host Trails site was due to go live within a few days and the Master Trails Plan was continuing to be refined and converted to Excel. The balance of a report from Canoes WA was outstanding but discussions with cartographers regarding the production of paper based guides were underway. Community consultation within each shire will commence with a meeting scheduled for Nannup on 9<sup>th</sup> February. Another grant application through Lotterywest would be prepared shortly.

- **Red Meat Precinct (Barbara Dunnet)**

The Red Meat Action Group met with Minister Terry Redman and departmental staff last week. It has been agreed to form a Steering Group to in effect take over from the Red Meat Action Group. The Steering Group will consist of government, industry representatives and departmental staff and it will consider a range of matters such as ownership structure, potential investors, project parameters and so forth. The Minister will also issue his response to the Industry Stocktake Report in a couple of weeks. The Agricultural Department is preparing a Cabinet submission which will include cost benefit analysis, site locations etc. The overall position of the project is very positive.

- **Other Issues**

Tim Clynch, Jeremy Hubble and others referred several matters to the attention of Mr. Colin Holt including difficulties with native vegetation regulations, noxious weeds on state and adjoining land, the presence of feral animals such as pigs and so forth. There were general concerns about the inadequate level of government funding and government preparedness to tackle these land usage type issues and frustration expressed over the inadequacies of supporting legislation and regulations. Additionally, the view was expressed that some health services were being offloaded from the State to local governments. The provision of doctors for emergency services and the loss of a school dental service in Bridgetown were also mentioned.

The CEO tabled the idea of bringing businesses into the Alliance as members. Other regional groups such as the Bunbury Wellington Economic Alliance operated with a funding base derived from private enterprise. In our region we had fewer potential businesses such as Talison, Gunns, NTP and Auswest to draw from but we could prepare a prospectus and try marketing the Alliance to gain non- Board members.

The CEO then referred to discussions that have been held with Bauxite Resources whereby this company had agreed to become a Premium Member of the Alliance for an annual fee of \$15,000 - should such a membership arrangement be available. After general discussion it was agreed that the Alliance would adopt the approach of marketing membership to businesses

and accordingly, the CEO was directed to prepare a draft prospectus for consideration at the next meeting.

Motion: That the Alliance seeks to attract members from the business sector.

Moved – Shirley Broadhurst      Seconded – Wade De Campo      Carried

### **11. Executive Officers Work Report:**

The CEO briefed members regarding the meeting held with the Minister for Transport and highlighted the value of the Alliance in being a constructive conduit to the government by being able to bypass the bureaucracy. The Minister was not entirely across our regional issues and our meeting was able to bring them effectively to his attention. The completion of the Mowen Road project was discussed with emphasis being placed on its strategic significance as a gateway into the Warren Blackwood area. The perennial matter of the state of the South West Highway was raised and then the Greenbushes rail link was discussed. The Minister advised that this project was “on ice,” although the line would not be closed. We urged caution on the basis of other potential matters such as bauxite mining, the biomass plant and the Red Meat Precinct as factors that could elevate the importance of the rail link. Brian Moore mentioned that he had been advised from several sources that money previously set aside for this project had “disappeared” and that he was disappointed in the Government’s approach. Wade De Campo commented that he stressed the importance of the Safer Roads Program which resulted in significant investment in some of our key roads.

### **12. Finance Report:**

The CEO tabled the Finance Report commenting that the main focus was on the substantial shift in our overall position from a deficit to a small surplus. Outgoing years remain a problem which our proposed membership drive sought to remedy. This year our position had been alleviated by being able to access grant funding, especially using Trail funds for work undertaken by the CEO and the Project Officer rather than employing a paid consultant.

Mr. Doust stated that he could not accept the Report as it did not balance and he made reference to a discrepancy in the Opening Bank Balance figure in the report which showed a figure of \$12,512 versus the post audit figure of \$11,024.50. He went on to say that he felt that it was important for the Board to receive a correct report. The CEO responded by saying that although the report presented the best picture available of our overall position, he acknowledged that from an accounting perspective it was not entirely accurate. He recognized the need to improve the accuracy and format of the report and agreed take remedial action.

### **13. General Business: Nil**

**14. Next Meeting – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2010 - at Nannup at 5:00pm**