

South West and Peel Coastal Management Group (CoastSWaP)
Geographe Coastal Stakeholder Forum, Monday 23rd November 2015.
Draft Minutes



Attendees

	Name	Organisation	Role
1.	John McCallum	City of Busselton	Councillor
2.	Will Oldfield	City of Busselton	Senior Environmental Officer
3.	Travis Drysdale	South West Catchments Council	
4.	Kay Lehman	City of Busselton	Senior Environmental Officer
5.	Jeff Falconer	Wonnerup Residents Association/Geocatch/FAWNA	Member/Board member/Presiding president
6.	Chiara Danese	CoastSWaP	Chair
7.	Linda Falconer	FAWNA	Presiding member
8.	Chris Adams	Toby Inlet Catchment group	Active member
9.	Jennifer Bennett	Department of Fisheries	Education officer
10.	Lorraine Duffy	DCALC	Governance officer
11.	Jenny Buckley	DCALC	Administration officer
12.	Bob Jarvis	Meelup Committee	Member
13.	Lisa Massey	Geocatch	Project officer
14.	Jackie Nichol	CoastSWaP	Facilitator

Purpose /objectives of meeting:

- **Provide an opportunity for key stakeholders to share up-to-date information on issues, priorities and actions within the coastal zone from Dalyellup to Cape Naturaliste.**
- **Identify potential planning and management solutions for future coastal rehabilitation and protection.**
- **Discuss what CoastSWaP is and does, and what we can do in future.**
- **Is there a role for CoastSWaP now in the region, or are others doing similar work and it no longer has a role to play that is different from others in the region?**

History of CoastSWaP.

- Formed in 2004. Was originally set up in the absence of any coastal land management groups to assist with coastal management and on ground projects.
- Cover areas from Mandurah to Walpole.
- Since then has developed training manuals for coastal management, assisted with the formation of state funding through CoastWest, and contributed to management of CoastCare projects.
- Instigated the Bi-Annual Coastal Conference for the WA.
- In recent years has played role in liaising with lots of coastal stakeholders and working with others to facilitate good coastal management, including development of case studies for coast care.
- SWCC acknowledged CoastSWaP's role in identifying issues across subregions and sharing information with them to help with coastal management when there is limited time and funding for SWCC to cover the entire region.
- New Board in late 2016, looking at future directions with business planning, strategic planning tools and future management.

Website link: <http://coastswap.org.au>

General discussion:

1. How does CoastSWaP differ from Peron Naturaliste partnership and National Coastal Alliance?

Different areas of coastline covered, (PNP focus from Rockingham to Geographe) higher level of management looking at coastal planning and adaptation/mitigation for climate change and future.

CoastSWaP has more on-ground more detailed approach and addresses techniques for across the region on coastal management enhancement and management- mostly revegetation processes etc.

Agree that PNP and CoastSWaP should work closely at times to share information across the region but work is at different scales and when it comes to implementation of coastal management plans CoastSWaP can assist.

2. What level does CoastSWaP engage?

CoastSWaP can play a role in working with other community groups, especially ones that are not incorporated to share information and facilitate with funding etc.

See a key role in sharing information such as case studies on various on ground initiatives and projects or pilot projects to trial revegetation techniques. Don't tend to be 'hands on' in terms of coordinating projects on the ground directly but this may be a role in future.

3. Who are our stakeholders?

All levels of community, departments and organisations that are on the coast or working with others on the coast. Role is collaborative. Need to clearly define the difference between collaboration, facilitation and coordination.

Stakeholder updates and priorities, issues and actions related to coastal management and planning, round table summary (issues raised by existing groups as being pertinent to Geographe bay Area or beyond).

- Funding- less money with more to do, and less volunteers to actually implement it
- Disproportion of funding distribution in the area
- Devolvement of responsibilities across widespread coastline with conflicting values and uses, 'not my patch' mentality.
- Compliance on the coast- ad hoc, most groups agreed it was not adequately managed or funded and hard to resource effectively.
- Signage- signage success varies, depends on location and message, not necessarily always consistent, inappropriately located, etc
- Feral animals- not managed very well and causing more problems than we know.
- Cats and dog management- as above. Also compliance issues
- Nesting birds- lack of education, not consistent messages etc
- Overfishing, undersized fishing-
- Nutrient loading in key coastal wetlands, affecting fish stock, Bay pollution, potential seagrass health, etc

- Lack of compliance for visitors coming from non coastal councils and their ‘right of ownership’ to do as they please in coastal areas
- Succession planning for community groups struggling to continue to function with little funding and generational change
- Rubbish, micro-plastics and dumping- lack of education, cross boundary conflicts
- Lack of sharing information about effective management in coastal areas- e.g. trials and projects being undertaken but information not consistently shared across all groups
- Lack of training for groups on new successes and techniques
- Weeds and weed management- some weeds are getting worse, lack of funding and devolvement of state government for biosecurity issues to stop weed spread etc
- Revegetation – ad hoc, funding and on ground volunteer support waning, costs and best practice.

How can CoastSWaP help?

Issue	Who raised this? (How widespread is this issue?) And does CoastSWaP have a role in future?
Funding	<p>Most of the groups present recognise that funding is now limited and that they are often competing against others in the group for funding. See a need to work across boundaries to get funds to assist coastline management as much as possible. Also CoastWest has expressed support for groups such as CoastSWaP to facilitate funds across areas to achieve more significant outcomes. Royalties for regions funding is also available but can also be hard unless is strategic, and CoastSWaP could assist with being strategic</p> <p>CoastSWaP has a role in working with other groups to secure funding or address projects that are pertinent to a number of groups.</p> <p>Also an opportunity for coordinating a common message to take to local members for discussion and to gain support by mustering individuals to ‘log’ issues at political level to determine election priorities.</p>
Successional planning for community groups	<p>A number of community groups in the region are struggling with succession planning to remain viable and functional. This affects coastal management and funding success. Need to consider partnerships and or ways to work across organisations to continue to undertake useful coastal management. CoastSWaP may have a role in this to facilitate groups and or share knowledge and expertise to keep groups viable and engaged. CoastSWaP can also provide case studies, trials and projects to share expertise and knowledge to keep groups skilled and contributing.</p>
Compliance/enforcement	<p>Compliance on the coastline for a variety of common issues, including dog management, off road vehicles, waste management, signage, land use conflict,</p>

	CoastSWaP may have a role in education, compliance, and or facilitation across the region for discussions about these issues, and future management decisions. Off road vehicles is of particular concern
Revegetation	Techniques and trials, new initiatives for revegetation could be shared between groups with CoastSWaP support
Weeds and weed management	Techniques and trials, new initiatives for management of weeds could be shared between groups with CoastSWaP support
Coastal access	This may vary across the region but controlling access can reduce miss-use and shifting problems from 1 area to another across local government boundaries etc
Education/Training	Potential role in providing training and education – perhaps through conferences, development and delivery of workshops, training and or facilitation of ‘eyes on the beach’ ranger type community based initiatives
Erosion	Coastal erosion management techniques and facilitation for best practice management
Monitoring	Utilising techniques and providing training for monitoring of coastal issues such as erosion and perhaps managing databases with SWCC support (PhotoMon?) for future funding and identifying issues in local areas which might not be receiving support, such information may also feed into other networks and partnerships such as PNP/Dept of Transport?
Rubbish/feral animals, signage	Issues need to be addressed at state-wide conferences or workshops to raise issues of concern and determine regional priorities and address solutions that are consistent and effective. CoastSWaP may play a role in facilitating such discussions.

CoastSWaP Future?

Discussion around future roles and opportunities for CoastSWaP to remain a useful contributing incorporated group in the Geographe Bay area and beyond.

Ideas suggested:

- Significant role in education through securing funding for advertisements similar to ‘Coast river Ocean’ projects run by SWCC. Funding required will be large so coordinated approach to use funds for regional coastal messages like ones on TV for Dieback. Big messages that are regional
- Develop a stakeholder strategy and ways to engage with local governments better
- Make CoastSWaP the umbrella group for all coastal groups- the strategic ‘eye on the coast’ for all coastal matters in the region, and use it to disseminate information across region
 - Look at social media campaigns and coordinate comprehensive campaigns for common regional messages, or as a portal for other groups- e.g. on Facebook and Instagram, Twitter etc

- Set up similar networking newsletter as SWCC newsletter but just for coastal issues to inform engage and share
 - Develop a CoastSWaP Portal for forums, get togethers, information sharing etc on website
 - Facilitate workshops and conferences on best practice,
 - Inspire, share and engage experts to disseminate information, act as an agent for existing groups to disseminate information, explain new policies etc for everyone in the region
- Re-brand CoastSWaP as the name itself is weird and doesn't mean anything to anyone- find something that is more straightforward
 - Large role for Training –
 - Maybe partnership with City of Busselton,
 - Teaching others and sharing information between coastal groups,
 - Community wardens projects and trials in future
 - Grassroots work- networking and attending events with groups to represent the voice for the region to the state and at State conferences etc
 - Be available to review documents and plans on coastal matters produced for the region by groups or organisations, e.g. new management plans for an area, to ensure best practice and to ensure no double ups etc
 - Facilitate political discussion with state governments on issues of regional concern, e.g. off road vehicles, micro plastics, nesting birds

Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to this workshop.

Way forward:

There are a number of meetings similar to this one being held across the CoastSWaP region. Once all of the workshops are complete the results will be discussed with the Board and will help to facilitate discussion about what role CoastSWaP may play in the region and on coastal issues. Chiara is also completing the new CoastSWaP Strategic plan and other documents on business planning.

We will be in touch soon when we are clearer on a way forward on our role, strategic direction and final structure.

Summary round table projects of relevance to CoastSWaP for Geographe bay participants

City of Busselton:

Wonnerup Coastal revegetation projects, access and fencing. Trialling off road vehicle access management and signage. Long-term review to determine if signage and access management is working to keep vehicles off dunes and out of bird breeding sites and beaches near Capel where vehicles are not allowed but currently frequent.

City see's relationship with CoastSWaP beneficial for

City working on projects relating to volunteer and community group support, new manual and documentation for support for groups in Geographe Bay area, potential partnerships with CoastSWaP to assist with support for groups and funding applications for partnership trials in the region.

City also running a project on Hooded Plover monitoring with coastal volunteers. This finishes in April and results could be shared with CoastSWaP participants.

PNP projects continue, long-term sharing of information with CoastSWaP for on ground works when relevant and PNP looks in more detail about specific planning issues. CoastSWaP role with

SWCC appreciates CoastSWaP relationship to assist with determining projects in the area of relevance and where SWCC may be about to partner to allocate limited resources in future, e.g. with planting events or with trials/revegetation etc.

Meelup community group trialled fishing tackle rubbish collection receptacles at Meelup and found these were extremely unsuccessful, no one used them for fishing tackle and they were miss –used with general rubbish instead. Have found new signage program with more positive messages being shifted around the area in an effort to keep signage fresh and frequent appears to be

working more effectively at the moment for keeping dogs on leads in key areas and out of the park in general. This information could be shared with other CoastSWaP partners, also an opportunity for Meelup committee to run educational workshops on how the rubbish and signage projects have worked or not in the area and what might work better in future.

Toby Inlet Catchment Group is suffering an aging workforce and lack of relevance to the younger community so few members are still active. Collective knowledge is high and TIC has tools and equipment and lots of information that might be relevant to other groups in the area. This is really a City of Busselton project to support the group's transition and assist with future relevance in the area however the group may wish to run educational workshops in future perhaps with CoastSWaP partners to assist others in the area with various trials etc that they perfected in the past. They also agreed CoastSWaP may be able at some future time to provide new members with some educational training and or support with future projects if appropriate and the group is still functioning. The city of Busselton should be managing this group in the immediate term.

DCALC is also suffering from similar issues like TIC but is keen to partner on common projects if viable for trials and sharing ideas, potential relationships with CoastSWaP there.

Department of Fisheries currently focussing on education with school children on marron and fish fingerlings for recreational fishermen in the Bay and nearby waterways. Might be opportunities to partner with CoastSWaP in future on key messages about catching undersized fish and health of waterways for fish.

GeoCatch is working on 2 projects of relevance to the coastline, 10 continuing surveying nutrient loads in the Bay through analysis of seagrass beds in 9 different locations. Project due to be completed 5 years, it's a continuation of a 5 year project just completed and results of this survey indicate the seagrass appears to not statistically be affected by nutrient loads, so good news. This project could be shared on CoastSWaP website. The second project is monitoring of the floodgates in Vasse Wonnerup for various flooding scenarios in future and different impacts of climate change, being undertaken with science reference group, project due for completion in end of 2018. Might be relevant for the Geographe Bay participants in CoastSWaP for information to be shared on progress over the next few years.

FAWNA/Wonnerup Residents Association continue to monitor erosion along Wonnerup beach area following the new configuration of Port Geographe marina. CoastSWaP may consider partnering with SWCC on the Photo Mon app project and encourage local groups to participate with sharing photo-monitoring data to undertake long-term photo monitoring surveys in areas such as this. Might be something CoastSWaP could consider in future.