

THE GIDGEGANNUP PROGRESS ASSOCIATION (INC.)
MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 19TH FEBRUARY, 2007,
AT 7.30 PM AT THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY HALL, GIDGEGANNUP.

Present: Sally Block - Chair
Vicki Hamersley - Secretary

Len and Jean Baxter, Judy Fletcher, Geoff and Vicky Herbert, Chris Jackson, Sue Johnston, Jackie Lambert, Dearn Lee, Gail Lee, Allan Lockwood, John Mangini, Gloria Metcalf, Don Robertson, Sister Vayama, Michelle Zimmel

In Attendance: Cambo, Beryl Crane, Bernadette Hamill, Jean and Peter Jensen, Jodi Neiman (Stratagen), John Symonds (Hanson)

Apologies: Mike, Bacon, Mike Davies, Mary Davis, Bill Karoll, Warwick Wild

Hanson's Presentation:

John Symonds gave introduction.

Query raised re. new yellow marked area on map. John Symonds pointed out it was an oversight and should have been included on original map circulated to community. It was 5-6 ha. Of stockpile area. This was included in the proposed 140 ha. Expansion. Queried proximity to Toodyay Road and raised problems already experienced by road users with debris from Quarry on Road. John Symonds said debris was responsibility of truck drivers, who carted it on to road. Suggested there could be wash down facilities as Red Hill Tip. Complaints directed at the moment to Hanson, Main Roads and City, need for a designated complaint number re. trucks and debris. John Symonds to organize. Query how often road was swept John Symonds unable to provide information.

Query why was water spout operating on a Sunday early afternoon – John Symonds to enquire.

Statement – trucks are uncovered why – John Symonds not necessary if load is large aggregate only if smaller content. John Symonds undertook to address above problems.

Jodi Neiman then addressed meeting re. Consultants' Reports.

Hydrology – done internally by people in Stratagen.

Flora and Vegetation – Dr. Libby Mattiske.

In October the most intensive walk was conducted. Walked transects in the mapped area – 20x20 quadrant. Woodland on ridge. Heath in granite areas. 300 species expected to be found. 3 priority species found – not rare – but ones that not a lot is known about. Vegetation on the whole was good. Some weed invasion – watsonia in Susannah Brook and some weeds on disturbed area along Toodyay Road. Will do more flora work on site in late winter, early spring for orchids etc.

Query – How does this compare with 1990 PER.

Answer Jodi - Report still being undertaken. Compares well with John Forrest National Park and north of Hansons. Work had been extended past the yellow dotted line and 100 m. into the National Park also south of dotted line.

Query – Will the Pit be visible on the escarpment

Answer John – Red Hill and Pioneer won't link up. Pit will always be behind the ridge. Report will clarify this.

Query – When will this work be available – 6-8 weeks before PER process.

Answer Jodi – as soon as possible.

Query – Will work on Flora and Vegetation study be out before consultation period for PER finishes.

Answer – Jodi – the work may coincide.

Fauna study – Mike Bambord

Fauna composition in this area was well known from past work done. He looked at the fauna occurring and how it was existing. Felt that cockatoo population would forage for food but not nest as no large trees available.

Mammals echidna and kangaroos. No chudditch. New species of gecko now with Museum. No goats or feral cats recorded. With the loss of vegetation there will be loss of habitat and movement - the latter being the most import.

Query – concerns re. reports coming out after the PER.

Answer Jodi – the details in the report will be an appendix to the PER. Will be on Hanson's website and hard copies will also be available.

Query – concerns raised about animal movements. The development area closes off Strelley Brook and NW area. Will affect movements of animals in a larger area than the red line on map.

Answer Jodi – Mike is looking at re-establishment to help the animal movement.

Statement – Development by Hanson's will alter the fauna movement.

Answer John – cannot deny.

Query – Why 100 year development plans.

Answer John – Jansons just want to let community know of their long term plans. Otherwise they will have to find another area. There is a need for raw materials.

Query – What is Hanson's doing about rehabilitation.

Answer John – backfilling the southern face now and will continue.

Statement – entry of traffic on Toodyay Road will greatly increase with Hanson’s expansion

Answer John – Hansons have to upsize to meet demand.

Query – With further expansion you will go deeper and wider.

Answer John – better rock is deeper. Explanation of width for haul roads needed to go deeper.

Statement – there will be more traffic, more machinery and more everything.

Answer John – Yes.

Query – what will happen to overburden.

Answer John – can go back into pits.

Query – exposed land that doesn’t hold water will mean more run off.

Answer Jodi – stormwater run off will be directed to sedimentation dams.

Statement – 62 mls. In January one year. There is risk of a hazard in this instance.

Answer Jodi – all collected on site.

Query – could there be a storage opportunity for areas nearby.

Statement – there will be more sediment in the water.

Query – will cells be identified so people know where the stages of operation are.

Answer John – feels there is a need for this. Meetings are indicating this need.

Statement – 80 ha cleared in 10 years which has all been used.

Answer Jodi – 80 ha. Is area of disturbance. Quarry would be less.

Query – how long will 140 ha last. In another 10 years will Hanson be applying for another 140 ha.

Query – Size of footprint – does this indicate a guess on volume of resource. Do Hansons know the volume of resource.

Answer John- yes Hansons do know volume underground

Query – what is the proposed depth of the quarry.

Answer John – 45m. above sea level. New area will be below Susannah Brook level. 180 m. at lowest point. Susannah Brook is 80m below surface level.

Query – what happens to water in this area after mining. Disturbance of soil and ground. Technically exposing rocks that have never seen air and water.

Answer Jodi - not an issue here. Not acid rock.

Query – will there be mineral wash off.

Answer Jodi – will get back to you on that.

Statement – would like to see contours on map.

Answer John – Yes already requested at other meetings.

Comment Jodi – Hanson's have a plan for closure.

Statement – no information On 100 year plan, yet you have a plan for closure.

Answer Jodi – PER requirement that Hanson provide a closure plan.

Statement – we are just lay people and we are being asked to give approval.

Answer Jodi – that's why consultants have been called in and the PER goes back to government agencies for approval.

Query – what protection for Susannah Brook

Answer John – not sure of drainage to Susannah Brook from Quarry will have to reefed Brook through pumps.

Statement Jodi – taken notes on board will make sure that is further checked out.

Query – Water from pit – will you need more dams to handle this. Do you know where this water will be taken too.

Answer John – Susannah Brook I guess.

Statement - Water is your biggest problem. Not comforting when you sau you are not sure.

Statement – What happens if Susannah Brook dams back. Hansons are clearing the headwaters of two brooks Strelley and Susannah. How will Hansons explain to downstream landowners if there is a problem.

Statement – buffer is not enough – 50m. This will depend on what EPA put on between Hansons and Susannah Brook.

Statement – neighbours not informed of meeting.

Statement – Screening plan for PER needs to be more detailed.

Answer Jodi – John Cleary’s (visual impact study) undertaking this work. He’s making contact with people affected/involved. Submit name to Hanson or Stratagen for more information.

Query – is there a need for so many lights on the site at night.

Answer John – Maintenance crews work until midnight. Lights should be turned off when they leave. Security light on at weighbridge after than.

Query – have Hanson’s set aside enough funds for rehabilitation.

Answer John – Provision in accounts made for this.

Query – is dieback a problem and could it be brought in by trucks.

Answer John – none seen on site and trucks only on sealed roads.

Query re. access to site in an emergency – emergency number doesn’t seem efficient.

Answer John – has always worked previously will enquire.

Jodi – Aboriginals have walked over site – occupation possible at one stage. Mythologically could be important as traditionally aboriginals camped by eater.

Noise and Vibration (Dr. Paul Keswick)

Work is being undertaken with monitoring of site being 14 days straight and plugged into a module. Report will be made available. Indicators are that is is some time off but before PER.

Query – how will noise affect wildlife.

Answer Jodi – they are not affected by the noise.

Query – will readings taken be available.

Answer Jodi – Yes.

Comment – Hansons may wish to get pro-active and concede all land outside dotted line as a National Park.

Answer John Symonds – there could be no assurance of this.

Query – Hanson using land outside their own land as a buffer zone.

Answer John – Darling Range Park area is a buffer.

Query – are properties being used as a buffer

Answer John – No – not saying that.

Jodi outlined assessment process.

Query – Has noise and vibration study covered new crusher. Is Research reliable.

Answer Jodi – yes this is incorporated in study.

Query – has aboriginal study been taken by indigenous people.

Answer Jodi – not sure.

Statement – this study needs to be confirmed by aboriginal people of the area.

Query – What assurances can Hansons give that the mistakes that have occurred since the 1990s PER won't happen again.

Answer Jodi – the assessment process has become more stringent – cannot be open to interpretation problems.

Query – Hanson have not carried out commitments in the 1990 PER.

Statement – Hanson at meeting of 17th February 2007 had stated that they had only been audited by Ombudsman.

Answer John – this was a misunderstanding Department of Environment had audited site and past audits showed compliance.

Chairperson thanked John and Jodi for attending.

The General Meeting then commenced.

1.Minutes: It was moved that the Minutes of the Meeting of 15th January, 2007, be accepted D. Robertson/S. Johnston– carried.

Business Arising:

BMX Track – consultation process finalized.

Western Power – Forum March 12th at Mundaring Hall, Jacoby Street at 7.pm

Targa West – Proposed Questionnaires tabled and read to meeting. As we have had no response from City or Targa West re. these proposed questionnaires, need for which identified in the Debriefing session in December, these have been formulated for sending to affected community. Motion - Acceptance of Questionnaires by meeting for forwarding to CEO of City, asking for addresses for distribution of questionnaires – this to be undertaken by GPA and results communicated to City of Swan, Targa West, WA Police and other parties as deemed appropriate – Moved John Mangini/Len Baxter – carried.

Roads – Noted that RAC had been reported in Hills Gazette as saying Toodyay Road and Red Hill need urgent approval. GPA to write to RAC, Main Roads and our MLA supporting this.

Trails Grants – City are not putting in for grants this year but have agreed to support GPA if we wish to do so. Has been identified by both City and GPA that an overall Trails plan is needed for Gidgegannup and integrated to the Swan Valley. City will convene a meeting re. this initiative.

Rates – No information from City yet re. efforts to have Gidgegannup revalued every three years rather than every year. GPA to follow up.

Susannah Brook Lease Agreement – discussion was deferred until representatives from the sub-division were present. It was noted that there had been a meeting on site with John Connolly from the Department of Water and he was liaising with City re. conditions and licensing requirements.

Parking of trucks in a rural residential sub division – the State Appeals Tribunal had come to a decision upon this. The City had refused this application and the applicant had appealed the decision to the SAT. It was found that the applicant was proposing a transport depot (according to the definition in the City of Swan’s Town Planning Scheme), and the Scheme absolutely prohibited such a use on at least one half of the applicant’s land. In such circumstances the Tribunal could not approve the application.

In any event the Tribunal indicated that even if there was power to approve the application it would lead to an undesirable land use conflict on the current zonings. Thus the application for review had to be dismissed and the decision under review affirmed.

Rural Fire Strategy – Consultants for the City of Swan are reviewing the rules and trying to rationalize the Strategy. With regard to Strategic firebreaks many are not being kept clear, largely because present owners are not aware that they are such. Fire breaks are an obligation of fire management set by the City of Swan on each property. Land owners should be informed of their obligations upon change of ownership.

2. Treasurer’s Report: Balance at Bank as at 31st January, 2007 \$1549.83

It was moved that the Treasurer’s Report be accepted L. Baxter/M. Zimmer– carried.

3. Correspondence:

IN

Various re. Susannah Brook Lease Agreement

City - Public Open Space

SAT decision re. truck parking Crestside

Hanson’s Quarry various

Targa West Questionnaire

J. Radisich re. Swan Hills Electricity Forum

Copy letter from Minister for Planning re. proposed Parkerville and Stoneville townsites

Minister re. Development In Gidgegannup

Various re. Trails grants programme

Gravel driving

City re. proposed extension to Dam Berry Road

City re. change of name Clenton/O’Brien roads

Dept. of Environment re. Midland air quality

City re. our submission on subdivision corner Stoneville and Toodyay Roads

Wooroloo Brook LCDC re. dam Berry road

Re. Roland Road/Toodyay Road junction
City re. Rural Fire Strategy

OUT

Hanson's quarry various
Susannah Brook lease agreement various
City re. Hanson Quarry Red Hill submission
City re. Trails Grants programme
City re. verge spraying
City re. proposed extension to Dam Berry Road
City re. Rural Fire strategy

Inward Correspondence Accepted, Outward endorsed proposed A. Lockwood/J. Mangini – carried.

Business Arising:

Verge Spraying – City is undertaking this again. Have requested that roadsides in Gidgegannup not be sprayed to the extent they were last year.

Noted more weed control generally was needed – this had been raised at the Annual Meeting of Electors.

Development in Gidgegannup – letter from Minister noting community's wish to develop as a sustainable society and indicating that discussions would take place between DPI and City and that GPA should ensure that they are included in any such discussions.

Gravel Driving training – it had been suggested that young people should be given training to respond to driving situations on gravel. There are already some schemes in place. Felt that maybe this could be undertaken in cooperation with Targa West as a PR for them, under the auspices of the City of Swan. GPA to contact City.

At the Targa debriefing meeting in December, Bob Schrader had said there was a sum of money available for the community – GPA to follow up.

4. General Business:

Tennis Club – Allan Lockwood confirmed that a tennis club was to be formed for use of the new courts. Membership of the club would enable access to the courts at a reasonable rate for members. Alternatively City of Swan rates for usage would be implemented. Contact Allan Lockwood on 957 7104 for further information re. a meeting to discuss new club and fee structure.

Road signs – noted that road sign at Stanley Road/Toodyay Road intersection had not been mended since recent accident. Also requested that a warning sign of a junction could be erected on Toodyay Road before this right hand turn. GPA to write to Main Roads.

5. Closure of Meeting: There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.30 pm. The next meeting will be held on Monday, 19th March, 2007 at 7.30 pm at the Agricultural Society Hall, Gidgegannup.