

MINUTES OF THE WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

Thursday 13 March 2008
Department of Environment and Conservation
9.00 am – 1.35 pm

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

The Chair declared the meeting open at 9.17 am and welcomed all present.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr Barry Carbon	Chair
Mayor Paddi Creevey	Arrived at 9.40am
Ms Carolyn Jakobsen	
Mr Geoff Richards	
Mr Graham Slessar	

ATTENDEES

Mr Kim Taylor	Assistant Director General, Environment, DEC	
	In attendance between 9.40am – 11.10am	
Mr Michael Kerr	A/Director, Sustainability – for Director General, DEC	
Dr Jill Lethlean	A/Manager, Waste Management Branch	
Mr Bernard Ryan	Manager, Policy & Evaluation	
Ms Diane McKinnon	Executive Officer	Minutes/Actions
Ms Rebecca Brown	MWAC Executive Officer	For item 9.1
Ms Shelley Inglis	MWAC Project Coordinator	Observer (item 9.1)
Ms Laura-Jayne Edgecombe	Project Coordinator	For item 9.2
Ms Helen Kelly	Coordinator	Observer (item 9.2)

APOLOGIES

Fleur Newman

2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

No conflicts of interest were declared by members during the meeting.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Waste Management Board meeting held on 14 February 2008 were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting, subject to minor amendments.

RESOLUTION OF DISCUSSION:

3.1 The minutes of the 14 February 2008 meeting were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting, subject to minor amendments.

4. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Members reviewed the actions from previous meetings. Generally, the actions listed were accepted and noted.

The following items required clarification or an update on status during the meeting.

Actions from 14 February 2008 meeting:

- 6.1 Used Oil – Current Status.** The Chair advised that he has forwarded an email to the Director General DEC regarding the Board's request that waste oil be taken on as a pressing issue by DEC, amongst other matters including a de-brief to the Minister.
- 7.2 Significant Correspondence – Ministerial/Board.** In relation to action item 7.2.1 from the last meeting, regarding the Department of Premier & Cabinet's determination of remuneration for Waste Authority members, Michael Kerr advised that he has left a message for DPC accordingly. The Chair advised that in his discussions with the Minister's Office, a large number of very promising people for Waste Authority positions has been received.
- 7.4 Position Statement for Recycled Organics – Final Draft.** The Chair reported that he has advised the Minister's Office that the Position Statement will be released soon. Jill Lethlean added that WALGA has also been advised and received a copy of the statement. The Board agreed that the Position Statement on Recycled Organics be released via a media release this afternoon and on the Board's website as soon as possible. It was also agreed that it be sent to the Board's stakeholder list and to all organisations that provided input into the development of the statement.

Actions from 13 December 2007 meeting:

- 7.8 Use of Recycled Content Material in Construction Projects.** The Chair advised that he has received the draft minutes of the meeting with the Minister and CEOs of the Water Corporation, Main Roads, Verve Energy and Synergy. The Chair undertook to forward the draft minutes to members for their interest, out of session.
- 7.10 Organics sub-committee.** Graham Slessar and Jill Lethlean to draft a letter to MWAC announcing the release of the Recycled Organics Position Statement, and encouraging local government to participate in the development of any guide to best practice by the Waste Authority.
- 6.1 Agreement with Local Government to provide Household Hazardous Waste Collection Services.** The Chair requested that media releases regarding the joint proposal be progressed as soon as possible. Jill advised that a recent collection trial in Nedlands was very successful. A new steering committee will be established to get the new program underway. The Board agreed that the Minister be invited to officially launch the first scheduled collection service under the new joint program.
- 6.2 China – Towards Zero Waste Summit – 15 to 18 April 2008.** The Chair advised that he has discussed the possibility of extending an invitation for an industry representative to attend the Summit on behalf of the Board with key officers in the Minister's Office. The idea was favoured by the Minister's Office. The Board discussed nominations from industry local government sectors. Of the recommendations put forward, the Board agreed that the Chair determine and progress as soon as possible up to two contenders for nomination.

RESOLUTIONS OF DISCUSSION:

- 4.1 The Board agreed that the Minister be invited to officially launch the first scheduled household hazardous waste collection service under the new joint DEC/WALGA collection program.**
- 4.2 The Board supported the Chair in determining and progressing appropriate nominees to attend the Towards Zero Waste Summit in China.**

ACTIONS:

- 4.3 DEC (Jill Lethlean) to advise the Minister's Office that the *Position Statement for Recycled Organics* is being released and progress release of the document, including appropriate media statements as soon as possible.
- 4.4 The Chair to forward to Board members for their interest out-of-session, a copy of the draft minutes of the meeting between the Minister and CEOs of the Water Corporation, Main Roads, Verve Energy and Synergy.
- 4.5 Graham Slessar and Jill Lethlean to forward a letter to WALGA from the Organics sub-committee as discussed at the meeting.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Nil

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR DECISION**6.1 Zero Waste Plan Development Scheme 2006/07 Final Report**

The Zero Waste Plan Development Scheme (Phase 1) 2006/07 Final Report was circulated to members out of session on 27 February 2008 for the Board's endorsement. The Board was asked to note the report, provide any comments and approve the public release of the document. The Board confirmed its endorsement and subsequent public release of the report at the meeting following some minor editorial amendments.

The Board commented that the report is well written and provides a collation of data information that stakeholders will have great interest in. Jill Lethlean advised that the report will be ready for release in around three weeks, following the desk-top publishing of the document.

RESOLUTION OF DISCUSSION:

- 6.1.1 **The Board endorsed the public release of the Zero Waste Plan Development Scheme (Phase 1) 2006/07 Final Report.**

6.2 Local Government Waste and Recycling Data Collection Funding Request

Jill Lethlean advised that through the Resource Recovery Rebate Scheme (RRRS), the Auditing Continuity/Data Compilation Scheme (AC/DC) and the Zero Waste Plan Survey, Local Governments across WA have collected and reported on their waste and recycling tonnages over the past 10 years.

The Board agreed to allocate \$900,000 per annum to fund the Local Government waste and recycling data collection program for a period of 3 (three) years subject to a review of the program to bring it in line with 5 (five) year zero waste plans.

RESOLUTIONS OF DISCUSSION:

- 6.2.1 **The Board agreed to recommend the allocation of \$900,000 per annum to fund the Local Government waste and recycling data collection program for a period of 3 (three) years subject to a review of the program to bring it in line with 5 (five) year zero waste plans.**

6.3 Progressing Outcomes of the Landfill Levy Review Report

The Chair advised members that it would be appropriate for the Board to provide comments to the incoming Waste Authority on the Landfill Levy Review, with a copy of the recommendations to be forwarded to the Minister. Some recommendations will require appropriate actions by DEC and the Minister, but the majority of actions would be undertaken by the Waste Authority.

RESOLUTIONS OF DISCUSSION:

6.3.1 The Board requested that a paper providing recommendations to the Waste Authority on the Landfill Levy Review be prepared for the Board's consideration at the next meeting.

6.4 Preparation for Board Strategic Planning Workshop – 20 March 2008

The Board at its February meeting, agreed to discuss and develop a list of recommendations for the incoming Waste Authority. Jill Lethlean outlined that it would be appropriate to use the scheduled strategic planning workshop on 20 March 2008 to discuss and finalise the recommendations.

The Board agreed that the special meeting to be held on 20 March 2008 include the following topics for discussion:

- Establishment of the Waste Authority
- Regulations – Levy
- EPR – National / State, including Oil, Tyres, Glass and Container Deposit Systems
- Strategic Plan/Business Plan
- National Packaging Covenant
- Infrastructure (including alternative waste treatments)
- Spending Money
- Staffing
- Communications (authority to lead - communications/education sense)
- Licensed Landfills
- Which wastes and priority wastes

The Chair advised that he would like to provide some advice to the Minister at his meeting in the afternoon, in preparation for the Minister's forthcoming EPHC meeting. Members supported the Chair in discussing issues highlighted by the Board during the meeting with the Minister, advising that while WA supports a National synchronisation of waste issues, it is quite different to other States and is therefore required to manage its own waste issues in some instances.

RESOLUTIONS OF DISCUSSION:

6.4.1 The Board agreed that a special meeting be held on 20 March 2008 to discuss and develop a list of recommendations for the incoming Waste Authority.

6.4.2 The Board supported the Chair in raising issues highlighted during the meeting, with the Minister, in preparation for the Minister's forthcoming EPHC meeting.

6.5 Proposal to Fund External Delivery of Select Board Programs

The proposal to fund the external delivery of select Board programs was circulated to members out of session on 10 March 2008 for the Board's consideration. The Board was asked to note the opportunity for investment in a Regional Funding Model, consisting of 3 stages. The development and implementation of Local Government regional waste investment plans as part of the Regional Funding Model was proposed as Stage 1 (agenda item 7.6 refers). The identification and adoption of best practice (non Local Government) waste collection services was proposed as Stage 2 and the development and submission of industry product stewardship plans as Stage 3.

Members discussed the feasibility of the proposal. While the Board considered the proposal has merit, it expressed concerns regarding devolving Board responsibility to others, feedback mechanisms, auditing, partnership arrangements and prioritisation. Concerns were also raised about imposing a large funding commitment onto the incoming Waste Authority – who may prefer to allocate the designated funds on alternative investments.

The Board requested a more detailed proposal to be presented at the next meeting, addressing the mechanism proposed, funding required to support it for one year and a description of how it integrated with strategic waste plans. Members agreed that the revised proposal could only be considered for a one year period by the current Board and further funding requests should be for the consideration of the Waste Authority.

RESOLUTION OF DISCUSSION:

6.5.1 The Board requested a revised proposal to be presented at the next meeting, providing additional detail in relation to the mechanism for the proposal, funding required to support it for a one year period and a description of how it integrated with strategic waste plans.

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION**7.1 Significant Correspondence – Waste Management and Recycling Account**

The Board noted the final evaluation project reports received from:

- Ningaloo Reef Adventure Camp – Renew @ Ningaloo, CGS Grant 2006; and
- Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare Group Inc – Is it Really Rubbish Education Campaign, CGS Grant 2007.

7.2 Significant Correspondence – Ministerial/Board

The Board noted the status of recent Waste Management Board correspondence addressed to the Chair.

7.3 Used Oil – EPHC Waste Oil Working Group

The Board noted the advice of the Environmental Protection and Council Waste Oil Working Group, provided to the Environmental Heritage Standing Committee meeting on 13 March. The Working Group concluded that within respective jurisdictions, state governments should examine the situation for used oil; closely monitor the used oil market; support development of domestic used oil market; and investigate mechanisms to facilitate transport of used oil to interstate processing facilities.

7.4 Western Biopower Used Lubrication Oil – SWIS Project

The Board noted the progress of the Western Biopower Used Lubrication Oil SWIS project. The project supports the development of an on-site pre-treatment system for used lubricating oil generated on mine sites that will allow the oil to be blended with diesel fuel and re-used on site. While there has been significant progress on the project, it is unlikely to be completed on schedule.

7.5 Waste Management Board 2007/08 Business Plan Projects – Summary including Consultancies

The Board was advised that a summary status report of the 2007/08 Business Plan projects is not available due to the resignation of the officer who produced the document. The Board noted the status of current consultancies and highlighted three consultancies which should effectively have been completed by now. The Board expressed its keenness to finalise outstanding consultancies within the current Board's term.

7.6 Feedback on Outcomes of Consultation with Local Government regarding the Development of Funding Models

The Board noted the principles for a Regional Funding Model for local government that have been refined through a targeted consultation process. The development of the proposed regional funding model for Local Government has been progressed to replace the RRRS.

Bernard Ryan advised that feedback on the proposed Model has been overwhelmingly positive with Local Governments' acknowledging the merit in working collaboratively to improve efficiencies and economies of scale in regards to waste management and resource recovery. The model is also strongly supported by the recent release of WALGA's draft document entitled *'The Journey: Sustainability into the Future'* which encourages the regional delivery of services whilst maintaining appropriate representation at a local level.

Further discussion on the development of funding models was addressed at Agenda item 6.5 - Proposal to Fund External Delivery of Select Board Programs.

7.7 Preparation for Commencement of the Waste Authority

Michael Kerr provided an update on the preparation for commencement of the Waste Authority. He advised that the Minister's Office anticipated that the Waste Authority will be in place by May/June 2008.

Michael advised that an immediate statutory requirement for the incoming Waste Authority will be to set the level of the Landfill Levy by 1 July 2008. It was noted, however, that the existing levy can continue until the new Authority is in place to undertake this requirement, which may occur after the deadline.

The Board discussed the status of its sub-committees, in particular the Organics sub-committee. The Board unanimously agreed to suspend all current sub-committees effective immediately. It was noted that the current work of the Organics sub-committee, including a letter to WALGA and imminent release of the *Position Statement on Recycled Organics* would be finalised prior to disbandment.

RESOLUTION OF DISCUSSION:

7.7.1 The Board agreed to suspend all of its sub-committees effective immediately.

7.8 Container Deposit System for WA

Michael Kerr provided an update on a proposed container deposit system for WA. Drafting instructions for a regulation to introduce CDS is currently in preparation in the event that a decision to proceed with CDS is made.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Nil.

9. PRESENTATIONS

9.1 Presentation of the Auditing Continuity / Data Compilation (AC/DC) Report for Period 2 – Rebecca Brown, WALGA

The Board received a presentation by Rebecca Brown, WALGA on the Auditing Continuity / Data Compilation (AC/DC) Report for Period 2. A copy of the presentation slides can be found at Attachment 1.

9.2 Presentation on the Results of the Survey of Local Governments on the Zero Waste Plan Development Scheme – Laura-Jayne Edgecombe, DEC

The Board received a presentation by Laura-Jayne Edgecombe, DEC on the results of the survey of Local Governments on the Zero Waste Plan Development Scheme. A copy of the presentation slides can be found at Attachment 2.

Laura-Jayne advised that the report is currently being desk-top published and it is hoped to be ready for release within three weeks.

RESOLUTION OF DISCUSSION:

9.2.1 The Board requested that the report detailing the survey results of Local Governments on the Zero Waste Plan Development Scheme be publicly released as soon as possible.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 10 April 2008 at DEC's Atrium offices, between 9.00am to 1.00pm.

A strategic planning session has also been scheduled for Thursday 20 March, between 9.00am to 1.00pm at the Western Australian Ecology Centre, Bold Park in the Tamala Room, Perry Lakes Drive, Floreat.

11. CLOSE

The meeting closed at 1.35 pm.

APPROVED / APPROVED WITH AMENDMENT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barry Carbon', is written over a horizontal line.

Barry Carbon, Chair

WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD

10 April 2008