



GREAT SOUTHERN REGIONAL CATTLE SALEYARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

SECTION 5.9(2)(a) LGA 1995

Committee Brief

The duties of the committee shall be to:

- *Make recommendation to the Council regarding the strategic direction of the Saleyards;*
- *Make Recommendation to the Council regarding the Environmental Action Plan for the Saleyards;*
- *Bring to the attention of the Chief Executive Officer, industry matters regarding the cattle industry that may not be readily available to persons external to that industry; and*
- *Make recommendation to the Council regarding development works on the site.*

An Ordinary Meeting of the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards Advisory Committee was held in the Committee Room, Lowood Road, Mount Barker WA 6324, 10.00am Tuesday 16 August 2011.

Rob Stewart
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Committee Members

Cr B Bell, Cr M Skinner, Cr L Handasyde, Cr S Grylls 11/10

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Chairperson:

Cr M Skinner

Membership

Cr B Bell

Cr L Handasyde

Cr S Grylls

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

10.00am The Presiding Member declared the meeting open.

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES

Members Present

Cr M Skinner (Presiding Member)

Cr B Bell

Cr L Handasyde

Cr S Grylls

Staff

Mr John Fathers, Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Mr Stewart Smith, Saleyards Manager

Visitors

Mr Charles Williams, West Coast Analytical Services

Mr Gerrit Van Rensburg, Klen International

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Cr B Bell, seconded Cr L Handasyde:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards Advisory Committee, held on 24 May 2011 as circulated, be taken as read and adopted as a correct record.

CARRIED

4 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

A Financial Interest was disclosed by Cr M Skinner

Nature and Extent of Interest: Farming - 400 head of cattle

Authority to participate pursuant to Section 5.69 (3) (a) and (b) of the Local Government Act 1995

Approval has been received from the Department of Local Government via letter dated 10 December 2010, giving permission for Cr M Skinner and Cr J Moir to participate in matters relating to the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards until 31 December 2011.

Mr J Fathers read aloud the letter, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

5 REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

5.1 MANAGER'S REPORT – 17 MAY TO 8 AUGUST 2011

SALE DATA

Total numbers:

17 th May – 31 st May	1966 head
1st June -30th June	2829 head
1st July -31st July	1273 head
1st August – 8th August	1074 head

Total numbers 7163 for this period.

There have been 21 MSA cattle in this time. 107 cattle have received replacement NLIS tags over this time. 14 animals have been put down or removed.

41 bales of hay have been fed out over this time.

There have been 254 Private/Shipper Weigh cattle processed.

For 2010/2011 financial year, the total throughput of was 79,398 head.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Yard maintenance is ongoing. We are still replacing airlines for weighbridge gates and checking and replacing bearings, sprockets etc. Everything gets a good grease when needed.
- We've pruned trees around office and spraying weeds are a priority at the moment as the green weeds appear. Rabbits appear to be a problem with eating the small shrubs.
- We are in the process of fixing wash down pipes.
- We have had a good run with manure sales, hence not having to keep a lot of excess manure on site.
- We have ordered another 1,000 ear tags from Leader which have now arrived.
- We have dug out all sumps at the end of the selling pens and are in the process of flushing lines out to clear them. We are waiting for rain to subside to continue.
- Air ram seals are being replaced by Al Curnow. We have replaced three and are making up kits for the rest.
- Erika and Steve are going for their Hepatitis A & B this month with their follow-ups next month.
- Whilst Stewart was away Ray Parry has been casting his eye over the yards to make sure things are going smoothly.
- Tim Beech resigned on 23 June 2011, securing a farm managers position. Tim stayed on to help out on sale days for retagging until Stewart returned.
- Steve cleaned blocked truck sump, stray horn was the problem.
- On 27 June we had a meeting with Jack Nixon from the Department of Agriculture regarding saleable cattle, and in particular what should be rejected. He reiterated no tag no sale, and no tag without permit, no sale.

- We have been keeping irrigator going almost all weeks. The pond was quite full the first few weeks after Stewart left. We ran the irrigator all weekends to keep water at bay due to the amount of rain.
- On 29 June it seemed that one of the weighbridge computers was not right and very slow to start. It has been down to Pre-Emptive strike twice for repairs, the last one being a total reinstallation of all programs.
- On 30 June Charles Williams from Westcoast Analytical Services took samples from ponds.
- On 4 July we put gravel around the cement wash down sump to build it back up and make level.
- On 6 July Michael Seaman came to service the diesel pump. The exhaust outlet was almost gone so we instructed him to turn sideways to get longer out of unit. As it was water could leak down pipe doing severe damage to pump.
- On 7 July Stewart's phone died. It has been sent to Telstra for repairs. John lent his phone whilst the yards one is being repaired. Only problem with phone is the ring is too quiet. Missing a few calls because can't hear phone over wash down, cattle, mower etc.
- On 7 July Erika took a week off to take family to Esperance. Steve was left holding the fort. The Agents informed Erika that they would be missing the following week's sale due to depleted numbers.
- Reassessing the figures again on the 21st it was decided to go to fortnightly sales until the end of August. Elders were the real pushers in that regard.
- From 8 -15 July Steve continued with basic jobs, ie wash down, troughs, sump cleaning, bins etc.
- On 18 July Steve re-screwed the bull walkway which has been in need of repair. GSS came and collected 25 buckets of manure.
- On 19 July all the wastewater outlets were repainted in the approved purple colour signalling waste water. (Many were blue).
- On 20 July, three late trucks from Esperance came in on a Curfew day. Two at 5.30pm and one at 8.00pm.
- On 21 July Erika updated the Alies datalink on the computer so it will now take newer NVD's.
- On 27 July, the ute's tyres were rotated at the depot.
- On the sale day on 4 August, power was out when arrived to work at 4.30am. (Power was out in the area, not just the saleyards). This put the sale back until 11.30am. We didn't start weighing until 8.00am. All agents worked in very well.
- On 4 August we had welfare issues regarding bulls from Esperance which shouldn't have come in for sale. John Barden from the Department of agriculture was informed of the state of bulls on arrival. One bull had to be destroyed as it went down in the race.

John Barden looked at bulls on Thursday morning. One was removed, three more after sale, and two more rejected by Mitchells Transport. A total of seven bulls were destroyed from one vendor.

RSPCA officer Helen Milne attended the yards on Friday morning. Subsequently vet was called and an autopsy requested. The Matter is in the hands of the RSPCA now.

- On 8 August Stewart returned from attending the Australian Livestock Markets AGM and Conference in Dubbo. Stewart was accompanied by Deputy Chief Executive Officer, John Fathers and Deputy Shire President, Michael Skinner. They attended several yards for ideas, as well as attending AGM and Conference. NB Stewart has become a member of Saleyard Managers Association. In his opinion GSRCYSY should become a financial member or Australian Livestock Markets Association as there is the possibility of further funding as well as legal support, better lobbying, lots of opportunities in saleyards matters. If we joined we would be the only saleyard in Western Australia to be a member. This matter is further dealt with in a memorandum from the Deputy Chief Executive Officer.

During discussion in regard to the recent welfare issue involving bulls, the Committee considered that these animals should not have progressed through the system. Nevertheless, there should be a protocol in place when such animals do arrive at the saleyards, which should be included in any revised agreements with the agents.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION / COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Cr L Handasyde, seconded Cr S Grylls:

That the monthly report of the Saleyards Manager be received.

CARRIED

5.2 SALEYARDS FINANCIAL REPORT – 31 JULY 2011

File No: CA/126/1
Responsible Officer: Rob Stewart
Chief Executive Officer
Author: John Fathers
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Proposed Meeting Date: 16 August 2011

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to review the preliminary financial position of the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards (GSRCS) for the period ending 31 July 2011.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

There are no statutory implications for this report.

CONSULTATION

There has been no consultation in relation to this report.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications for this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This report identifies the current operating position of the GSRCS.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

There are no strategic implications for this report.

OFFICER COMMENT

A spreadsheet showing the current position of operating and capital budget items is attached for information. Not all end of month processes, such as depreciation have been run. Nevertheless, overall YTD operating expenditure is \$36,970.00, which is \$24,834.00 below the YTD cash budget. Operating income is \$6,481.00, which is \$20,893.00 below YTD budget, which is somewhat expected due to the fortnightly sales over this period. The majority of expenditure budget items are below YTD budget and there are no over-expenditures of concern.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION / COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Cr B Bell, seconded Cr M Skinner:

That the report of the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, relating to the current financial position of the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards, be received.

CARRIED

6 GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

Following some investigations by Charles Williams and Gerrit Van Rensburg from Klen International, these gentlemen have been invited to the meeting to discuss the results of those investigations and the options with the committee.

Mr Van Rensburg made a presentation and following some discussion, the Committee arrived at the following preliminary plan:

Short term

- *Investigate soft floor and reduce water use;*
- *Further investigate enzyme additives;*
- *Further investigate installing aerators and progressively clean up ponds 3 then 2 then 1;*
- *Re-configure the ponds to be 1->2->3 in series;*

Medium Term

- *Install a clay barrier to effectively cut pond 1 in half, to enable easier access, more effective enzyme action and allow cleaning out of solids if required;*

Longer term

- *Depending on the results of these actions, look at a sand filter and liners.*

It was agreed to hold a strategic planning session on 6 September, to which all councillors should be invited, in order to progress this and other long term plans.

6.2 REPORT FROM SALEYARDS VISITS

Cr Michael Skinner, Deputy CEO John Fathers and Saleyards Manager Stewart Smith attended the Rural Press 2011 Australian Livestock Markets Association Conference held in Dubbo on 27-28 July 2011. This involved a tour of Dubbo Regional Livestock Markets and Fletchers International Exports Abattoir. While in NSW, we took the opportunity to visit saleyards in Carcoar and Forbes. Prior to leaving for Sydney, we also visited Muchea saleyards with Crs Bell and Handasyde.

A detailed memorandum has been circulated in relation to the outcome from these visits. A slideshow is also available. It is anticipated that the recommendations contained within that memorandum can be discussed at length.

6.4 DEC LETTER - OVERFLOW

At its meeting held on 12 April 2011, the Committee resolved that the advice of the Department of Conservation and Environment (DEC) be sought on a proposal to:

1. Decommission the waste water overflow on the southern sullage pond by installing a cap on the discharge pipe on the outside of the pond;
2. Install a valve on that pipe in cases of emergency due to large rainfall events, with the submission to include historical rainfall records; and
3. Amend the DEC licence for the Saleyards to incorporate the allowance in Clause 2.

The DEC's letter of response is attached.

6.6 PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION

- Greater use of chlorinated water.
- Need for energy audit / additional power requirements.
- Joint advertising campaign with agents for vealer sales.

7 NEXT MEETING

6 September 2011

8 MEETING CLOSURE

11.30am The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed.

CONFIRMED: CHAIRPERSON _____ **DATE:** ____/____/____