



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,
10.00 am Tuesday 28 April 2009.

Rob Stewart
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Committee Members

Cr K Forbes, Cr M Skinner, Cr S Grylls

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Chairperson:

Cr M Skinner

Deputy Chairperson:

Membership

Cr K Forbes - Rocky Gully / West Ward - Shire President

Cr M Skinner - East Ward

Cr S Grylls - Rocky Gully / West Ward

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

10.00 am The Presiding Member declared the meeting open.

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES

Present

Cr M Skinner Presiding Member
Cr S Grylls

Apology

Cr K Forbes AM

Staff

Mr J Fathers Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Mr S Smith Manager – Saleyards
Ms C Appleby Assistant Manager – Saleyards

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Cr M Skinner, seconded Cr S Grylls:

THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards Advisory Committee, held on 24 March 2009 as circulated, be taken as read and adopted as a correct record.

CARRIED

4 DECLARATION 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 and Regional Development via letter dated 14 November 2008, giving permission for Cr K Forbes AM, Cr M Skinner, Cr B Hollingworth, Cr J Moir and Cr D Nye-Chart to participate in matters relating to the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards until October 2009.

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 - MARCH 2009

Sale Data

(1/3/2009 – 31/3/2009)

Total March numbers including MSA were 4,601 head
45 cattle have received replacement NLIS tags over this time.
One animal has been put down or removed.
35 bales of hay have been fed out.
228 cattle have gone through for Private/Shipper Weigh.

General Business

(19/3/09 – 17/4/09)

We have been continuously irrigating the paddock to keep the dam water levels down. The north eastern dam is empty and is ready for sludge removal. We needed to hire a petrol sludge pump to assist the water removal.

Sales for the on-site manure continue to be strong.

The water mains meter has been replaced due to a leak in one of the points.

All of the solid manure from the old saleyards has been removed by Healy's on 15-16 April.

We are continuing to replace the gravel in the dirt pens.

New taps are being put onto the waterlines which supply the sale pens to isolate a run when we have a trough break, rather than turning all of the water off.

We are currently looking into quotes for a replacement bobcat.

We are preparing the back paddock for the new hay crop which will be sown shortly depending on the rain.

During discussion, Members advised that they were agreeable to Ravenhill Dairy taking the sludge being extracted from the settling ponds.

COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Cr M Skinner, seconded Cr S Grylls:

That the report of the Saleyards Manager for the month of March 2009, be received.

CARRIED

5.2 SALEYARDS FINANCIAL REPORT – 31 MARCH 2009

File No: CA/126/1

Responsible Officer: Rob Stewart
Chief Executive Officer

Author: John Fathers
Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Proposed Meeting Date: 28 April 2009

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 March 2009.

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.

Most items are within reasonable range of the YTD budget. The survey of groundwater monitoring bores exceeded budget by \$400.00. However, overall operating expenditure is well within budget. Insurance was approximately \$4,500.00 higher than budget. Operating Income is now in line with budget.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION / COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Cr M Skinner, seconded Cr S Grylls:

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 WASTE WATER RE-USE PROJECT

In line with the previous discussions at Committee level, an order has been placed with Hydramet for the installation of a waste water re-use facility. A request has also been submitted to the Department of Local Government and Regional Development for additional RIFP funds to cover the over-expenditure.

During discussion, the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Mr Fathers advised that a response had been received from the Department of Local Government and Regional Development approving this request.

6.2 FREQUENCY OF WATER SAMPLING

During discussion at the Saleyards Committee meeting held on 24 March 2009, the necessity for quarterly water sampling was queried. This matter was raised with Coffeys. Susie Brown has advised as follows:

'For the comment about quarterly sampling of the ponds, it's worth bearing in mind that most sites are required to undertake monthly analysis, so only having quarterly requirements is actually quite good. If there were only 2 rounds of sampling per year, it would be hard to be confident that the average of the results from the two rounds was truly representative of annual water quality. (The average is used in calculating the nutrient loading rates.) Quarterly allows a better sense of seasonal variations in water quality, and makes the nutrient loading rate less susceptible to a spike in nutrient levels in an individual round.'

During discussion, Members requested that this matter be reviewed in the future and that some statistical analysis be carried out to verify the accuracy of the argument put forward by Coffeys.

6.3 PROPOSAL TO FERTILISE HAY Paddock

During discussion at the Saleyards Committee meeting held on 24 February 2009, the Committee requested that Coffeys be asked if nitrogen could be added to the paddock for fertiliser, to increase the hay crop yield. Susie Brown has advised as follows:

'I had a further discussion with Kate today about the possibility of fertilising the irrigation paddock, and although there are various ways of performing the fertilising that would reduce the risk of nitrogen leaching to groundwater, our advice is that no fertilising takes place. The reasoning is that the benefits (improved crop over a few hectares) do not outweigh the risks (creating a situation where irrigation of wastewater may be jeopardised). The preferred method of getting more nitrogen to the paddock is in this case increased irrigation, even though the timing of the application may not be optimal with regards to the crop growth cycle.'

I understand that having the pump available to undertake the wastewater irrigation has been a struggle lately, with additional weekly sales going on. However, as winter rains will be starting soon, it's important to make every effort to use the available sunny days in the next few weeks to get as much irrigation done as possible, in order to make room in the ponds for winter storage. Hopefully the sales will drop off and it will be possible to put the 'out of service' sign on the truckwash so that the irrigator can get a bit of a run.'

COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Cr M Skinner, seconded Cr S Grylls:

That the Saleyards Manager be requested to undertake tissue testing of the hay crop when it has been established, with a view to identifying deficiencies and taking up the request to apply fertiliser again with Coffeys.

CARRIED

6.4 AIRCRAFT LANDING ON Paddock

The Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Mr Fathers advised that a light aircraft owned by a feedlot had landed in the paddock over summer and had done so previously. The matter was being taken up with the Council's insurers, however the Committee's feedback was sought.

During discussion, Members were of the view that the practice could continue subject to it being at the operator's own risk. Mr Fathers was requested to take up this line with the insurers and advise further.

7 NEXT MEETING

To be advised.

8 MEETING CLOSURE

10:40 am The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed.

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