
Date: 17 August 2023

To: **Rylington Park Committee**
Shire President
Deputy Shire President
Councillors
Community



MINUTES – RYLINGTON PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY 7 AUGUST 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leonard Long". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "L".

Leonard Long
Chief Executive Officer

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AGENDA

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 5:16pm.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet and work.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

2.1 ATTENDANCE

Councillors

Shire President	Cr Richard F Walker
Deputy Shire President	Cr Helen C O'Connell
Councillors	Cr Charles A D Caldwell
	Cr Darren E King
	Cr Kevin J Moir

Community Committee Member	Andy McElroy
ECU	Prof. Kerry Brown

Invitees

ECU	Kristy Gillian (via MS Teams)
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Council Officers

Chief Executive Officer	Leonard Long
Rylington Park Farm Manager	Marc Deas
Rylington Park Farm Coordinator	Erlanda Deas
Executive Officer	Maggie Le Grange

2.2 APOLOGIES

Deputy Chief Executive Officer	Carolyn Mallett
Community Committee Member	Joshua Stretch

Not Attended

Community Committee Member	James Johnston
Kojonup Agricultural Supplies	Alec Smith

2.3 REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

3. PRESENTATIONS

Nil

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**4.1 FINANCIAL AND PROXIMITY INTEREST**

Nil

4.2 DISCLOSURES OF IMPARTIALITY INTEREST THAT MAY CAUSE A CONFLICT

Nil

5. PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**5.1 RYLINGTON PARK COMMITTEE MEETING – 12 JULY 2023****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION RP 23/08/006**

That the Minutes of the Rylington Park Committee Meeting held on 12 July 2023 be confirmed as being a true and accurate record.

Moved: Cr O'Connell

Seconded: Mr McElroy

CARRIED 7/0**6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES****6.1 Rylington Park Future Trial Plans**

Please find attached results from 2022 for Boyup Brook Ag Supplies pasture and crop trials held at Rylington Park Mayanup.

Attachment 6.1 – Boyup Brook 2022 Trial Report

6.2 Rylington Park Aeration Trials

Feedback on the aeration of the soil done by Cr King and the progress made on the installation of the fence / cage suggested at the previous meeting.

Mr Deas has installed fencing on one side. Nothing noticeable as it's still too cold.

6.3 Western Australian Agricultural Collaboration (WAAC) – Research Funding Opportunities

Prof. Brown will be providing further feedback on the issue at either the October or November meeting.

6.4 ECU Drone Usage Report

Prof. K Brown to provide feedback on the current projects that the drone is being used for.

Nothing further to report, drone not used on RP since June 2023. Waiting on report on other aspects the drone measured. Full report to be provided at the RP field day.

Prof. Brown indicated that it is still the same report since the sheep count.

The drone has not been utilised at Rylington Park since the end of June 2023.

Awaiting a report on some of the elements that was measured and mapped. The data is being analysed and the full report will be available at September Field Day.

Dr Dave Blake (drone pilot) will make a presentation at the Field Day on data collected.

A second report on the terrain and other data collected will be available for the Field Day.

Mr McElroy mentioned ground-breaking work being done over east with drones.

Prof. Brown indicated that using the drone is gaining momentum. Sheep counts have been conducted by hand for the past two (2) years (1 by Audit office and 2 by stock agents) and cost thereof high, opportunity to test with the drone count compared to the hand count was available to Rylington Park and that is an experiment which is ground-breaking and the mapping thereof is quite innovative.

Different terrain and different soil and moisture is about doing tests and getting software and building calibration of the drone as an aerial vehicle and test the drone in field conditions.

Starting on a greenfield site for drone work and a lot of work building the capabilities and it will roll out will be opportunity further down the track and Field Day opportunity to reveal the ability of the drone.

7. REPORT OF OFFICERS

7.1 Rylington Park – July 2023	
File Ref:	Nil
Previous Items:	Nil
Applicant:	Nil
Author and Title:	Erlanda Deas, Farm Coordinator Marc Deas, Farm Manager
Declaration of Interest:	Nil
Voting Requirements:	Simple Majority
Attachment Number	Nil

<u>COMMITTEE RESOLUTION RP 23/08/007</u>	
That the Rylington Park Committee Resolve to:	
A. Receive the Farm Manager’s Report in relation to the activities at Rylington Park for the month of July 2023.	
Moved:	Cr O’Connell
Seconded:	Cr Caldwell
CARRIED 7/0	

SUMMARY

This report is for the Rylington Park Committee to receive the update on the activities at Rylington Park.

BACKGROUND

The July 2023 activity report of the Management for Rylington Park is below:

Sheep

- Lambing finished
- Checking ewes and shooting foxes and kangaroos
- XB lambs were marked and ewes mated to white Suffolk rams crutched

Ewes mated to white Suffolk rams	Lambs marked	Lambing %
1025	1169	114%

- Marking merino lambs and crutch ewes mated to merino rams on 10 & 11 August

Cropping

- Had crop inspection
- Spraying Flexi-N and in-crop according to agronomist's recommendations and cropping plan
 - *Mr Deas mentioned we need to discuss crop plan as he needs to order seed now to secure seed, whether canola or barley*

Trials

- GRDC oat NVT
- Boyup Brook Ag Supplies trials
- Summit fertiliser retained seed trial
- Phil Nichols (UWA) sub clover variety trial
- Decision Tree – grant application sent in
- DPIRD red legged earth mite trial
 - *Obtain official report on outcome of trial*

Schools / Events

- Nil

General

- Discussions re shearing schools with AWI and set dates until December – registrations will open next week
- Attended workshop re e-bales and Woolclip
- Field day organising
 - *Rylington Park Field Day Thursday 14 September 2023 coincides with RUOK Day*
 - *Ms Deas to:*
 - *sent the program to the Committee to set out questions/concerns*
 - *provide program to be sent out to community by 15 August*
 - *flyers (with logo's and in colour) to be ready by 20 August and sent out around 5 September*
 - *full program to be included in the August Gazette (might go over 2-pages – might have to pay more)*
- Setting up categories for Synergy program

What lies ahead

- Painting should start next week
- Checking ewes
- Spraying
- Checking crops and pastures
- Install water troughs
- Setting up Synergy program to suit Rylington's reporting
- Field day organising
- Lamb marking and crutching
- Shearing school discussions

Calendar:

- Annual Rylington Park Field Day Thursday 14 September 2023
- Shearing schools dates:
 - 2-6 October 2023
 - 23-27 October 2023
 - 13-17 November 2023
 - 18-20 December 2023 – improver school
- Ladies day – 15 March 2024

REPORT DETAIL**Workforce**

Nil

end

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

- **Trial Agreements**

CEO is currently reviewing the agreements and will in due course put a 'letter of agreement' in place for all commercial and collaboration agreements and that it encapsulates that results of trials be communicated to the Committee and that researchers should showcase at Rylington Park Field Days.

- **Potential research project proposed by Greening Australia (rehabilitating creek line and establishing a native plant seed bank).**

Professor Brown communicated that the collaboration with Greening Australia has been put back due to a delay at government level.

9. FURTHER BUSINESS**Bursaries from South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub**

Ms Gillian has been dealing with KJ from Grower Group Alliance, there is opportunity for research projects to apply for bursary funding.

Several (12) bursaries available currently, approximately \$8,000 per bursary funding for students to get into the field to do extensions/show practical application of research and demonstrating results of research.

Prof. Brown is point of contact at ECU and will work with research students to identify appropriate projects and support them in putting together their applications with Grower Group Alliance.

Grower Group Alliance is looking at social research projects that has an impact on the community as well as agricultural based research projects.

Ms Gillian requested to put on the agenda: looking at an opportunity to participate in evokeAG WA, scheduled for 20 – 21 February 2024. Perth is the host city, 2023 event was held in Adelaide. evokeAG Conference information was distributed during the course of the meeting which included statistics from the 2023 event.

ECU in discussion with DPIRD on Rylington Park being a possible delegation visit opportunity to demonstrate what Rylington Park is doing as part of Perth evokeAG 2024.

Expression of Interest for delegation and event proposal opens in August 2023 and closes October 2023.

ECU to work together with Rylington Park Committee and representatives from the Shire of Boyup Brook to set up a proposal for a delegation tour.

Expression of Interest to be submitted in September 2023.

Ms Gillian has a tentative meeting on 25 August 2023 with DPIRD & internal representative, Tony Makaito, project manager from ECU, as long as they have Rylington Park Committee and the Shire of Boyup Brook's endorsement to move forward in looking at a possible delegation.

Question from CEO: When do you need set approval from Council for EOI?

Ms Gillian to obtain clarity on 25 August 2023 around deadline as to when EOI are to be submitted.

Ms Gillian aims to have worked up a draft plan around 14 September 2023.

Looking at regional South West delegations tours where educational hubs are on 23 and 24 February 2024, post evokeAG event.

Beneficial for partnership between ECU and Rylington Park and Shire of Boyup Brook. Benefit: cross pollination, exposure to other industries, new innovations etc.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION RP 23/08/008

That the Rylington Park Committee Resolve to:

Recommend the appointment of Mr McElroy, Cr Caldwell and Cr Walker as a Sub-Committee of the Rylington Park Committee with delegated authority to provide quick response to managers requests.

Moved: Cr O'Connell

Seconded: Cr King

CARRIED 7/0

Review Rylington Park Budget

The Chief Executive Officer presented the 2023/2024 budget.

Capital Expenditure being carried over:

- Water Filtration system (health issue)
- Internal Ceiling needs to be replaced
- Internal Painting completed
- Roof of main homestead – replacement being done in Sept/Oct 2023.

Operating Expenditure (amended):

- Wages & Salaries Shire employees reduced to \$10k – annual leave cover/caretaker
- Chemicals \$40.5k
- Fertiliser reduced to \$110k
- Subscriptions reduced to \$1.3k
- Mechanical Parts and Repairs capped at \$11k
- Fuel purchases reduced from \$25k to \$20k
- Seed Purchases reduced to \$19.4k
- Annual Field Day remains unchanged
- Stock purchases reduced from \$30k to \$15k
- Women's Day remained unchanged
- Pencil Auger scrapped
- Wool bins scrapped
- Stainless steel handbasin remains
- Computer reduced from \$5k to \$3k
- Reefinator reduced from \$20k to \$6k
- Crop contracting reduced to \$35k
- Crutching scrapped (already captured)
- Building, fencing & water repairs reduced to \$12k.

Future Agenda Items

1. Bursaries from South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub.
2. Opportunity to participate in evokeAG WA, scheduled for 20 – 21 February 2024, Perth being the host city.
3. Review production plan/Farm Structure for the coming years.
Look at sheep numbers and farm structures including community cropping.
4. Potential agenda item for next com meeting regarding sheep numbers and farm structures including community cropping i.e production plan / farm structure for the coming years.

10. NEXT MEETING AND CLOSURE OF MEETING

Next meeting to be held on 10 October 2023 at 6:00pm in Council Chambers.

There being no further business the Shire President, Cr Walker thanked all for attending and declared the meeting closed at 7:00pm.

Presiding Member

Date