



# WEROC Inc. Board Meeting MINUTES

Wednesday 6 March 2024

Shire of Westonia Council Chambers  
Wolfram Street

WEROC Inc. | Incorporating the Shires of Bruce Rock, Kellerberrin, Merredin, Tammin, Westonia and Yilgarn

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# WEROC Inc.

## Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils Inc.

Shires of Bruce Rock, Kellerberrin, Merredin, Tammin, Westonia, Yilgarn

# MINUTES

Minutes of the Board Meeting held in Westonia on Wednesday 6 March 2024.

## 1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Renee Manning as Chair of WEROC Inc. welcomed Members of the Board and opened the meeting at 1.39pm.

## 2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

### 2.1 Attendance

Ms. Emily Ryan (joined via videoconference)

Mr. Mark Crees

Mr. Wayne Della Bosca

Ms. Renee Manning (Chair)

Mr. Bill Price

Mr. Ramesh Rajagopalan

Ms. Joanne Soderlund

Ms. Charmaine Thomson (Deputy Chair)

Ms. Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

### 2.2 Apologies

Mr. Darren Mollenoyux

Mr. Nic Warren

Mr. Raymond Griffiths

### 2.3 Guests

Mr. John Merrick, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Merredin

Mr. Cameron Watson, Executive Manager Corporate Services, Shire of Yilgarn

Ms. Vanessa King, Town Team Builder, WEROC (joined the meeting at 1.39pm and left at 2.02pm)

Ms. Jacquie Lucas, Corella Project Coordinator, Wheatbelt NRM (joined the meeting via videoconference at 2.02pm and left at 2.20pm)

Dr. Karl O'Callaghan, Chief Executive Officer, Wheatbelt NRM (joined the meeting via videoconference at 2.02pm and left at 2.20pm)

Mr. Alex MacKenzie, Senior Regional Development Officer, Wheatbelt Development Commission (joined the meeting via videoconference at 2.30pm and left at 2.55pm)

### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

As per Clause 42 of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015, “a member of the management committee of an incorporated association who has a material personal interest in a matter being considered at a management committee meeting must, as soon as the member becomes aware of the interest, disclose the nature and extent of the interest to the management committee”.

Name	Agenda Item / Initiative	Disclosure
Ms. Joanne Soderlund	7.4 Discussion and decisions arising from presentation by Ms. Jacquie Lucas	Ms. Soderlund noted a potential conflict as a result of her husband being on the Board of Wheatbelt NRM.

### 4. PRESENTATIONS

#### 4.1 Ms. Vanessa King, Town Team Builder, WEROC (1.30pm)

Ms. Vanessa King commenced in the role of Town Team Builder for WEROC on 29 January 2024. Ms. King is contracted for the equivalent of one day (8 hours) per week for a term of 12 months. The key deliverables for Ms. King include:

- Supporting established town teams and local governments to identify placemaking opportunities.
- Establishing new town teams in communities where they don't already exist.
- Providing guidance and support to new and established town teams.
- Planning and delivery of town team events.
- Facilitation of one “do-over” event per annum including seeking funding and applying for grants for the event.
- Work with WEROC Shires to educate their communities about community-led placemaking.

The Executive Officer met with Ms. King via videoconference when she commenced in the role and asked that she prepare a proposed schedule of works to deliver against these key performance areas, along with some indicative costing. Ms. King will join the Board to discuss her proposed approach.

#### Comments from the meeting:

- Ms. King talked to a PowerPoint presentation, which will be circulated to Members along with the minutes of this meeting.
- Ms. King proposed that the first WEROC “do-over” be held in Bruce Rock in late September or early October 2024. The approximate cost of this will be \$15,000 - \$20,000 of which \$5,000 would need to be committed by WEROC and \$5,000 would be provided through the FRRR funding that Town Teams secured last year.
- Mr. Ram Rajagopalan queried why Bruce Rock had been suggested as the location for the first do-over. Ms. King advised that she is familiar with the Bruce Rock community and has well established relationships within the community.
- Mr. Rajagopalan also queried who the target audience for these events is (i.e., the immediate community or the broader WEROC community). Ms. King advised that it can be either and this is a decision for WEROC.
- Mr. Mark Crees asked what the purpose of the do-over events was. Ms. King advised that it is essentially a demonstration of what Town Teams can achieve and that each year the location of the event would change to showcase another WEROC community.
- Several members noted that they already have progress associations or similar in their towns and they would not want to see any duplication. Ms. King advised that existing groups could become a town team.

Ms. King left the meeting at 2.02pm and did not return.

#### **4.2 Ms. Jacquie Lucas, Corella Project Coordinator, Wheatbelt NRM (2.00pm)**

**Attachment 1:** *Corellas in the Wheatbelt information sheet.*

**Attachment 2:** *Scope of works for corella management project.*

**Attachment 3:** *Corella Stakeholder Engagement Plan*

In October 2023, Wheatbelt NRM advised that Ms. Jacquie Lucas had been appointed to oversee the Corella Management Project which WEROC is contributing to, alongside CBH and AROC. At the WEROC Inc. Board meeting held on 29 November 2023 it was requested that Ms. Lucas be asked for an update on how the eradication strategy is progressing and for a timeline for implementation. On 22 December 2023, Ms. Lucas provided a scope of works and information sheet, which are attached. The Executive Officer also requested that Ms. Lucas advise of her planned approach to engaging with the funding partners. Ms. Lucas advised that she was updating the stakeholder engagement plan and aimed to have this out before Christmas. An updated stakeholder engagement plan has not yet been provided. The original plan sent through in May last year is attached for reference.

Ms. Lucas and Dr. Karl O'Callaghan will join the meeting to provide a further update.

#### **Comments from the meeting:**

- Ms Jacquie Lucas provided the following update:
  - A scope of works, communication plan and stakeholder engagement plan were circulated via email prior to the meeting. Ms. Lucas requested that feedback on these documents be provided by the end of the month.
  - Wheatbelt NRM have been investigating the use of a euthanising agent as a control method. This is currently going through the Government processes for approval. If approval is granted use will be permit based. They intend on conducting a trial in Toodyay if they are successful. Merredin has also expressed an interest in trialling the method.
  - An email has been sent to all Shire CEO's requesting information on the financial impact of corellas. There have been limited responses to date and Ms. Lucas requested that all CEO's reply as soon as they are able.
  - Wheatbelt NRM will be sending out emails in the near future reminding participating organisations of their budget commitments for this project for the 2024-25 financial year.
- Ms. Lucas talked to a PowerPoint presentation, which will be circulated to Members along with the minutes of this meeting. The focus of this presentation was on the information gathering survey commissioned by Wheatbelt NRM late last year.
- Ms. Joanne Soderlund commented that while the data presented is good information to have, it does not tell us anything new, it just confirms what we already know. Ms. Soderlund noted that from the Shire of Tammin's perspective they were hoping to have by now, some practical on the ground solutions. Ms. Lucas responded by saying that she only started work on this project in July 2023 and invoices were only sent to participating organisations in November. Dr. O'Callaghan responded by saying that they are investigating the euthanising agent as previously mentioned but because they are proposing to try something that is different to the usual method, it takes time to go through the bureaucratic process and they need the economic data they are trying to gather from Local Governments to escalate the discussion with State Government.

Due to technical difficulties the presentation was disrupted. Ms. Renee Manning advised Ms. Lucas and Dr. O'Callaghan that as a result of the IT complications, any further comments or queries would be relayed to them via email after the meeting for a response.

Ms. Lucas and Dr. O'Callaghan left the meeting at 2.20pm and did not return.

#### **4.3 Mr. Alex MacKenzie, Senior Regional Development Officer, Wheatbelt Development Commission (2.30pm)**

At the WEROC Inc. Board meeting held on 29 November 2023, the Executive Officer advised that based on the recommendation of Mr. Alex MacKenzie, work on a WEROC Housing Analysis would be held over until early 2024 to allow all Shire's time to complete their review of the initial housing data prepared by the Wheatbelt Development Commission and to allow WEROC to better leverage off the sub-regional work taking place across other parts of the Wheatbelt. Mr. MacKenzie will join the meeting to provide an update on the work already in progress and advise on next steps for WEROC.

##### **Comments from the meeting:**

- Mr. Alex MacKenzie provided the following update on the work being supported by the Wheatbelt Development Commission in other parts of the Wheatbelt:
  - Since completing their initial housing analysis, the 4WDL group of Shires have completed comprehensive market testing to ascertain the type of housing, pricing points, etc. that is feasibly going to work in their area.
  - The 4WDL group have identified some "quick win" sites for development (8 in total).
  - This group identified 120 sites across their respective Shires but found that only around 14% of these sites were capable of development in their current state.
  - Across the Wheatbelt there is an unmet demand for 500 workers to be housed right now and based on population growth projections it is believed that there will be an additional 450 workers that need to be housed.
- Mr. MacKenzie noted that there is some positive work that has already been done across the 7 shires involved in the Growing Regions Program application (this includes the WEROC Shires of Tammin, Kellerberrin and Bruce Rock) but there is a bit more work that needs to be done on site specific implications of development.
- Mr. MacKenzie advised that he has spoken with ROEROC and NEWROC about a staged approach to assessing housing needs across these areas.
- Ms. Renee Manning asked each Shire to provide an indication of their current housing needs:
  - Ms. Joanne Soderlund advised that the Shire of Tammin are still waiting on the outcome of the growing regions application. There is potential for the headworks costs to be funded under the infrastructure development fund.
  - Mr. Wayne Della Bosca advised that the Shire of Yilgarn are currently building two new houses which will be completed in the coming months. The difficulty once they are built will be deciding who gets to rent them because there are more people needing accommodation than what they can provide.
  - Ms. Rennee Manning advised that in the Shire of Merredin houses are purchased almost as soon as they go on the market. Someone has purchased the old flying school houses and there is a possibility that they will be used for GROH housing.
  - Mr. Bill Price advised that Westonia have no public housing and no government workers so social and GROH housing are not a consideration for them. The Shire own the majority of houses in the town and when the mine closes at the end of the year, they will have vacancies. There are currently three private homes being built.
  - Mr. Ram Rajagopalan advised that in Bruce Rock the biggest issue is demand for housing from Bruce Rock Engineering. They buy anything the goes to market and still need more. GROH have asked the Shire to build two new houses but with the investment in the supermarket they are not in a position to do so at present.

- Ms. Soderlund asked Mr. MacKenzie what he would advise WEROC to do from here. Mr. MacKenzie advised that subject to interest from WEROC there is an opportunity for WDC to assist in a collective scope of works and also a Shire specific scope of works, recognising that some Shires are more advanced in their assessment of housing needs and development opportunities than others. The approximate cost to proceed with a housing analysis would be \$8,000 - \$10,000 per Shire and the work would commence mid-April with a completion date in late July. The output of this work would be something ready to take to market or to lobby government for program delivery aligned to what the needs are.

Mr. MacKenzie left the meeting at 2.55pm and did not return.

## 5. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

### 5.1 Minutes of the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on Wednesday 29 November 2023

Minutes of the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held in Bruce Rock on Wednesday 29 November 2023 have previously been circulated.

**Recommendation:**

That the Minutes of the WEROC Inc. Meeting held in Bruce Rock on Wednesday 29 November 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

**RESOLUTION:**

**Moved:** Mr. Ram Rajagopalan

**Seconded:** Ms. Joanne Soderlund

That the Minutes of the WEROC Inc. Meeting held in Bruce Rock on Wednesday 29 November 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

**CARRIED**

### 5.2 Business Arising – Status Report

**Attachment 4:** Eastern Wheatbelt self-drive trail, trail marker

**Attachment 5:** Eastern Wheatbelt self-drive trail, tourist information sign

**Attachment 6:** WMSIP Meeting 7 December 2023 Summary Notes

Actions Arising from the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on 29 November 2023.

Agenda Item	Action(s)	Status
7.2 Signatories to the WEROC Inc. Bank Accounts	1) Remove Ms. Emily Ryan as approver. 2) Add Ms. Renee Manning as approver	Ms. Emily Ryan has been removed as a signatory.  Ms. Renee Manning has not yet been added.
7.3 WEROC Futures Discussion	1) Organise a CEO Committee meeting to discuss operational challenges 2) Distribute Shire survey in January 3) Consolidate information and present at first WEROC Board meeting for 2024	A survey was circulated to all Shire CEOs on 8 January with a request that it be completed by 9 February. The CEO Committee meeting planned for 22 February 2024 did not proceed. Further information is provided under Agenda item 7.1.
7.4 WEROC Drive Trail	1) Order 2,000 printed copies of the drive trail map/brochure	Printed copies of the map/brochure will be distributed to the Member Shires at the March meeting.

	2) Engage graphic designers to prepare a trail marker and tourist information sign.	A link to the print ready versions of the trail signage have been provided to WEROC CEO's. Low resolution versions are provided as an attachment.
7.5 Wheatbelt Medical Student Immersion Program	Arrange a meeting with Rural Health West and Notre Dame to discuss concerns and suggestions for the program.	A meeting was held via videoconference on 7 December 2023. In attendance were Mr. Raymond Griffiths, Mr. Darren Mollenoyux, Ms. Emily Ryan, Ms. Betony Dawson (Rural Health West), Ms. Tallulah Sargon (Rural Health West) and Professor Donna Mak (UND). The summary notes from this meeting were circulated via email and are provided again as an attachment.
8.1 Corella Management	1) Request an update on progress with the eradication strategy and a timeline for implementation 2) Invite Ms. Jacquie Lucas to the March 2024 meeting of the WEROC Inc. Board.	Ms. Jacquie Lucas provided an information sheet and scope of works on 22 December 2023. This was forwarded to CEOs on the same day. Ms. Lucas will present at the March meeting.
8.2 Town Team Movement	1) Finalise contract with Ms. Vanessa King 2) Request that a proposed schedule of works be presented to the WEROC Board at the March 2024 meeting.	Ms. King commenced in the role of Town Team Builder for WEROC on 29 January 2024. Ms. King was asked to prepare a proposed schedule of activities to deliver against the agree key performance areas and an indicative budget for these activities. Ms. King will present this scope of works at the March meeting.
8.3 Co-operative marketing	Advise Australia's Golden Outback that WEROC will no longer promote the Golden Pipeline Heritage Trail and will instead focus on marketing the Eastern Wheatbelt self-drive trail.	Australia's Golden Outback were advised of the Board's decision and have created content for the Eastern Wheatbelt self-drive trail on their website. This will be used in the Wheatbelt Weekends Road-Trip Campaign Autumn/Winter 2024.
8.4 WEROC Housing Analysis	Follow up with Mr. Alex MacKenzie (Wheatbelt Development Commission) in early 2024 to develop a scope of works for a WEROC housing analysis.	The Executive Officer contacted Mr. MacKenzie in January 2024 to discuss a planned approach to this work. Mr. MacKenzie will present at the March meeting.

**Recommendation:**

That the status report be received.





<b>Note 14</b>	Actual expenditure exceeds total budgeted expenditure for the financial year because of the unbudgeted transfer of funds to a Term Deposit.
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**WEROC Inc.**  
**ABN 28 416 957 824**  
**1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024**

		Budget 2023/2024	Actual to 31/01/2024	Notes
<b>INCOME</b>				
<b>0501</b>	<b>General Subscriptions</b>	\$72,000.00	\$72,000.00	<b>1</b>
<b>504.01</b>	<b>Consultancy &amp; Project Reserve</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	
<b>0575</b>	<b>Interest received</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	
<b>584</b>	<b>Other Income</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	<b>GST Output Tax</b>	\$7,200.00	\$7,200.00	<b>2</b>
	<b>GST Refunds</b>	\$5,083.15	\$3,941.00	<b>3</b>
<b>Total Receipts</b>		\$84,283.15	\$83,141.00	
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
<b>1545</b>	<b>Bank Fees &amp; Charges</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	
<b>1661.01</b>	<b>WEROC Inc. Executive Services</b>	\$34,500.00	\$17,783.17	<b>4</b>
<b>1661.02</b>	<b>Executive Officer Travel and Accommodation</b>	\$1,000.00	\$707.00	<b>5</b>
<b>1661.03</b>	<b>WEROC Executive Officer Recruitment</b>	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	
<b>1687</b>	<b>WEROC Financial Services Accounting</b>	\$1,000.00	\$477.26	<b>6</b>
<b>1687.03</b>	<b>WEROC Financial Services Audit</b>	\$1,050.00	\$982.00	<b>7</b>
<b>1585</b>	<b>WEROC Consultant Expenses</b>	\$60,000.00	\$26,204.73	<b>8</b>
<b>1850</b>	<b>WEROC Management of WEROC App &amp; Website</b>	\$420.00	\$685.00	<b>9</b>
<b>1801</b>	<b>WEROC Meeting Expenses</b>	\$500.00	\$0.00	
<b>1851</b>	<b>WEROC Insurance</b>	\$6,300.00	\$5,953.61	<b>10</b>
<b>1852</b>	<b>WEROC Legal Expenses</b>	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	
<b>1853</b>	<b>WEROC Incorporation Expenses</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	
<b>1854</b>	<b>Transfer to Term Deposit</b>	\$0.00	\$100,000.00	<b>11</b>
<b>1930</b>	<b>WEROC Sundry</b>	\$300.00	\$0.00	
<b>3384</b>	<b>GST Input Tax</b>	\$10,807.00	\$4,859.69	<b>12</b>
	<b>ATO Payments</b>	\$2,393.33	\$5,908.00	<b>13</b>
<b>Total Payments</b>		\$121,270.33	\$163,560.46	<b>14</b>
<b>Net Position</b>		-\$36,987.18	-\$80,419.46	
<b>OPENING CASH 1 July</b>		\$181,216.58	\$181,083.80	
<b>CASH BALANCE</b>		\$144,229.39	\$100,664.34	

<b>Recommendation:</b>
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That the WEROC Inc. financial report for the period 1 November 2023 to 31 January 2024, be received.

**RESOLUTION:** **Moved:** Mr. Ram Rajagopalan **Seconded:** Ms. Renee Manning

That the WEROC Inc. financial report for the period 1 November 2023 to 31 January 2024, be received.

**CARRIED**

## 6.2 Income, Expenditure & Balance Sheet

**Author:** Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer  
**Disclosure of Interest:** No interest to disclose.  
**Date:** 1 February 2024  
**Attachments:** Nil  
**Voting Requirement:** Simple Majority

A summary of income and expenditure for the period 1 November 2023 to 31 January 2024 is provided below.

Date	Description	Credit	Debit	Running Balance
<b>Opening Balance</b>		<b>139,487.59</b>		
01 Nov 2023	Payment: PWD Australia		66.00	139,421.59
13 Nov 2023	Payment: 150 Square Pty Ltd		2,731.50	136,690.09
20 Nov 2023	Payment: ATO		5,908.00	130,782.09
24 Nov 2023	Payment: Code Research Australia		225.50	130,556.59
04 Dec 2023	Payment: Seed Studio		140.00	130,416.59
12 Dec 2023	Payment: Wheatbelt NRM		6,300.00	124,116.59
12 Dec 2023	Payment: 150 Square Pty Ltd		3,631.50	120,485.09
13 Dec 2023	Payment: Wheatbelt NRM		7,450.00	113,035.09
20 Dec 2023	Payment: Flat Earth Mapping Pty Ltd		7,625.75	105,409.34
20 Dec 2023	Payment: Seed Studio		140.00	105,269.34
22 Dec 2023	Strike Point Graphic Design		825.00	104,444.34
22 Dec 2023	Payment: Vanguard Publishing		841.50	103,602.84
09 Jan 2024	150 Square Pty Ltd		2,662.50	100,940.34
25 Jan 2024	Australia's Golden Outback		3,300.00	97,640.34
25 Jan 2024	ATO	3,024.00		100,664.34
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>3,024.00</b>	<b>41,847.25</b>	<b>100,664.34</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>		<b>100,664.34</b>		

# Balance Sheet

## Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils Inc As at 31 January 2024

31 JAN 2024	
<b>Assets</b>	
<b>Bank</b>	
Term Deposit	100,000.00
Westpac Community Solution One	100,664.34
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>200,664.34</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>200,664.34</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
GST	601.30
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>601.30</b>
<b>Non-current Liabilities</b>	
GST Clearing	(1,154.00)
<b>Total Non-current Liabilities</b>	<b>(1,154.00)</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>(552.70)</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>201,217.04</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
Current Year Earnings	19,207.23
Retained Earnings	182,009.81
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>201,217.04</b>

**Recommendation:**

That the WEROC Inc. summary of income and expenditure for the period 1 November 2023 to 31 January 2024 be received.

That the Accounts Paid by WEROC Inc. for the period 1 November 2023 to 31 January 2024 totalling \$41,847.25 be approved.

That the Balance Sheet as of 31 January 2024 be noted.

**RESOLUTION:**

**Moved:** Ms. Charmain Thomson

**Seconded:** Mr. Wayne Della Bosca

That the WEROC Inc. summary of income and expenditure for the period 1 November 2023 to 31 January 2024 be received.

That the Accounts Paid by WEROC Inc. for the period 1 November 2023 to 31 January 2024 totalling \$41,847.25 be approved.

That the Balance Sheet as of 31 January 2024 be noted.

**CARRIED**

## 7. MATTERS FOR DECISION

### 7.1 WEROC Futures Discussion

**Author:** Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

**Disclosure of Interest:** No interest to disclose.

**Date:** 22 February 2024

- Attachments:** Attachment 7: WEROC Futures Discussion Summary Report
- Consultation:** WEROC CEO’s
- Financial Implications:** NA
- Voting Requirement:** Simple Majority

**Background:**

At the WEROC Inc. Board meeting held on 29 November 2023, a staged approach to the discussion on future priorities for WEROC was agreed and is outlined below:

Activity	Timeframe
Initial discussion with all WEROC Board Members to identify expectations of WEROC and to discuss what has been working well to date and what can be improved in future.	29 November 2023
Shire survey to identify social, economic, and operational priorities and challenges.	January - February 2024
WEROC CEO Committee meeting to discuss common pain points and opportunities for collective action.	22 February 2024
WEROC Inc. Board to agree on priorities and actions for WEROC over the next 1 – 5 years.	Board Meeting on 6 March 2024

**Executive Officer Comment:**

A summary of the input provided at the WEROC meeting held in November 2023 and the Shire survey is provided as Attachment 7. The WEROC CEO Committee planned for 22 February did not proceed due to availability of members. The purpose of that meeting was to delve deeper into some of the common challenges and discuss potential resolutions and opportunities for collaborative action, which would then help in determining the priorities and actions for WEROC over the near to medium term.

From the information supplied through the Shire survey (noting that not all Shire’s responded) the Executive Officer makes the following observations:

**Economic:**

- New economic activity in the area overall is quite limited.
- There is pressure on existing businesses (reduced hours, empty shop fronts, closures).
- Lack of accommodation is a major limiting factor.
- Possible areas of focus for WEROC – worker accommodation, tourism (product development and marketing) and leveraging opportunities from any major projects (social responsibility angle?).

**Social:**

- A range of social infrastructure projects are being pursued individually.
- Supporting aging in place is a common priority.
- Possible area of focus for WEROC – collective age friendly planning review/renewal (not every Shire has an age friendly community plan and for those that do, they are outdated).

**Operational:**

- Challenges exist around compliance and auditing requirements and access to skilled labour.
- Possible areas of focus for WEROC – resource sharing arrangement for hard to fill roles, focused discussion on local government reform challenges and opportunities to collaborate.

Some questions to consider in advance of the meeting and to prompt discussion during the meeting are provided below:

- 1) What other (i.e., not already captured in the survey) operational constraints or challenges are limiting progress for your Shire?
- 2) What other contextual constraints or challenges are limiting progress (economic, social, environmental) in the region?
- 3) What are the strengths or assets of the WEROC region that we should be trying to leverage?
- 4) What are the most impactful things WEROC can do to tackle these challenges or capitalize on these strengths/assets?

**Recommendation:**

That the Board consider the summary report presented and discuss future focus areas and actions for WEROC Inc.

**Comments from the meeting:**

- It was requested that discussion on this item be deferred until such time that the CEO's have met and the Shire's of Yilgarn and Kellerberrin have completed the survey.

**RESOLUTION:**

**Moved:** Mr. Ram Rajagopalan

**Seconded:** Ms. Renee Manning

That discussion on this matter be held over until the next meeting.

**CARRIED**

**7.2 Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre MoU Renewal**

**Author:** Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer  
**Disclosure of Interest:** No interest to disclose.  
**Date:** 1 February 2024  
**Attachments:** *Attachment 8: CWVC MoU Revisions for Consideration*  
**Consultation :** Nil  
**Financial Implications:** As per Schedule 3 of the MoU.  
**Voting Requirement:** Simple Majority

**Background:**

The current Memorandum of Understanding between the Shire of Merredin and the WEROC Shires and the Shire of Cunderdin will expire on 30 June 2024. The Shire of Merredin have asked that the WEROC Member Shires give consideration to an extension of the MoU for a further three (3) years.

**Executive Officer Comment:**

WEROC Inc. is not a signatory to the MoU, rather the individual Members Shires are. WEROC however cover the costs of the additional activities detailed in Schedule 2. The cost to WEROC for these additional activities in 2023 was \$6,205.40 (inc. GST). This was made up of the following:

- Co-operative marketing in collaboration with Australia's Golden Outback, NEWTravel, Roe Tourism and Pioneers Pathway. The Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre (CWVC) does not make a financial contribution toward this co-operative marketing but does provide input/direction. The cost to WEROC in 2023/24 was \$3,300 (inc. GST).

- Brochure mail out service provided by the CWVC in response to marketing campaigns. The cost to WEROC over the past three years has been:  
1 November 2022 – 30 September 2023 = \$318.70 (inc. GST)  
1 October 2021 – 30 November 2022 = \$416.05 (inc. GST)  
1 October 2020 to 31 October 2021 = \$442.60 (inc. GST)
- Full page advertisement in the Eastern Wheatbelt Visitors Guide to promote the Golden Pipeline Heritage Trail. In 2023 the cost of this was \$1,325 (inc. GST)
- Australia’s Golden Outback Annual Holiday Planner advertisement to promote self-drives through the Central Wheatbelt (GPHT and Pioneer’s Pathway). This cost is split between Pioneers Pathway, CWVC and WEROC. In 2023 the cost of this to WEROC was \$841.50 (inc. GST).
- Annual Perth Caravan & Camping Show exhibit. This cost is split between AGO, WEROC, NEWTravel, Pioneers Pathway and Roe tourism – this is in addition to the \$3,300 toward marketing activity. The CWVC do not contribute toward the cost of the exhibitor space, but they do provide staff to attend and cover associated travel expenses. The cost to WEROC in 2023 was \$420.20 (inc. GST).

There is currently no wording in the MoU that specifies the role of WEROC as an entity separate to the Member Shires. It is therefore suggested that the wording in Schedule 3 be changed to reflect the contributions made by WEROC in addition to the contributions made by the individual Shires. Suggested edits have been highlighted in Attachment 8.

**Recommendation:**

That the suggested edits be adopted and the WEROC Shire’s agree to an additional three year term of the MoU.

**RESOLUTION:**

**Moved:** Mr. Ram Rajagopalan

**Seconded:** Ms. Joanne Soderlund

That the suggested edits to the MOU be adopted and the Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre be advised of the WEROC Shire’s intention to extend the agreement for an additional three year term.

**CARRIED**

**7.3 Discussion and Decisions Arising from the Presentation by Ms. Vanessa King**

**Author:** Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

**Disclosure of Interest:** No interest to disclose.

**Date:** 1 February 2024

**Attachments:** Nil

**Voting Requirement:** Simple Majority

**Executive Officer Comment:**

Following the presentation from Ms. Vanessa King it may be appropriate for the WEROC Inc. Board to consider what, if any, further action is required on this matter.

**Recommendation:**

That the information as presented by Ms. Vanessa King be considered, and the matter discussed.

**Comments from the meeting:**

- Mr. Ram Rajagopalan noted that it was still not clear what we are trying to achieve with the proposed “do-over” event and suggested that rather than selecting a date or location for this event, the first step should





**Attachments:** Nil

**Voting Requirement:** Simple Majority

**Executive Officer Comment:**

Following the presentation from Mr. Alex MacKenzie it may be appropriate for the WEROC Inc. Board to consider what, if any, further action is required on this matter.

**Recommendation:**

That the information as presented by Mr. Alex MacKenzie be considered, and the matter discussed.

**Comments from the meeting:**

- Mr. Ram Rajagopalan noted that WALGA are undertaking an accommodation survey at zone level. CEACA are also doing working in the accommodation space now, that is not restricted to aged housing. Several WEROC Shires are also already involved in the growing regions program application.
- Ms. Joanne Soderlund suggested that rather than a generic housing analysis it may be better to have something tailored to an opportunity otherwise it risks just being another planning document with no tangible benefit.
- Ms. Soderlund also suggested that perhaps we can go back to Mr. MacKenzie with the information already gathered to see what can be done with that and to request site specific assistance on developing the sites that have already been identified.

**RESOLUTION:**

**Moved:** Ms. Renee Manning

**Seconded:** Mr. Ram Rajagopalan

That the information as presented by Mr. Alex MacKenzie was considered and discussed.

**CARRIED**

**8. PROJECT UPDATES**

**8.1 Corella Management Project**

As per presentation from Ms. Jacquie Lucas.

**8.2 Town Team Movement**

As per presentation from Ms. Vanessa King.

**8.3 WEROC Housing Analysis**

As per presentation from Mr. Alex MacKenzie.

**8.4 Waste Management**

The Executive Officer invites Members to provide any updates on progress with the agreed actions to implement the WEROC Strategic Waste Management Plan.

- Mr. John Merrick advised that Merredin are going ahead with the development of more cells and will be ready in future for more Shires to come across when they are ready to do so.
- Mr. Bill Price advised that they are going to work in with the Shire of Yilgarn for their future waste management required.

**8.5 Co-Operative Marketing Activity**

WEROC Inc. as a partner organisation to the Wheatbelt Co-operative Marketing Group, committed \$3,000 + GST in 2023-24 to cooperative marketing initiatives in conjunction with Roe Tourism, NEW Travel, Pioneers Pathway and Australia's Golden Outback.

A road trips campaign is in the works at present, with the aim of encouraging travel to the region heading into Autumn/Winter. The primary target market for this is families. The campaign will include a Perth Now feature article, a paid social media and email campaign, sponsored social media posts and a radio campaign.

## **8.6 Wheatbelt Medical Student Immersion Program 2024**

### **Attachment 9: WMSIP Itineraries 2024**

The Wheatbelt Medical Student Immersion Program for 2024 will take place from 12 – 15 March 2024. As per the discussion held with Rural Health West and the University of Notre Dame on 7 December 2023, the itineraries for this year’s program incorporate more opportunities for students to experience the towns social infrastructure and participate in community activities. A copy of the itineraries as of 28 February 2024, are attached. A debrief for WEROC Board Members with Rural Health West and the University of Notre Dame is scheduled for 11.00am on Thursday 28 March.

## **9. EMERGING ISSUES**

### **9.1 Power & Telecommunications**

In the wake of the extended power and telecommunications outages experienced across the Wheatbelt in January 2024, the Wheatbelt Business Network called a meeting to discuss a coordinated approach. In the meeting was the Wheatbelt Development Commission CEO, RDA Wheatbelt Director of Regional Development, WBN CEO, NEWROC and WEROC Executive Officers. Since this meeting, it is understood that the following has occurred:

- WALGA coordinated a round table discussion with impacted Shires.
- NEWROC have completed an economic impact assessment and are preparing media exposure and meetings with Ministers, etc.
- The Wheatbelt Business Network has completed a survey and compiled some case studies to demonstrate the personal and business impact.

The WEROC Board may like to consider, what, if any, action we can take to advocate for improved reliability of power and telecommunications supply in our part of the region.

The Shire of Merredin might like to provide an update on the proposed battery energy storage system, which will reportedly boost the SWIS grid system reliability in the Wheatbelt and Goldfields regions.

#### **Comments from the meeting:**

- It was noted that there was considerable talk on this topic at the last Zone meeting and a representative from Telstra was in attendance. The impression that was given is that Telstra have no intention to make improvements to regional towers because technology advancements will likely make them redundant in the coming years.
- The Shire of Merredin advised that they have received a development application for battery energy storage system that will be located adjacent to the solar farm and Western Power sub-station. The cost of the project is \$220 million. The public comment period is about to close, and Council will consider the application at its March meeting.
- In terms of any action from WEROC, it was decided that the best course of action for now is to continue to push for the Zone to demand action.

## **10. OTHER MATTERS (FOR NOTING)**

### **10.1 Research Report – Rural Health Concerns**

**Attachment 10: Article from the International Journal of Whole Person Care**

In the second half of 2019, WEROC funded a pilot research project undertaken by Dr Andrew Harper, Adjunct Clinical Professor at the Curtin Medical School. An initial report on this work was tabled at a WEROC meeting held on Thursday 28 November 2019. It was intended that the study, which originally only included Merredin and Westonia, be extended to the remaining WEROC Shires but this was not pursued due to the COVID pandemic. A copy of the research article, which was published this year, has been forwarded to WEROC and is provided as an attachment.

## 10.2 McCusker Centre Internship Program

### *Attachment 11: Regional Internships Booklet*

At the last meeting of the WEROC Inc. Board an opportunity was identified to engage with the McCusker Centre for Citizenship's Internship program. Details of this program are summarized below:

- The program allows UWA students the opportunity to contribute towards a project in a community-minded organisation.
- A diverse range of intern projects are accepted, including but not limited to social impact analysis and research projects, marketing and events, data modelling and 3D imaging.
- Four internship rounds are offered per year:
  - Late February to late May
  - Mid-June to mid-July
  - Mid-July to mid-October
  - Mid-November to mid-December
- To be eligible to host an intern the following criteria must be met:
  - Your organisation is a **not-for-profit or government organisation** with regular staff members who can supervise an intern.
  - You have a **meaningful project/activity** that adds value to the organisation and allows the intern to understand the link to the broader community impact.
  - The project/activity equates to a **minimum of 100 hours** of work by the intern.
  - You can provide an **appropriate work environment** so that the student is embedded in the organisation and able to work safely.
  - You can provide the student with **supervision** and the opportunity to receive feedback on their work.
  - You can commit to providing a short evaluation on the intern's performance and the program at the end of the internship period.

### **Comments from meeting:**

- Ms. Joanne Soderlund suggested that we could look at an intern to undertake or support the Corella Management project. The Executive Officer will look at the potential of this as a project under this program and report back at the next meeting.

## **11. FUTURE MEETINGS**

The schedule of meeting dates and locations for 2024 is as follows:

Date	Time	Host Council
Thursday 22 February 2024 – CEO's only	1.30pm	Merredin

Wednesday 6 March 2024	1.30pm	Westonia
Wednesday 8 May 2024	9.30am	Kellerberrin
Wednesday 31 July 2024	9.30am	Yilgarn
Wednesday 11 September 2024	9.30am	Bruce Rock
Wednesday 28 November 2024	9.30am	Tammin

The next meeting will be held in Kellerberrin on 8 May 2024.

**12. CLOSURE**

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 4.06pm.