



WEROC Inc. Board Meeting MINUTES

Wednesday 26 April 2023

Shire of Yilgarn Council Chambers
23 Antares Street, Southern Cross

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

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CONTENTS

1.	OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.....	3
2.	RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES.....	3
	2.1 Attendance.....	3
	2.2 Apologies.....	3
	2.3 Guests.....	3
3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	4
4.	PRESENTATIONS	4
	4.1 Ms. Susan Hall, Chief Executive officer, Wheatbelt Development Commission 9.30am ..	4
	4.2 Mr. Michael Hayden, Managing Director, Maarli Services, 10.20am	5
	4.3 Mr. Nic Warren, Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Yilgarn	6
5.	MINUTES OF MEETINGS	6
	5.1 Minutes of the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on Wednesday 22 February 2023	6
	5.2 Business Arising – Status Report as of 1 April 2023	6
6.	WEROC INC. FINANCE	7
	6.1 WEROC Inc. Financial Report as of 31 March 2023	7
	6.2 Income & Expenditure.....	9
7.	MATTERS FOR DECISION	10
	7.1 Corella Management Coordinator.....	10
	7.2 Partnership with Town Team Movement	13
	7.3 Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre Service Proposal	15
	7.4 WEROC Regional Waste Coordinator	17
	7.5 WEROC Inc. Budget 2022-23.....	19
	7.6 Discussion and Decisions Arising from the Presentation by Ms. Susan Hall	21
	7.7 Discussion and Decisions Arising from the Presentation by Mr. Michael Hayden	22
8.	EMERGING ISSUES.....	23
9.	OTHER MATTERS (FOR NOTING)	23
	9.1 Wheatbelt Medical Student Immersion Program	23
	9.2 Stronger Communities Programme – Round 8	24
	9.3 Co-Operative Marketing Activity	24
10.	FUTURE MEETINGS	24
11.	CLOSURE	25

WEROC Inc.

Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils Inc.

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

Minutes of the Board Meeting held in the Yilgarn Shire Council Chambers on Wednesday 26 April 2023.

MINUTES

1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

As per Rule 19.5 of the WEROC Inc. Constitution “if neither the Chair nor the Deputy Chair is present, the meeting will elect a Chair of that meeting”. The Members present elected for Mr. Darren Mollenoyux to Chair the meeting.

Mr. Mollenoyux welcomed Members of the Board and opened the meeting at 9.35am.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

2.1 Attendance

Ms. Emily Ryan (joined via video conference)

Ms. Glenice Batchelor

Mr. Tony Crooks

Mr. Wayne Della Bosca

Mr. Lindon Mellor, Proxy and voting delegate for Ms. Lisa Clack

Mr. Darren Mollenoyux

Mr. Bill Price

Ms. Joanne Soderlund

Mr. Nic Warren, Proxy and voting delegate for Mr. Bryan Close

Ms. Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

2.2 Apologies

Ms. Lisa Clack

Mr. Mark Crees

Mr. Mark McKenzie

Mr. Raymond Griffiths

Mr. Bryan Close

2.3 Guests

Ms. Nerea Ugarte, Manager of Governance and Community Services, Shire of Bruce Rock

Dr. Karl O’Callaghan, Chief Executive Officer, Wheatbelt NRM (joined via videoconference at 11.05am)

Ms. Susan Hall, Chief Executive Officer, Wheatbelt Development Commission (joined via videoconference at 9.35am)

Mr. Michael Hayden, Managing Director, Maarli Services (joined the meeting at 10.20am)

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. Glenice Batchelor	Items relating to Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management and tourism/marketing initiatives.	Ms. Batchelor has previously declared a possible conflict of interest in relation to tourism discussions given that she operates a tourism business in the Shire of Tammin and in relation to the discussions regarding Wheatbelt NRM given her position as a Director on the Board of Perth NRM.

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Ms. Susan Hall, Chief Executive officer, Wheatbelt Development Commission 9.30am

At the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on 22 February 2023, it was requested that the Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Wheatbelt Development Commission be invited to present at the next meeting. Ms Susan Hall will join the meeting via videoconference and provide an update on current activities and priorities for the Commission.

Comments from the meeting:

- Ms. Susan Hall provided the following overview of current priorities and activities of the Wheatbelt Development Commission (WDC):
 - WDC understand that housing is a huge priority for all Local Government’s and have taken the lead across all Development Commissions in undertaking an evidence-based analysis of housing and land development constraints and providing potential solutions to State Government. Alex MacKenzie is leading this project and is in the process of gathering information from all Local Governments.
 - Infrastructure is a major focus for the Commission. They are continuing to support the strategic freight network and are advocating for strategic regional infrastructure requirements. The Commission is also assisting the Department of Planning with their regional infrastructure plan.
 - WDC are working with NEWROC on an Economic Development Plan.
 - WDC are playing a greater role in developing local content. The focus is on ensuring regional businesses are better able to access State Government tenders and contracts.
 - The \$100,000 Local Capability Fund – Wheatbelt Regional Round is currently open and closes on 11 May 2023. This program provides funding to businesses to help them enhance their capacity, capability, and competitiveness. Ms. Hall recommended that this opportunity be advertised to local businesses.
 - Childcare has been an area of focus for some time and quite a bit of work has already been undertaken in this space. The State Government is currently looking at this as a limiting factor to workforce participation.
 - The Southern Wheatbelt Drought Resilience Plan is currently being completed. WDC partnered with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to support the delivery of the Plan across the area encompassing the Shires of Dumbleyung, Wagin, Lake Grace, Kulin, and Kondinin.
 - Round 6 of the Regional Economic Development Grants will be announced before the end of this financial year.

- Upcoming events for WDC include their 2023 budget breakfast on 12 May and the Wheatbelt Futures Forum on 3 May.
- Ms. Glenice Batchelor queried the Economic Development Plan WDC are assisting NEWROC in developing and asked if there is an opportunity for other ROC's to be supported in doing this work. Ms. Hall advised that if WEROC is looking to do something similar WDC would be willing to discuss what they can do to assist. Ms. Hall was not aware of the exact level of assistance being provided to NEWROC so would look into this and provide a response.
- Mr. Darren Mollenoyux questioned if the WDC were aware of and taking any action on the current delays with Western Power approving design applications (up to a 12-month wait). Ms. Hall advised that she was not aware of the issue but would take the question on notice and come back with a response.
- Ms. Batchelor commented on the Southern Wheatbelt Drought Resilience Plan which seemingly has an impact on the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal's (FRRR) community impact program funding in parts of the Wheatbelt outside of the Plan's focus area. Ms. Batchelor also noted that the new regions created by FRRR for this program are confusing and don't necessarily make sense.

Ms. Hall left the meeting at 9.56am and did not return.

4.2 Mr. Michael Hayden, Managing Director, Maarli Services, 10.20am

Mr. Michael Hayden, Managing Director, Maarli Services, advised via email on Monday 23 January 2023 that Maarli Services was successful in its application to deliver the Eastern Wheatbelt Ranger Program over a two-year period. This will enable Maarli Services to have a small team of employees dedicated to maintaining the cultural and environmental land assets across the region. Mr. Hayden advised that he is looking to establish partnerships with each of the Local Governments that provided letters of support (including the Shires of Merredin, Bruce Rock, Kellerberrin, Westonia and Yilgarn) and hoped to explore regional collaboration opportunities.

Mr. Hayden will join the meeting to provide an overview of the Eastern Wheatbelt Aboriginal Ranger Service and discuss opportunities to work collectively with WEROC Shires.

Comments from the meeting:

- Mr. Hayden presented an overview of Maarli Services, a summary of which is provided below:
 - Maarli Services was established in 2016.
 - It is a for profit organisation based out of Merredin, predominantly delivering civil construction services.
 - Maarli are branching out into environmental/cultural services which is where the Eastern Wheatbelt Ranger program fits in.
 - Maarli secured \$740,000 over a two-year period from the State Government's Aboriginal Ranger Program which is administered by the Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.
 - Through this program Maarli will be responsible for the maintenance of land assets across 11 Shires.
 - For each of the 11 Shires Maarli have selected two-to-three reserves, which they will focus on. Generally, the larger reserves, that attract a high volume of visitors, and those with a strong cultural connection have been chosen.
 - Next steps for Maarli include developing agreements with stakeholders (including Local Governments) and continuing to grow and develop the ranger program.
- Ms. Glenice Batchelor queried how Maarli work in with other ranger programs including the one run by Wheatbelt NRM. Mr. Hayden advised that they currently do not work in with any of the other providers, but he is meeting with the CEO of Wheatbelt NRM in the near future to discuss how this could be achieved.

- Mr. Wayne Della Bosca queried whether Maarli Services were involved in controlling vermin (i.e., Emu’s and Kangaroo’s) on reserves. Mr. Hayden advised that this is something that they have been involved in and are able to do on a fee for service basis.

Mr. Hayden left the meeting at 11.05am and did not return.

4.3 Mr. Nic Warren, Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Yilgarn

Mr. Nic Warren as the host Council CEO provided a brief presentation on current projects and initiatives of the Shire of Yilgarn:

- The Shire have completed a brand re-design, which generated a new logo and colour scheme focusing on the constellation theme.
- They have also established a new visit Yilgarn website and are working toward a self-guided interactive walking tour of the townsite and the design of new entry statements.
- The Shire have completed Constellation Park, which included a new skate park, shade shelter with BBQ’s and seating, and a playground.
- In 2022 a POX Eclipse event was held at the motor cross track. It was a “waste lander” style event that attracted 300 attendees and will be happening again this year.
- The Shire is receiving an EV charging station as part of the State Government EV Highway. It will be located at Emu Park.
- Current projects include satellite playground upgrades, a major sports complex upgrade, Covalent Lithium upgrade and seal of 113km’s road, and Mineral Resources are completing a 37km road upgrade along Emu Fence Road South of the Great Eastern Highway.

5. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

5.1 Minutes of the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on Wednesday 22 February 2023

Minutes of the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held in Kellerberrin on Wednesday 22 February 2023 have previously been circulated.

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the WEROC Inc. Meeting held in Kellerberrin on Wednesday 22 February 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Ms. Glenice Batchelor

Seconded: Mr. Tony Crooks

That the Minutes of the WEROC Inc. Meeting held in Kellerberrin on Wednesday 22 February 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

5.2 Business Arising – Status Report as of 1 April 2023

Actions Arising from the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on 22 February 2023.

Agenda Item	Action(s)	Status
5.3 Business arising	Continue to monitor progress on Wheatbelt NRM’s proposal for a regional corella management coordinator and provide updates as any new information comes to light.	The Executive Officer met with the Wheatbelt NRM CEO on 28 March and on the same day emailed the Board with an outline of the discussion and a request for a financial contribution toward the corella management

		coordinator position. Further detail is provided under Agenda Item 7.1.
7.1 Golden Pipeline Heritage Trail	Query with Water Corporation if remediation of pumping stations is included within the scope of the interpretation strategy or if it will only focus on preservation of the pipeline.	The Executive Officer contacted the Water Corporation and received a response from Ms. Felicity Wood, Community Engagement Advisor, who advised that the Water Corporation is currently working to remediate several pump stations (e.g., Dedari) to manage the public health risks associated with the contamination at the sites. This is separate to the planning for pipeline renewal and the associated interpretation strategy which is only focused on the pipeline. Ms. Woods and her colleagues working on this project will attend the June WEROC Board meeting to provide a project update.
7.3 Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre Service Proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold over discussions and decisions relating to this matter until the next meeting. • Contact Australia’s Golden Outback and request a costed proposal for a locally based destination development officer. 	The Executive Officer has been in contact with NEW Travel and Australia’s Golden Outback and has had discussion with the recently formed Wheatbelt Tourism Working Group. Further detail is provided under Agenda item 7.2.
7.4 Regional Waste Coordinator	Hold over discussions and decisions relating to this matter until the next meeting.	This matter will be discussed under Agenda item 7.3.

Recommendation:

That the status reports as of 1 April 2023 be received.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr. Wayne Della Bosca

Seconded: Mr. Bill Price

That the status reports as of 1 April 2023 be received.

CARRIED

6. WEROC INC. FINANCE

6.1 WEROC Inc. Financial Report as of 31 March 2023

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose.

Date: 1 April 2023

Attachments: Nil

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

At the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on 2 May 2022 the budget for the financial year commencing 1 July 2022 and ending 30 June 2023 was adopted. The approved Budget for 2022-23 is used as the basis for the financial report.

An explanation for each of the notations on the financial report is provided below.

Note 1	Annual Financial contributions paid by Member Local Governments.
Note 2	GST received
Note 3	GST refunds for Q4 BAS 2021-22 and Q2 BAS 2022-23
Note 4	Executive Officer services for the months of June to December 2022
Note 5	Executive Officer travel to Board and other meetings
Note 6	Monthly subscription fee for Xero accounting software
Note 7	Payment to Audit Partners Australia for completing the audit of WEROC finances for the 2021-22 financial year
Note 8	Payments to ASK Waste Management for the WEROC Strategic Waste Management Plan, the Customer Service Institute of Australia for the customer service excellence workshops, the Shire of Merredin for the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre mail out service and Australia's Golden Outback for cooperative marketing initiatives and the Perth Caravan and Camping show.
Note 9	Payment to PWD for .au domain name registration, 12-month hosting fee and compulsory safety upgrade
Note 10	Payments to Local Community Insurance Services for insurances for WEROC Inc. including workers compensation, Cyber insurance, Public and Products Liability, Associations and Officials Liability and Personal Accident – Volunteer Workers.
Note 11	GST paid
Note 12	Payment to the Australian Tax Office for Q1 BAS 2022-23

WEROC Inc.
ABN 28 416 957 824
1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

		Budget 2022/2023	Actual to 31/03/2023	Notes
INCOME				
0501	General Subscriptions	\$72,000.00	\$72,000.00	1
504.01	Consultancy & Project Reserve	\$0.00	\$0.00	
0575	Interest received	\$0.00	\$0.00	
584	Other Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	GST Output Tax	\$7,200.00	\$7,200.00	2
	GST Refunds	\$7,927.78	\$4,436.00	3
	Total Receipts	\$87,127.78	\$83,636.00	
EXPENSES				
1545	Bank Fees & Charges	\$0.00	\$0.00	

1661.01	WEROC Inc. Executive Services	\$34,501.50	\$22,958.17	4
1661.02	Executive Officer Travel and Accommodation	\$1,560.00	\$631.99	5
1661.03	WEROC Executive Officer Recruitment	\$0.00	\$0.00	
1687	WEROC Financial Services Accounting	\$1,000.00	\$613.62	6
1687.03	WEROC Financial Services Audit	\$1,000.00	\$931.00	7
1585	WEROC Consultant Expenses	\$60,000.00	\$16,056.10	8
1850	WEROC Management of WEROC App & Website	\$360.00	\$680.00	9
1801	WEROC Meeting Expenses	\$500.00	\$0.00	
1851	WEROC Insurance	\$6,000.00	\$5,938.52	10
1852	WEROC Legal Expenses	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	
1853	WEROC Incorporation Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	
1930	WEROC Sundry	\$300.00	\$0.00	
3384	GST Input Tax	\$10,722.15	\$4,476.68	11
	ATO Payments	\$3,668.70	\$5,399.00	12
Total Payments		\$121,612.35	\$57,685.08	
Net Position		-\$34,484.57	\$25,950.92	
OPENING CASH 1 July		\$168,194.70	\$164,322.88	
CASH BALANCE		\$133,710.13	\$190,273.80	

Recommendation:

That the WEROC Inc. financial report for the period 1 February 2023 to 31 March 2023, be received.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Ms. Glenice Batchelor

Seconded: Mr. Bill Price

That the WEROC Inc. financial report for the period 1 February 2023 to 31 March 2023, be received.

CARRIED

6.2 Income & Expenditure

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose.

Date: 1 April 2023

Attachments: Nil

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

A summary of income and expenditure for the period 1 February 2023 to 31 March 2023 is provided below.

Date	Description	Credit	Debit	Running Balance
Opening Balance		203,906.50		
01 Feb 2023	Payment: 150 Square Pty Ltd	0.00	2,662.50	201,244.00
06 Feb 2023	Payment: 150 Square Pty Ltd	0.00	2,731.50	198,512.50
10 Feb 2023	Payment: Shire of Merredin	0.00	1,325.00	197,187.50

09 Mar 2023	Payment: 150 Square Pty Ltd	0.00	3,193.50	193,994.00
31 Mar 2023	Payment: Australia's Golden Outback	0.00	420.20	193,573.80
31 Mar 2023	Payment: Australia's Golden Outback	0.00	3,300.00	190,273.80
TOTAL		0.00	13,632.70	190,273.80
Closing Balance			190,273.80	

Recommendation:

That the WEROC Inc. summary of income and expenditure for the period 1 February 2023 to 31 March 2023 be received.

That the Accounts Paid by WEROC Inc. for the period 1 February 2023 to 31 March 2023 totalling \$13,632.70 be approved.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr. Wayne Della Bosca

Seconded: Ms. Joanne Soderlund

That the WEROC Inc. summary of income and expenditure for the period 1 February 2023 to 31 March 2023 be received.

That the Accounts Paid by WEROC Inc. for the period 1 February 2023 to 31 March 2023 totalling \$13,632.70 be approved.

CARRIED

7. MATTERS FOR DECISION

7.1 Corella Management Coordinator

- Disclosure of Interest:** As per Agenda item 3.
- Date:** 1 April 2023
- Attachments:** Nil
- Consultation:** NA
- Financial Implications:** \$25,000 per annum for a three-year period
- Voting Requirement:** Simple Majority

Background:

At the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held in Tammin on 5 September 2022, Dr. Karl O’Callaghan, Chief Executive Officer of Wheatbelt NRM presented a proposal for a Corella Management Coordinator. Key points of the presentation are summarised below:

- Wheatbelt NRM with assistance from Edith Cowan University completed a research report on behalf of AROC, to understand the breadth of the corella issue in the Wheatbelt.
- The key recommendation of the report was to create a coordinator position for the Wheatbelt, that would be responsible for identifying and trialling local solutions to manage the corellas. The primary customers for the coordinator position will be Local Government and CBH.
- Wheatbelt NRM are proposing that the position be co-funded by Wheatbelt Local Governments and CBH.
- Wheatbelt NRM had met with CBH, who indicated that they need time to deliberate on the amount of funding they can commit but are, in general, supportive of the proposal.

- Wheatbelt NRM requested that individual Local Governments or ROCs signal their intent to support the proposal now and once they receive a response from CBH regarding their contribution, they will advise the cost to participate.

In response to Dr. O’Callaghan’s presentation the Board resolved as follows:

RESOLUTION: Moved: Ms. Glenice Batchelor Seconded: Mr. Raymond Griffiths

That WEROC Inc. are supportive of the proposal for a Corella Coordinator and will decide on any financial contribution toward the coordinator position upon further advice from Wheatbelt NRM.

CARRIED

Executive Officer Comment:

On Tuesday 28 March 2023, the Executive Officer met with Dr. O’Callaghan to get an update on the Corella Management Coordinator proposal. Dr. O’Callaghan advised that Wheatbelt NRM have secured a commitment of \$50,000 per annum each from CBH and AROC for a three-year period and requested that WEROC consider matching this financial contribution.

Dr. O’Callaghan indicated that there is no formal agreement or scope of works for the coordinator position at this point in time as they need to understand what level of resource, they will have available to them before entering into any negotiations with the partner organisations. If WEROC were to agree to a \$50,000 per annum contribution, it was suggested that we may like to adopt the approach AROC has taken which is to split the contribution, with \$25,000 coming from the the collective funds of the of the group and the remainder being an individual Shire contribution of \$4,167 each per annum.

The Executive Officer provided the abovementioned information via email on 28 March and requested that Board Members respond with some initial thoughts prior to the next WEROC meeting. The following responses were received:

- Mr. Raymond Griffiths – Believes that Kellerberrin would support this proposal. In the previous two weeks they lost four sets of lights at the hockey oval due to the Corella’s so the requested allocation of money is less than what it would cost for them to rectify the damage caused by the birds.
- Mr. Darren Mollenoyux – The Shire of Bruce Rock have sustained damage to oval lighting infrastructure and playing surfaces in January. Will take to Council meeting on 20 April for consideration however believe that Council will be supportive as the concept has previously been discussed in a Councillor Information Session held in March.
- Ms. Lisa Clack – Briefly discussed the proposal at the Council meeting on 28 March. Generally, Merredin are supportive and look forward to understanding more on the scope of the role.
- Mr. Bill Price – Currently Westonia do not have a problem with Corella’s but acknowledge that the numbers are building in surrounding towns and causing havoc. Will need to take to the next Council meeting for a decision.
- Ms. Glenice Batchelor – Believes the initiative deserves support subject to Council approval. Would like to be assured that:
 - DPIRD have been approached and asked to contribute to their statutory responsibility to manage pests.
 - DBCA will contribute/support their obligations on state reserves.
 - WALGA has been approached and asked to provide support.
 - Other Wheatbelt ROC’s will be included.
 - RBGs will be involved.
 - The Shire of Cunderdin will be approached to contribute.

- State NRM funding is being applied for.
- Consideration will be given to one of the Shire's hosting the position to maximise control activities.
- A breakdown of actual on-ground control activities versus coordination be provided.
- Ms. Joanne Soderlund – Queried whether NRM could provide an indication of what component/percentage of the role they foresee will be actual on the ground mitigation efforts.

The Executive Officer has forwarded the various queries on to Dr. O'Callaghan, and he will join the meeting via videoconference at 10.30am to provide a response to these and any other questions the Board may have.

Recommendation:

That the Board consider the request for a \$50,000 per annum contribution toward a Corella Management Coordinator for a three-year period commencing 1 July 2023, comprised of \$25,000 allocated from the WEROC consultancy budget and an individual Shire contribution of \$4,167 each per annum.

Comments from the meeting:

- Dr. Karl O'Callaghan joined the meeting via videoconference at 11.05am and addressed the queries sent through prior to the meeting:
 - In relation to a contribution from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) Dr. O'Callaghan advised that he is on the Pest, Parrot and Cockatoo Strategy steering group and the consultants preparing the report are due to have it completed by the end of June 2023. The fact that DPIRD have initiated this project indicates that they are interested in the problem but there is no financial commitment from them at this stage to fund a coordinator. Any financial commitment from DPIRD is unlikely to occur in the next 12 months.
 - The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions have not shown much interest in being involved in the pest management discussion.
 - In terms of who will host the coordinator position, this is not of great concern to Wheatbelt NRM, and they are open to suggestions on this aspect.
 - If WEROC are happy to commit, someone can be engaged relatively quickly (i.e., by the end of June 2023).
- Ms. Joanne Soderlund queried if the coordinator position would be primarily a desk-based role or if they would be on the ground implementing solutions. Dr. O'Callaghan advised that a major component of the role would be consultation with community and Local Government so he would expect that the person would be out on the road a lot. Some of the control measures (e.g., baiting) need to be licensed so the coordinator would be responsible for working through the bureaucracy to get the necessary approvals. Contractors would be engaged to implement the control measures identified; this would not be the role of the coordinator.
- Ms. Glenice Batchelor queried whether there would be a steering committee appointed to oversee the development of a framework/scope for the coordinator position. Dr. O'Callaghan advised that they were not at this stage yet but was open to suggestions on how this might work.

Dr. O'Callaghan left the meeting at 11.20am and did not return.

After Dr. O'Callaghan left the meeting, the Chair asked each Shire to provide their thoughts on the proposal:

- Mr. Bill Price advised that the Shire of Westonia support WEROC making a financial contribution but are not willing to make an individual contribution due to Westonia not having an issue with Corella's and being unlikely to in the future given that they do not have a grain facility.
- Mr. Wayne Della Bosca advised that the Shire of Yilgarn don't currently have an issue with Corella's but understand that they move, so are supportive of the proposal but would need to see some definite results to continue making a contribution after the initial trial.

- Ms. Glenice Batchelor advised that the proposal is likely to be supported by the Shire of Tammin because they are aware that if they do not act, they will have a problem. Ms. Batchelor suggested that WEROC would need to have really good input into how the program is managed for it to be effective in our area.
- Mr. Tony Crooks advised that the Shire of Bruce Rock are supportive of the proposal and believe that WEROC is the right avenue to address the issue.
- Mr. Lindon Mellor advised that the Shire of Merredin is supportive as they have a massive problem with Corella's.
- Ms. Emily Ryan advised that whilst the proposal has not been taken to the Kellerberrin Shire Council, she feels that they would be supportive.
- Discussion ensued over the individual Shire contribution, given that in addition to the annual financial outlay, Shire's would be required to fund the control activities. It was suggested that the group agree to the \$25,000 contribution from WEROC, and the Shire contribution be funding on the ground control activities.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Ms. Glenice Batchelor

Seconded: Mr. Wayne Della Bosca

That:

- 1) WEROC commit \$25,000 per annum toward the Corella Coordination position for a three-year period.
- 2) Individual Shire contributions will be in-kind pest control activities; and
- 3) Wheatbelt NRM be requested to negotiate separately with individual Shires on any additional contributions.

CARRIED

7.2 Partnership with Town Team Movement

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose.

Date: 1 April 2023

Attachments: *Attachment 1: Draft Contract with Town Team Builder*

Consultation: Mr. Jimmy Murphy, Co-Founder Town Team Movement

Financial Implications: Up to \$22,000 in the 2023-24 financial year

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

Background:

At the WEROC Inc. Board meeting held in Kellerberrin on 22 February 2023, Town Team Movement co-founder Mr. Jimmy Murphy and Wheatbelt Town Team Builder Ms. Alyce Ventris, were scheduled to present. Due to the meeting finishing earlier than anticipated the Town Teams representatives did not arrive in time to give their presentation. The Executive Officer and Mr. Raymond Griffiths met with Mr. Murphy and Ms. Ventris separately to discuss their proposal for a partnership with WEROC.

On 23 February, the Executive Officer emailed Board Members a summary of the discussion held with Town Teams and outlining their proposal for WEROC to commit \$15,000 per annum to engage the Wheatbelt Town Team Builder one day per week commencing 1 July 2023 and, unless renewed, concluding on 30 June 2024. The following email responses were received:

- Mr. Darren Mollenoyux – Shire of Bruce Rock supportive
- Mr. Raymond Griffiths & Ms. Emily Ryan – Shire of Kellerberrin supportive
- Mr. Bill Price – Shire of Westonia supportive
- Ms. Lisa Clack – Shire of Merredin supportive

- Ms. Joanne Soderlund – Shire of Tammin supportive

Given that this represented a majority of Member Shires the Executive Officer advised Town Teams of the decision to proceed with a one-year partnership between WEROC and Town Teams.

To note, Ms. Ventris advised that in addition to the \$15,000 per annum for her time, WEROC could expect to pay an additional \$2,000 for her travel and accommodation expenses and up to \$5,000 toward Town Team events organised in the WEROC area.

Executive Officer Comment:

Subsequent to the decision made via email, to proceed with a Town Teams partnership, the Executive Officer met with Mr. Murphy and Ms. Ventris to discuss the best way to proceed. Mr. Murphy suggested that a direct contract arrangement with Ms. Ventris, as per the NEWROC model would be the ideal manner to formalise the partnership. A contract was drafted and sent to Members via email on 13 March 2023, for comment. Contained within the contract are the key deliverables expected of Ms. Ventris in return for WEROC’s investment:

Key Accountabilities	Activities	Key Performance Indicators
<p>1 Support existing town teams.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspire and support established town teams and local government leaders to identify placemaking and activation opportunities. • Build rapport and relationships with the leaders of the town teams. • Provide support and guidance to leaders of town teams to improve their confidence and skills in placemaking and activation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular communication with the WEROC Board. • Number of Town Teams in the WEROC area increases. • Delivery and evaluation of one ‘do-over’ event per annum.
<p>2 Establish new town teams in WEROC communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify opportunities to align the work of existing groups including Community Resource Centres and Progress Associations with the Town Team model. • Establish new town teams in WEROC communities where they do not already exist. • Provide the support and guidance required to establish an effective town team. 	
<p>3 Deliver town team projects and events in WEROC communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning, delivery, and evaluation of town team events in WEROC communities. • Facilitation of one ‘do-over’ event in the WEROC region per annum. • Connect town teams, governments, community groups and other civic leaders with each other to achieve better community outcomes. • Actively seek out additional funding opportunities to support events and projects. This includes applying for and acquitting grants as required. 	

4	Communication and reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a written report for each WEROC Board Meeting (five per annum) detailing activities undertaken and progress toward achievement of key accountabilities. • Attend WEROC Board meetings as requested. • Work with WEROC Local Governments to educate communities about community-led placemaking and support local action. 	
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Responses to the email of 13 March were received from the Shires of Kellerberrin, Westonia, Bruce Rock, Yilgarn and Tammin advising that there were no issues or changes required to the contract wording. Ms. Glenice Batchelor did however respond and advise that while supportive of the Town Teams idea, the preference would have been for a collaborative tourism venture coordinator proposal to go forward.

<p>Recommendation:</p> <p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The decision made via email to enter into a partnership with the Town Team Movement for a one-year term, at a cost of \$15,000 be ratified. 2) The draft contract between WEROC and Wheatbelt Town Team Builder, Ms. Alyce Ventris, be endorsed.

Comments from the meeting:

- Members agreed to the \$15,000 partnership with the Town Team Movement, but the other costs noted (i.e., \$2,000 toward travel/accommodation and \$5,000 toward events) were of concern. It was suggested that these items should be provided in-kind rather than as a cash contribution.
- Ms. Joanne Soderlund queried the status of the Mental Health Commission partnership that was raised as an opportunity for WEROC in the initial approach from Town Teams. The Executive Officer will follow this up.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr. Bill Price

Seconded: Ms. Emily Ryan

That:

- 1) The decision made via email to enter into a partnership with the Town Team Movement for a one-year term, at a cost of \$15,000 be ratified.
- 2) The draft contract between WEROC and Wheatbelt Town Team Builder, Ms. Alyce Ventris, be endorsed.

CARRIED

7.3 Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre Service Proposal

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: As noted in Agenda item 3.

Date: 1 April 2023

Attachments: *Attachment 2: WEROC Tourism Proposal (Commercial in Confidence)*
Attachment 3: Wheatbelt-AGO Tourism Destination Development Concept

Consultation: Wheatbelt Tourism Working Group
 Mr. Marcus Falconer, CEO, Australia’s Golden Outback

Financial Implications: Unknown

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

Background:

At the WEROC Inc. Board meeting held on 22 February 2023 the Shire of Merredin presented the WEROC Tourism Proposal. The matter was briefly discussed but decisions were deferred to allow more time for the Shire's to consider the recommendations. It was requested that prior to the next meeting the Executive Officer conduct further investigation to aid the discussions including making an approach to Australia's Golden Outback to see what a destination development officer position would entail and cost and having an initial discussion with the NEW Travel Executive Officer about the possibility of WEROC joining the Wheatbelt Way.

Following to the meeting, the Executive Officer received advice from the Shire of Kellerberrin that the proposal had been discussed with their Council and they resolved as follows:

MIN 021/23 MOTION - Moved Cr. Leake

Seconded Cr. Reid

That Council decline all options provided by the Shire of Merredin and request if there is the option to enhance the capacity/scope of the Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre to take up the tourism capacity requirements of WEROC.

CARRIED 6/0

The Executive Officer also notes that the matter was raised with the Shire of Bruce Rock Council who resolved as follows:

Resolution OCM Mar 23 – 11.1.2 Moved: Cr Rajagopalan Seconded: Cr Kilminster

That Council does not support the proposal put forward for the collaboration and direction proposed as it is not in line with the original direction of WEROC and does not believe the preferred option would provide effective benefit to Bruce Rock due to our location.

Ms. Joanne Soderlund advised via email that the Shire of Tammin is supportive of the recommendation to investigate joining the Wheatbelt Way.

Executive Officer Comment:

On 27 February 2023, the Executive Officer emailed Australia's Golden Outback (AGO) CEO, Mr. Marcus Falconer, requesting a proposal for a locally based destination development officer, which had previously been discussed between the two parties. On 3 March Mr. Falconer responded and advised that since the last discussion, AGO had started developing an agritourism strategy for the region and a major focus of their resources and efforts to facilitate destination development in the Wheatbelt from July 2023 will be the implementation of that strategy. They are therefore not in a position to assist WEROC with resourcing at this time, however Mr. Falconer expressed an interest in reviewing the Shire of Merredin Tourism Proposal to see if there is any way that AGO could support WEROC's aims.

A meeting was held between Ms. Chloe Townsend, Deputy CEO at the Shire of Merredin, the WEROC Executive Officer and Mr. Falconer on 4 April 2023. Mr. Falconer indicated that he was supportive of the Shire of Merredin's recommendation to join the established Wheatbelt Way brand and saw an obvious "loop" to the trail that would incorporate the WEROC Shires. Mr. Falconer also advised that he had revisited the WEROC Tourism audit and felt that many of the recommendations could be applied more broadly to other parts of the region. He felt that of the priorities identified in the audit the short-term focus should be on the recommendations to make caravan and camping sites (both free and commercial) online bookable, getting all trails listed on Trails WA and on developing a regional caravan and camping strategy.

In addition to the discussion with AGO, the Executive Officer has participated in two meetings of the Wheatbelt Tourism Working Group, which consists of representatives from WEROC, ROE Tourism, NEW Travel, NEWROC, AGO and the Wheatbelt Business Network. This group has convened to discuss potential collaborative action and to develop a concept for destination development that meets the needs of all parties. A copy of the concept in its formative stages, is provided as an attachment. The Executive Officer has also notified NEW

Travel, of the recommendation in the Shire of Merredin’s proposal for WEROC Shires to join the Wheatbelt Way. The NEW Travel Executive have met to consider this proposition and will provide a response before 26 April to assist with our discussions.

Recommendation:

That the information as presented in the agenda, and to be provided at the meeting, be discussed and next steps agreed.

Comments from the meeting:

- The Executive Officer provided an overview of the developments that have taken place since the last meeting and raised several questions relating to the proposal.
- Given that the Shire of Merredin CEO, Ms. Lisa Clack was not present to respond to the queries and her Proxy for this meeting, Mr. Lindon Mellor, was not familiar with the content, the item was deferred for discussion at the next meeting.
- The Executive Officer will email Mr. Mellor with the queries arising and report back to the Board once a response is received.

No formal motion was passed.

7.4 WEROC Regional Waste Coordinator

Author:	Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer
Disclosure of Interest:	No interest to disclose.
Date:	1 April 2023
Attachments:	<i>Attachment 4: WEROC Waste Management Options Paper</i>
Consultation:	Nil
Financial Implications:	To be determined.
Voting Requirement:	Simple Majority

Background:

At the WEROC Inc. Board meeting held on 22 February 2023, Mr. Daniel Hay-Hendry, Manager Projects & Assets at the Shire of Merredin provided an overview of the WEROC Waste Management Options Paper. The matter was briefly discussed but decisions were deferred to allow more time for the Shire’s to consider the recommendations.

Executive Officer Comment:

Following the meeting, the Executive Officer received advice from Ms. Joanne Soderlund that the Shire of Tammin are supportive of the interim recommendations as a starting point to progress the Strategic Waste Management Plan.

The Shire of Bruce Rock discussed the options paper and resolved as follows:

Moved: Cr Rajagopalan Seconded: Cr Kilminster

Supports the proposal from Shire of Merredin and options to progress the Regional Waste Strategy, however confirming that whilst Bruce Rock requests to participate it will not be requiring access to the regional site for at least 12 years, with funding models for this to be further considered.

The Shire of Kellerberrin also discussed the proposal and resolved as follows:

MIN 020/23 MOTION - Moved Cr. Gardiner

Seconded Cr. Ryan

That Council support the following Interim, Short-term and Medium term solutions for Regional Waste within WEROC Councils;

Interim Recommendations are that WEROC:

1. *Endorse the WEROC Strategic Waste Management Plan, subject to:*
 - (a) *Noting the inaccuracies in the waste generation data presented; and,*
 - (b) *Accepting the proposed amendments to the implementation of the priorities outlined within the WEROC Waste Management Option Paper submitted by the Shire of Merredin (this report).*
2. *Endorse the WEROC Landfill Consolidation – Scenario Assessment Report and endorse Option 2: implementation of two regional landfills located at Merredin and Southern Cross, subject to;*
 - (a) *Accepting the proposed amendments to the implementation of the priorities outlined within the WEROC Waste Management Option Paper submitted by the Shire of Merredin (this report); and*
 - (b) *Note that with the change to a gate-fee model, each WEROC member Council will be responsible for the cost associated with the implementation of the priorities associated with their own waste management operations and sites.*
3. *Shires of Merredin and Yilgarn develop an interim gate fee to allow the disposal of municipal waste from WEROC member Councils with waste disposal capacity issues by April 2023.*
4. *Commence discussions with Avon Waste regarding interim operational options, including a review of kerbside collection days within the WEROC region to enable the efficient servicing of WEROC member Councils and disposal at one of the proposed regional landfill sites (April 23) to align with budget and fees and charges.*

Short-term Recommendations are that WEROC:

1. *Implement actions 2 to 9 inclusive of Appendix 1 – Gantt Chart Proposed Revised Order of Works; and Notes that;*
 - a. *The funding model for the Regional Waste Coordinator and relevant gate-fee will be developed during this phase of works, and will need to be agreed by the WEROC Councils prior to the implementation of any required capital works.*
 - b. *Some Councils may progress Action 10, should they have internal capability to do so; and*
 - c. *The Shires of Merredin and Yilgarn will be required to complete the short-term priority actions in advance of the other WEROC member Councils to enable the transition to two regional landfill sites.*

Medium-term Recommendations are that WEROC:

1. *Implement actions 10-19 inclusive of Appendix 1 – Gantt Chart Proposed Revised Order of Works; and*
2. *Notes;*
 - a. *The employment of the Regional Waste Coordinator should be progressed prior to the commencement of these actions.*
 - b. *The Regional Waste Coordinator will review and update the SWMP and associated implementation plan for the review and endorsement of WEROC during this stage.*

CARRIED 6/0

Recommendation:

That the Board discuss the Shire of Merredin proposal and agree on next steps.

Comments from the meeting:

- The Chair asked each Shire to provide feedback on the Shire of Merredin’s proposal. A summary of the responses is provided below:
 - The Shire of Yilgarn know what they need to do and have their own separate set of actions to proceed with. They are happy to bypass the engagement of a regional waste coordinator until the priority actions have been implemented and the role becomes a matter of data collection and community engagement.
 - The Shire of Westonia is happy with the recommendations and will work closely with the Shire of Yilgarn in the transition of their waste facility to a transfer station.
 - The Shire of Tammin is happy to support the recommendations.
 - The Shire of Bruce Rock believes the Shire of Merredin have produced a very thorough document and are happy to support the recommendations.
 - As per the Council resolution noted in the Agenda, the Shire of Kellerberrin is supportive of the recommendations.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr. Tony Crooks

Seconded: Ms. Emily Ryan

That the WEROC Inc. Board adopt the interim, short-term, and medium-term recommendations as outlined in the Shire of Merredin’s, WEROC Waste Management Options Report.

CARRIED

7.5 WEROC Inc. Budget 2022-23

The WEROC Inc. Constitution states that:

17.3 The Board will prepare and approve the annual budget at least 1 month before the end of the financial year.

As the next scheduled meeting of the WEROC Inc. Board is in late June, to adhere to the rules of our Association, a draft budget for WEROC Inc. for the financial year commencing 1 July 2023 and ending 30 June 2024 has been prepared and is presented for the Board’s consideration.

The proposed budget assumes that the \$12,000 (Ex. GST) annual subscription per Member Council will remain consistent with previous years. On the matter of subscriptions, the WEROC Inc. Constitution does not specify the amount of the annual subscription rather it states:

10.1 Annual Subscriptions: Members are not required to pay a membership fee or annual subscription but may be required to pay an annual financial contribution as determined by the Association with such contributions to be in equal shares.

Under the proposed budget, it is anticipated that WEROC Inc. will have a cash balance of \$144, 229.39 on 30 June 2024.

BUDGET NOTES

Income

- A. The draft budget assumes that the annual subscription amount will be retained at \$12,000 (Ex. GST) per Member Council.
- B. The Consultancy and Project Reserve is now incorporated into the General Subscription.
- C. The Westpac Community Solution One Account no longer pays interest.
- D. GST on General Subscriptions.
- E. GST refunds have been calculated based on estimates of GST Input and Output Tax for each quarter.

Expenditure

1. The Westpac Community Solution One Account does not incur any fees and therefore no fees have been budgeted for.
2. Proposed budget is based on the Executive Officer’s contracted hours (550) and rate of pay (\$62.73 Ex. GST).
3. Budget based on anticipated travel for the Executive Officer to attend five Board Meetings at the contracted rate of 0.68c (Ex. GST) per km.
4. Current contract expires on 1 March 2024 therefore a provision has been made for recruitment of an Executive Officer.
5. The proposed budget for Financial Services includes the monthly subscription fee for Xero accounting software (\$68.18 Ex. GST) and a small allocation for any miscellaneous financial assistance required from an Accountant.
6. The financial services audit allocation is based on the accepted quote of Audit Partners Australia for \$950+GST and an allowance for disbursements.
7. This allocation enables WEROC Inc. to engage consultants and to undertake special projects. Co-operative marketing initiatives are also allocated to this budget line item. The budgeted amount includes \$7,000 for marketing (actual spend in 2022-23 was \$6,136), \$22,000 for Town Teams (\$15,000 for wages, \$2,000 for travel and \$5,000 for events) and \$25,000 for the co-contribution toward the Corella Management Coordinator. The remaining allocation is an allowance for new projects.
8. The allocation for the management of the WEROC Inc. website is based on the Code Research Australia hosting fee of \$35 (Ex. GST) per month. The hosting fee is currently paid up until October 2023. The WEROC domain name was renewed in March 2022 and is paid up until 8 June 2025.
9. Host Council’s will generally cover all meeting expenses. A small allocation is provided for any unforeseen meeting costs.
10. The proposed budget allocation for insurance is based on previous years quote from Local Community Insurance, with an allowance for premium increases for the following forms of insurance cover:
 - Public & Products Liability
 - Associations and Officials Liability
 - Workers Compensation
 - Personal Accident – Volunteers
 - Cyber Insurance
11. A small allocation is made for legal expenses to cover any eventuality.
12. A small allocation is made for any miscellaneous items.
13. GST Input Tax is calculated on budgeted expenditure items subject to GST.
14. ATO payments have been calculated based on estimates of GST Input and Output Tax for each quarter.

WEROC Inc.
ABN 28 416 957 824
DRAFT BUDGET 2023-2024

		Budget 2022/2023	Actual to 31/03/2023	Estimated Income/Exp enditure to 30 June	Proposed Budget 2023-2024	Notes
	INCOME					
0501	General Subscriptions	\$72,000.00	\$72,000.00	\$72,000.00	\$72,000.00	A
504.01	Consultancy & Project Reserve	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	B
0575	Interest received	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	C

584	Other Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	GST Output Tax	\$7,200.00	\$7,200.00	\$7,200.00	\$7,200.00	D
	GST Refunds	\$7,927.78	\$4,436.00	\$5,713.00	\$5,083.15	E
	Total Receipts	\$87,127.78	\$83,636.00	\$84,913.00	\$84,283.15	
	EXPENSES					
1545	Bank Fees & Charges	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	1
1661.01	WEROC Inc. Executive Services	\$34,501.50	\$22,958.17	\$31,808.38	\$34,500.00	2
1661.02	Executive Officer Travel and Accommodation	\$1,560.00	\$631.99	\$971.99	\$1,000.00	3
1661.03	WEROC Executive Officer Recruitment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	4
1687	WEROC Financial Services Accounting	\$1,000.00	\$613.62	\$818.16	\$1,000.00	5
1687.03	WEROC Financial Services Audit	\$1,000.00	\$931.00	\$931.00	\$1,050.00	6
1585	WEROC Consultant Expenses	\$60,000.00	\$16,056.10	\$16,056.10	\$60,000.00	7
1850	Management of WEROC Website	\$360.00	\$680.00	\$680.00	\$420.00	8
1801	WEROC Meeting Expenses	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	9
1851	WEROC Insurance	\$6,000.00	\$5,938.52	\$5,938.52	\$6,300.00	10
1852	WEROC Legal Expenses	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	11
1853	WEROC Incorporation Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
1930	WEROC Sundry	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	12
3384	GST Input Tax	\$10,722.15	\$4,476.68	\$5,416.16	\$10,807.00	13
	ATO Payments	\$3,668.70	\$5,399.00	\$5,399.00	\$2,393.33	14
	TOTAL PAYMENTS	\$121,612	\$57,685.08	\$68,019.31	\$121,270.33	
	Net Position	-\$34,484.57	\$25,950.92	\$16,893.70	-\$36,987.18	
	OPENING CASH 1 July	\$168,194.70	\$164,322.88	\$164,322.88	\$181,216.58	
	CASH BALANCE	\$133,710.13	\$190,273.80	\$181,216.58	\$144,229.39	

Recommendation:

That the WEROC Inc. draft budget for the year ending 30 June 2024, as presented, with a general subscription for each Member Council set at \$12,000 (Ex. GST), be adopted.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Ms. Joanne Soderlund

Seconded: Mr. Wayne Della Bosca

That the WEROC Inc. draft budget for the year ending 30 June 2024, as presented, with a general subscription for each Member Council set at \$12,000 (Ex. GST), be adopted.

CARRIED

7.6 Discussion and Decisions Arising from the Presentation by Ms. Susan Hall

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose.

Date: 1 April 2023

Attachments: Nil

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

Executive Officer Comment:

Following the presentation from Ms. Susan Hall 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. Susan Hall be considered, and the matter discussed.

Comments from the meeting:

- It was noted that WEROC need to look at ways of better utilizing both the Wheatbelt Development Commission and Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt (RDAW).
- Currently RDAW are assisting the Shire of Bruce Rock with an economic development strategy, based off the WALGA model.
- Mr. Wayne Della Bosca noted that housing supply issues are becoming critical and could be an area that WEROC requests more assistance with from WDC.
- Mr. Darren Mollenoyux suggested that WEROC request a more detailed report on where the WDC is at on their housing analysis and ask if they can support WEROC in conducting a housing analysis like the one being completed in the southern Wheatbelt.

RESOLUTION: **Moved:** Mr. Wayne Della Bosca **Seconded:** Ms. Joanne Soderlund

That WEROC Inc. request assistance from the Wheatbelt Development Commission in undertaking a housing analysis.

CARRIED

7.7 Discussion and Decisions Arising from the Presentation by Mr. Michael Hayden

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose.

Date: 1 April 2023

Attachments: Nil

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

Executive Officer Comment:

Following the presentation from Mr. Michael Hayden 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. Michael Hayden be considered, and the matter discussed.

Comments from the meeting:

- Based on the information presented by Mr. Hayden it was felt that individual discussions need to be held between the Shires and Maarli Services.
- It was requested that the Executive Officer:

- a) Contact Wheatbelt NRM to question what their proposal for a ranger service, through the FRRR drought funding entails; and
- b) Write to Mr. Hayden to thank him for his presentation and request that he contact Shire’s individually to discuss the sites they have selected for coverage under the Eastern Wheatbelt Ranger Service and what services they propose to provide at each site.

RESOLUTION: **Moved:** Mr. Wayne Della Bosca **Seconded:** Mr. Bill Price

That Mr. Michael Hayden be requested to contact Shire’s individually to discuss the sites they have selected for coverage under the Eastern Wheatbelt Ranger Service, and what services they propose to provide at each site.

CARRIED

8. EMERGING ISSUES

NIL

9. OTHER MATTERS (FOR NOTING)

9.1 Wheatbelt Medical Student Immersion Program

The 2023 Wheatbelt Medical Student Immersion Program took place during the week of 14-17 March. This year the Executive Officer provided support to the academics and students staying in Merredin. On Thursday 6 April, a debrief was held with all staff who participated in the program. A summary of the feedback is provided below:

- **Narrogin** (although outside the WEROC region some of the points raised may be valid): It was felt that the visit was not as well organized as previous years. For a couple of the scheduled activities, people did not know that they were coming. They found it disappointing that there was no contact with the local GP’s and were confused that they were able to visit an aged care facility but not the hospital. They hope that next year the program will incorporate a GP visit/discussion and a hospital visit.
- **Kellerberrin**: The visit went well generally, there were no major issues. The academic staff noted that they were staying at the caravan park and because there was no administrative support for Kellerberrin they did not have access to a vehicle, which made it difficult for them to get around. They would recommend staying at the hotel in future years. Some of the outdoor activities took place during the heat of the day and they suggest scheduling these for the morning in future years. Next year they would like to be able to visit the hospital.
- **Bruce Rock**: Overall went really well, would not change any of the activities. Would suggest scheduling a visit from the Aboriginal Health team from Merredin into the program for next year. Need to change how we recruit billet families in future years. One family in Bruce Rock had 6 students, which is too many. Would suggest engaging a community liaison person (volunteer) in each town to be responsible for recruiting billet families. This approach was previously used and worked well.
- **Southern Cross**: Heat was a limiting factor – some of the activities were barely engaged in due to the heat. Would suggest not visiting the wildlife sanctuary in future years. Believe that there needs to be a local liaison in each town to drive recruitment of billet families.
- **Merredin**: All scheduled activities ran smoothly. There were a couple of issues that arose with students that had to be dealt with during the week but nothing that directly related to the organizing of the program.
- **Rural Health West**: As the principal program organizers they felt that this year the itineraries were the best planned/confirmed to date. Co-ordinating both the Notre Dame and Curtin visits at the same time was very challenging and they would like to explore the option of hosting them at different times

in future years. They feel that there needs to be a different approach to recruiting families in future years.

There was no feedback provided on the Westonia visit during the debrief.

9.2 Stronger Communities Programme – Round 8

The [Stronger Communities Programme](#) supports the Australian Government’s commitment to deliver social benefits in communities across Australia. The program intends to encourage and support participation in local projects, improve local community participation and contribute to vibrant and viable communities. Round 8 of the program aims to support communities to recover from the widespread impacts of adverse weather events and current economic pressures.

For this round, grant funding will be up to 100% of eligible project costs except for local governing bodies where grant funding will be up to 50% of eligible project costs.

Community consultation is a critical element of the program. In consultation with their community, each MP must identify potential applicants and projects in their electorate and invite them to apply for a grant. Invited applications will be assessed against the program’s eligibility criteria through a closed non-competitive process.

Each electorate has total funding of up to \$150,000 that can be allocated to small capital projects. Each project can receive up to \$20,000. A maximum of 20 projects will be funded in each electorate. The closing date for the current round is Wednesday 10 May.

9.3 Co-Operative Marketing Activity

Attachment 5: *Wheatbelt Co-Op Digital Activity Reporting*

Attachment 6: *Wheatbelt Co-Op Autumn Campaign 2023*

At the WEROC Inc. Board meeting held on 2 May 2022, a contribution of \$3,000 +GST toward the Wheatbelt local tourism group co-funding campaign for 2022-23 was endorsed. The contribution from WEROC was matched by Roe Tourism, NEW Travel and Pioneers Pathway resulting in a pooled fund of \$12,000 for marketing which was matched by Australia’s Golden Outback to achieve a total \$24,000 +GST marketing spend for 2022/23.

With this funding AGO conducted a wildflower activity campaign in July and August 2022, which included print advertisements in the West Australian newspaper and Australian Traveller magazine, and an online social media campaign. The results of this activity are summarised in the report provided as Attachment 5 to this agenda.

AGO also conducted a shoulder season campaign in February and March 2023. They created a concept for “Wheatbelt Weekends” which aimed to target a younger market than the traditional visitor to our region as well as families. The shoulder season campaign included radio ads and live reads over a three-week period, paid social media advertising over a three-week period and an organic takeover of AGO’s social media accounts for one week. The Wheatbelt Weekends concept can be viewed on the AGO website <https://www.australiasgoldenoutback.com/wheatbelt-weekends>.

The Autumn campaign report is provided as Attachment 6. For interest’s sake, Google analytics for the WEROC website indicates that there were 160 page views in February and 168 in March this year, compared to 93 in February 2022 and 137 in March 2022.

10. FUTURE MEETINGS

The approved schedule of meetings for 2023 is as follows:

Date	Time	Host Council
Wednesday 22 February 2023	9.30am	Kellerberrin

Wednesday 26 April 2023	9.30am	Yilgarn
Wednesday 28 June 2023	9.30am	Tammin
Wednesday 30 August 2023	9.30am	Merredin
Wednesday 29 November 2023	9.30am	Westonia

The next meeting will be held in Tammin on Wednesday 28 June 2023.

11. CLOSURE

There being no further businesses the Chair closed the meeting at 12.38pm.