



WEROC Inc. Board Meeting MINUTES

Thursday 27 August 2020

Kellerberrin Recreation and Leisure Centre
Connelly Street Kellerberrin.
Commencing at 1.00pm

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 Mr. Marcus Falconer, Tourism Product Development & Co-operative Marketing 1.00pm	4
4.2 Ms. Caroline Robinson, Local Business Development Program 1.45pm.....	4
4.3 Ms. Pauline Guest, Container Deposit Scheme 2.30pm (Late Apology).....	5
4.4 Mr. Leigh Ballard, CRISP Wireless 3.00pm.....	5
5. MINUTES OF MEETINGS.....	6
5.1 Minutes of the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on Thursday 28 May 2020.....	6
5.2 Business Arising – Status Report as at 14 August 2020.....	6
5.3 Decisions made via a “flying email” dated Thursday 16 July 2020.....	7
6. WEROC INC. FINANCE.....	8
6.1 WEROC Inc. Financial Report as at 30 June 2020.....	8
6.2 WEROC Inc. Financial Report as at 31 July 2020.....	10
6.3 Income & Expenditure.....	12
7. MATTERS FOR DECISION.....	13
7.1 Insurance for WEROC Inc.	13
7.2 Public Health Plans in Local Government.....	15
7.3 Memorandum of Understanding between the Shire of Merredin, WEROC and the Shires of Cunderdin and Tammin for Visitor Servicing and Regional Promotion through the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre – Late Agenda Item Circulated to Members on 26 August 2020	17
7.4 WEROC Inc. Strategic Plan.....	18
7.5 WEROC Inc. Strategic Projects Status Report & Next Steps.....	20
7.6 Tourism Product Development & Co-operative Marketing: Discussion and Decisions Arising from the Presentation by Mr. Marcus Falconer.....	24
7.7 Local Business Development Program: Discussion and Decisions Arising from the Presentation by Ms. Caroline Robinson.....	24
7.8 CRISP Wireless: Discussion and Decisions Arising from the Presentation by Mr. Leigh Ballard	25
8. EMERGING ISSUES.....	25
9. OTHER MATTERS.....	25
9.1 Future Drought Fund.....	25
9.2 Community Based Geo-Park in the Wheatbelt.....	27
9.3 Tourism WA – “Our Story Deep Dive” Workshop (for noting).....	28
10. FUTURE MEETINGS.....	28
11. CLOSURE.....	28

WEROC Inc.

Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils Inc.

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

Minutes for the Board Meeting held at the Kellerberrin Recreation and Leisure Centre on Thursday 27 August 2020 commencing at 1.00pm.

MINUTES

1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Ram Rajagopalan as Chair of WEROC Inc. welcomed Members of the Board and invited guests, and opened the meeting at 1.14pm.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

2.1 Attendance

Mr. Ram Rajagopalan (Chair)

Mr. Rod Forsyth (Deputy Chair)

Mr. Peter Clarke

Ms. Karin Day

Mr. Wayne Della Bosca

Ms. Julie Flockart

Mr. Raymond Griffiths

Mr. Darren Mollenoyux (left the meeting at 1.50pm)

Mr. Jamie Criddle (left the meeting at 3.36pm)

Mr. Mark Dacombe

Ms. Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

2.2 Apologies

Ms. Pauline Guest, Wheatbelt Cash for Containers

2.3 Guests

Hon. Martin Aldridge MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region (joined the meeting at 1.14pm and left the meeting at 3.21pm)

Mr. Marcus Falconer, Chief Executive Officer, Australia's Golden Outback (joined the meeting at 1.14pm and left the meeting at 2.20pm)

Ms. Caroline Robinson, Chief Executive Officer, Wheatbelt Business Network (joined the meeting at 1.35pm and left the meeting at 2.20pm)

Mr. Leigh Ballard, Chief Executive Officer, CRISP Wireless (joined the meeting at 2.42pm and left the meeting at 3.21pm)

Ms. Kristen Twine, Project and Research Officer, Wheatbelt Development Commission

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Mr. Marcus Falconer, Tourism Product Development & Co-operative Marketing 1.00pm

Attachments. Attachment 1. *Activating Tourism in the Eastern Wheatbelt Project Summary*

Ms. Robyn McCarthy, Manager Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre made a recommendation to the Executive Officer that given WEROC Inc.'s focus on tourism development in the Eastern Wheatbelt, it would be valuable to invite Mr. Marcus Falconer, CEO of Australia's Golden Outback (AGO), to attend a meeting of the WEROC Inc. Board. Mr. Falconer will provide an update on current AGO activities. An overview of WEROC's "Activating Tourism in the Eastern Wheatbelt" project will be provided to enable a discussion on AGO's potential to assist with tourism product development and marketing in the Eastern Wheatbelt.

Comments from the Meeting:

- Mr. Falconer highlighted the importance of "destination readiness" and presenting compelling options for people to stay in the area for longer.
- Members noted that getting visitors to stay rather than just passing through the area on their way to other destinations was a challenge.
- The management of sites (and the lack of funding for tourism product development) was noted as an issue and initiatives such as a volunteer ranger program are being explored by some Member Councils.
- Encouraging visitors to base themselves within townsites rather than at free camping areas was identified as a priority for capturing more visitor spending.

Mr. Falconer left the meeting at 2.20pm and did not return.

4.2 Ms. Caroline Robinson, Local Business Development Program 1.45pm

Aligned to Priority 3 of the WEROC Inc. Strategic Plan - *Strengthening our Economy through Local Business Development* - the Executive Officer invited the CEO of the Wheatbelt Business Network, Ms. Caroline Robinson to present to the WEROC Inc. Board on options for the delivery of a business development program. The following context, which was based on discussions held during the Strategic Planning workshops in June 2020, was provided to Ms. Robinson:

The Board of WEROC Inc. would like to implement a targeted business development program with a focus on improving frontline customer experiences and online reputational management. It is envisaged that this program would be available to all businesses that engage in customer service (e.g. hotels, pubs, cafes, restaurants, retail stores, visitor centres, etc.) and could also be a training opportunity for people looking for employment in a customer focused role.

The inspiration for this project is the AussieHost customer service training program, which I believe has been delivered within the Wheatbelt in the past.

The objective in undertaking this project is to continue the momentum in buying local that was created by COVID-19 and sustaining this support for local businesses in the longer term. It also ties in with our tourism product development project, which aims to maximise the visitor potential of the Eastern Wheatbelt as visitor experiences play a critical role in enticing new and return visitors to the region.

WEROC would like to work in partnership with the Wheatbelt Business Network in developing and delivering this program. The Chambers of Commerce and CRC's would also be key project stakeholders. We have identified an FRRR grant (tackling tough times together) as a possible means to fund the program. We would aim to submit an application under Round 19, which closes in October 2020.

WEROC's focus is on the communities within the five Member Local Government area's but would be happy to work in collaboration with other ROC's to broaden the scope of the project if there was an identified need for a similar initiative in other areas.

Comments from the Meeting:

- Ms. Robinson presented a proposal for a 6-month business program that would be delivered by the Wheatbelt Business Network in collaboration with “Blow your own Mind”.
- The program would involve a series of workshops and business coaching.
- The program would be applicable to any business with a product or service offering and would suit both business owners and their staff.
- Members expressed their concern over the ability to engage their local businesses in the program.

A copy of the Business Program proposal presented by Ms. Robinson was provided in hard copy to Members at the meeting.

Ms. Robinson left the meeting at 2.20pm and did not return.

4.3 Ms. Pauline Guest, Container Deposit Scheme 2.30pm (Late Apology)

Aligned to Priority 1 of the WEROC Inc. Strategic Plan – *Regional Waste Management* – the Executive Officer invited Ms. Pauline Guest to present to the WEROC Inc. Board on the arrangements for the container deposit scheme that will commence in October 2020. Ms. Guest will provide an overview on:

- 1) How the scheme works and container eligibility.
- 2) What has been set up in each of the WEROC communities.
- 3) Opportunities for Shires to participate/contribute (e.g. inclusion of the scheme in local advertising, acting as bag/label distribution points, adding bins to Shire venues, etc.).

Board Members will have an opportunity to ask questions and outline their expectations for the scheme.

Executive Officer Comment:

Ms. Guest advised via email on 24 August 2020 that she was no longer able to attend the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting due to unexpected work commitments. Ms. Guest asked that the Executive Officer advise the Members of the Board that should they have any queries with regard to the container deposit scheme they are welcome to contact her directly.

4.4 Mr. Leigh Ballard, CRISP Wireless 3.00pm

Attachments. *Attachment 2. CRISP Wireless Proposed Coverage for the Shires of Merredin, Bruce Rock and Narembeen.*

Attachment 3. Regional Connectivity Program Guidelines

On 24 July 2020, Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food; Ports, the Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLC, announced a \$500,000 investment through the Digital Farm program for CRISP Wireless to install enterprise grade broadband infrastructure in the Shires of Merredin, Bruce Rock and Narembeen.

On 28 July 2020, The Australian Government's Regional Connectivity Program (RCP) opened for applications. The RCP is a \$53 million competitive grant opportunity aimed at expanding the economic, social, and public safety benefits of improved digital connectivity to regional, rural, and remote communities. Applications for the RCP close on 20 October 2020.

At the suggestion of Mr. Jamie Criddle, that the RCP might present an opportunity to extend the CRISP Wireless network, the Executive Officer contacted Mr. Leigh Ballard, CEO of CRISP Wireless, to enquire as to whether there was a possibility of an extension of the CRISP Wireless network into Local Government areas that neighbor Merredin and Bruce Rock.

On 3 August 2020, Mr. Ballard advised that there was a plan to extend the network further and that CRISP Wireless was looking at an application to the RCP. Mr. Ballard also advised that he would be meeting with the Shire’s of Westonia and Yilgarn to discuss this.

The Executive Officer invited Mr. Ballard to present to the Board of WEROC Inc. on the possible network expansion and to enable discussion on how WEROC Inc. might be able to support an application to the RCP.

Comments from the Meeting:

- Mr. Ballard provided an overview of the CRISP Wireless network solution and the expansion of this network in the Shire’s of Bruce Rock, Merredin and Narembeen, enabled by the Digital Farm grant.
- Mr. Ballard advised that CRISP Wireless will be applying to the Regional Connectivity Program for a backhaul from Narrogin which would enable other Local Governments to connect to the CRISP network.
- CRISP Wireless will be asking for letters of support from Local Governments interested in connecting to their network.

Mr. Ballard left the meeting at 3.21pm and did not return.

5. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

5.1 Minutes of the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on Thursday 28 May 2020

Minutes of the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held via videoconference on Thursday 28 May 2020 have previously been circulated.

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the WEROC Inc. Meeting held Thursday 28 May 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr. Wayne Della Bosca

Seconded: Ms. Karin Day

That the Minutes of the WEROC Inc. Meeting held Thursday 28 May 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

5.2 Business Arising – Status Report as at 14 August 2020

Meeting	Item	Action(s)	Status
WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on 30 April 2020	7.2 WEROC Inc. Website Redevelopment	1) Appoint Perth Web Designers (PWD) to develop the new website; 2) Complete a review of the WEROC brand before progressing with the website.	The review of the WEROC Inc. brand was undertaken as part of the strategic planning process completed in June 2020. The amount of \$7,150 (Inc. GST), quoted by Perth Web Designers, is included in the approved WEROC Inc. Budget for the 2020-21 financial year. An email was sent to all WEROC CEO’s on 12 August 2020 to confirm their support for the development of the new website to get underway. Responses in the positive were

			received from four out of the five CEO's. A contract with PWD for the development of the website and payment of a 50% deposit has now been made.
WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on 28 May 2020	7.2 Public Health Plans in Local Government	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) WEROC Inc. to progress with the development of an overarching Health Plan that can be used as a proforma for the Member Councils to develop their individual Public Health Plans; 2) Seek quotes for the development of a WEROC Public Health Plan. 	This will be discussed under item 7.2 of the meeting agenda.

5.3 Decisions made via a “flying email” dated Thursday 16 July 2020

Attachments: Attachment 4. AGO CWVC Wildflowers 2020.

On Thursday 16 July 2020, Board Members received an email from the Executive Officer requesting agreement via a “flying email” for WEROC Inc. to make a financial contribution toward a print media campaign for the upcoming wildflower season with Roe Tourism, New Travel, Pioneers Pathway and Australia’s Golden Outback. The recommendation contained within the email was as follows:

Recommendation: That WEROC Inc. contribute \$500 to the Co-Operative Wheatbelt Self-Drive Wildflower Campaign.

Ms. Karin Day requested that the WEROC Inc. logo be included on the advertisement. Mr. Rod Forsythe requested that the Shire of Kellerberrin be made more visible within the advert. Both requests were provided to Australia’s Golden Outback. The final version of the advertisement is provided as an attachment.

Support for the recommendation was provided via email from the following Board Members:

- Mr. Ram Rajagopalan
- Mr. Peter Clarke
- Mr. Wayne Della Bosca
- Mr. Raymond Griffiths
- Mr. Darren Mollenoyux
- Ms. Karin Day

As this constituted a majority of Members, the recommendation was accepted.

For recording purposes, the decision is presented for endorsement.

Recommendation:

That the decision made by the WEROC Inc. Board via a “flying email” sent on 16 July 2020, be endorsed.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr. Wayne Della Bosca

Seconded: Ms. Karin Day

That the decision made by the WEROC Inc. Board via a “flying email” sent on 16 July 2020, be endorsed.

CARRIED

6. WEROC INC. FINANCE

6.1 WEROC Inc. Financial Report as at 30 June 2020

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose

Date: 14 August 2020

Attachments: Nil

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

Background:

At the WEROC Council Meeting held on 1 May 2019 a combined Wheatbelt Communities Inc. (renamed WEROC Inc. on 29 January 2020)/WEROC Council Budget for 2019/2020 was adopted. The combined budget has been used as the basis for the financial report. This is the final report for the 2019/20 financial year.

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

Note 1	All 2019/2020 annual subscriptions have been paid.
Note 2	Executive services charges for July to December 2019.
Note 3	Executive services charges for January to May 2020.
Note 4	This allocation covers the expenditure on Executive Officer travel and accommodation.
Note 5	This allocation covers the expenditure on accounting services.
Note 6	This allocation covers expenditure on the 2018/2019 audits for WEROC Council and Wheatbelt Communities Inc. This allocation also covers expenditure on the final audit of WEROC Council for the period 1 July 2019 to 31 January 2020.
Note 7	This allocation includes payment to Accingo for the Asset Management project, costs associated with Dr Andrew Harper for Curtin Wheatbelt Medical Project, Australian Golden Outback - contribution to Eastern Wheatbelt self-drive feature, distribution of regional travel maps, Information Enterprises Australia - consulting services review of record keeping, and Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre for the Eastern Wheatbelt Visitors Guide Edition 6.
Note 8	This allocation covers the costs incurred in this financial year in respect to the WEROC app and website.
Note 9	This allocation covers catering and other miscellaneous meeting expenses.

WEROC Inc.
ABN 28 416 957 824
1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020

	Budget 2019/2020	Actual to 30/06/2020	Notes
Income			
0501			
General Subscriptions WEROC	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	1
WCI General Subscriptions	\$0.00	\$0.00	
504.01			
Consultancy & Project Reserve	\$0.00	\$0.00	
0575			
WE-ROC Interest received	\$900.00	\$132.25	
WCI Interest	\$0.00	\$80.24	
584			
Other Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	
WEROC GST Output Tax	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	
WCI GST Output Tax	\$0.00	\$0.00	
WEROC GST Refunds	\$0.00	\$5,814.00	
WCI GST Refunds	\$0.00	\$1,420.00	
Total Receipts	\$60,900.00	\$73,446.49	
Expenses			
1545			
WEROC Bank Fees & Charges	\$100.00	\$0.00	
WCI Bank Fees & Charges	\$0.00	\$0.00	
1661.01			
WEROC Executive Services Professional Services	\$55,000.00	\$26,438.53	2
WCI Executive Services	\$0.00	\$16,205.71	3
1661.02			
WEROC Executive Officer Travel and Accommodation	\$8,000.00	\$2,861.98	4
WCI Executive Officer Travel & Accommodation	\$0.00	\$628.59	
1661.03			
WEROC Executive Officer Recruitment	\$0.00	\$781.06	
1687			
WEROC Financial Services Accounting	\$7,000.00	\$1,698.41	5
WCI Financial Services	\$0.00	\$2,680.76	
1687.03			
WEROC Financial Services Audit	\$3,000.00	\$2,507.85	6
WCI Audit Fees	\$750.00	\$2,481.82	
1585			
WEROC Consultant Expenses	\$30,000.00	\$37,559.11	7
WCI Consultancy General	\$0.00	\$1,050.00	
1850			
WEROC Management of WE-ROC App	\$5,000.00	\$1,066.47	8
1801			
WEROC Meeting Expenses	\$500.00	\$449.26	9
WCI Meeting Expenses	\$0.00	\$10.00	
1851			
WCI Insurance	\$0.00	\$0.00	
WEROC Insurance	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	
1852			
WEROC Legal Expenses	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	
1853			
WEROC Incorporation Expenses (including legal fees)	\$15,000.00	\$69.00	
WCI Incorporation Expenses	\$0.00	\$10.05	

1930	WEROC Sundry	\$500.00	\$102.27
	WCI Sundry	\$0.00	\$37.23
3384	GST Input Tax	\$0.00	\$7,106.44
	WCI GST Input Tax	\$0.00	\$2,314.85
	ATO Payments	\$0.00	\$2,515
	WCI ATO Payments	\$0.00	\$0
	Suspense Account	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Total Payments	\$131,850	\$108,574.39
	Net Position	-\$70,950.00	-\$35,127.90
	OPENING CASH 1 July WEROC	\$160,927.00	\$150,919.05
	Opening CASH 1 July WCI		\$27,386.55
	CASH BALANCE	\$89,977.00	\$143,177.70

Recommendation:

That the WEROC Inc. Financial Report for the period ending 30 June 2020 be received.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Ms. Karin Day

Seconded: Mr. Wayne Della Bosca

That the WEROC Inc. Financial Report for the period ending 30 June 2020 be received.

CARRIED

6.2 WEROC Inc. Financial Report as at 31 July 2020

At the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on 28 May 2020 the budget for the financial year commencing 1 July 2020 and ending 30 June 2021 was adopted. The WEROC Inc. Budget 2020-21 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 Contributions paid by the Shire of Kellerberrin and the Shire of Yilgarn
Note 2	GST on the paid Annual Contributions
Note 3	GST Refund for Q4 BAS 2019-2020
Note 4	Executive Officer services for the month of June 2020
Note 5	Includes payments to 150 Square for WEROC Inc. Strategic Planning and Australia's Golden Outback for the co-operative digital marketing campaign in June 2020.

WEROC Inc.
ABN 28 416 957 824
1 July 2020 to 31 July 2020

	Budget 2020/2021	Actual to 31/07/2020	Notes
Income			
0501	\$60,000.00	\$24,000.00	1
504.01	\$0.00		
0575	\$141.67	\$12.12	
584	\$0.00		
	GST Output Tax	\$2,400.00	2
	GST Refunds	\$1,265.00	3
	Total Receipts	\$27,677.12	
Expenses			
1545	\$0.00		
1661.01	\$30,450.00	\$2,131.82	4
1661.02	\$2,162.40		
1661.03	\$0.00		
1687	\$795.40		
1687.03	\$1,300.00		
1585	\$40,000.00	\$3,655.00	5
1850	\$6,860.00		
1801	\$500.00		
1851	\$5,056.67		
1852	\$2,000.00		
1853	\$0.00		
1930	\$300.00		
3384	\$8,693.78	\$578.68	
	ATO Payments		
	Total Payments	\$6,365.50	
	Net Position	\$21,311.62	
	OPENING CASH 1 July	\$143,177.70	
	CASH BALANCE	\$164,489.32	

Recommendation:

That the WEROC Inc. Financial Report for the period ending 31 July 2020 be received.

RESOLUTION: **Moved:** Mr. Rod Forsythe **Seconded:** Ms. Karin Day

That the WEROC Inc. Financial Report for the period ending 31 July 2020 be received.

CARRIED

6.3 Income & Expenditure

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer
Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose
Date: 14 August 2020
Attachments: Nil
Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

A summary of income and expenditure for the period 1 May to 31 July 2020 is provided below.

Date	Description	Reference	Credit	Debit	Running Balance	Gross
WEROC Inc. Transactions for the period 1 May to 31 July 2020						
Opening Balance			149,617.98	0.00	149,617.98	0.00
11 May 2020	Payment: BHW Consulting	INV-0432	0.00	76.61	149,541.37	(76.61)
13 May 2020	Payment: 150 Square Pty Ltd	INV-0003	0.00	2,680.00	146,861.37	(2,680.00)
18 May 2020	Payment: AMD Chartered Accountants	801823	0.00	2,090.00	144,771.37	(2,090.00)
29 May 2020	Westpac Interest received		11.70	0.00	144,783.07	11.70
04 Jun 2020	ATO		943.00	0.00	145,726.07	943.00
12 Jun 2020	Payment: 150 Square Pty Ltd	INV-0004	0.00	2,561.00	143,165.07	(2,561.00)
30 Jun 2020	Westpac Interest received		12.63	0.00	143,177.70	12.63
10 Jul 2020	ATO		1,265.00	0.00	144,442.70	1,265.00
22 Jul 2020	Payment: 150 Square Pty Ltd	INV-0005	0.00	2,345.00	142,097.70	(2,345.00)
22 Jul 2020	Payment: 150 Square Pty Ltd	INV-0006	0.00	2,920.50	139,177.20	(2,920.50)
27 Jul 2020	Payment: Australia's Golden Outback	3639	0.00	1,100.00	138,077.20	(1,100.00)
30 Jul 2020	Payment: Shire of Kellerberrin	INV-0002	13,200.00	0.00	151,277.20	13,200.00
31 Jul 2020	Westpac Interest received		12.12	0.00	151,289.32	12.12
31 Jul 2020	Payment: Shire of Yilgarn	INV-0005	13,200.00	0.00	164,489.32	13,200.00
Total Westpac Community Solution One			28,644.45	13,773.11	164,489.32	14,871.34
Closing Balance			164,489.32	0.00	164,489.32	0.00

Recommendation:

That the WEROC Inc. summary of income and expenditure for the period 1 May to 31 July 2020 be received.

That the Accounts Paid by WEROC Inc. for the period 1 May to 31 July 2020 totalling \$13,773.11 be approved.

RESOLUTION: **Moved:** Mr. Jamie Criddle **Seconded:** Mr. Peter Clarke

That the WEROC Inc. summary of income and expenditure for the period 1 May to 31 July 2020 be received.

That the Accounts Paid by WEROC Inc. for the period 1 May to 31 July 2020 totalling \$13,773.11 be approved.

CARRIED

7. MATTERS FOR DECISION

7.1 Insurance for WEROC Inc.

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose

Date: 14 August 2020

Attachments: Nil

Financial Implications: The cost of insurance has been accounted for within the WEROC Inc. Budget 2020-21

Consultation: LGIS Account Manager Ms. Sandra Clohessy

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

Executive Officer Comment:

At the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on 26 February 2020, insurance for WEROC Inc. was discussed and it was suggested that LGIS be contacted to ascertain if existing cover for the member Shire's could be extended to include activities undertaken by/for WEROC Inc. The matter was then referred to the CEO Committee for further investigation.

At the CEO Committee meeting held on 12 March 2020, Mr. Peter Clarke advised that he had made initial inquiries with LGIS and was informed that coverage could be provided if WEROC Inc. becomes an associate member of WALGA.

At the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on 30 April 2020 it was resolved that:

RESOLUTION: Moved: Mr. Darren Mollenoyux Seconded: Ms. Julie Flockhart

That:

- 1) WEROC Inc. become an Associate Member of WALGA.*
- 2) Upon acceptance of the application, request a quote for the following forms of insurance cover from LGIS and at least two other insurance providers:*

Public and professional indemnity insurance.

Officers and director's insurance.

Workers compensation.

Voluntary workers Insurance.

Cyber/internet insurance.

CARRIED

Executive Officer Comment:

On 11 May 2020, the Executive Officer contacted LGIS to confirm eligibility for insurance cover under their scheme. On 23 June 2020, LGIS Account Manager Sandra Clohessy advised as follows:

I have just done a follow up on this and have been advised that as WEROC Inc. is/was formed under the Incorporations Act, unfortunately is at this point in time not eligible for cover as it does not meet the current guidelines of the Trust Deed & LGISWA Scheme Rules.

On 6 May 2020, an application for Associate Membership of WALGA was submitted to Mr. Tim Lane, Manager Strategy and Association Governance. On 29 June 2020, Mr. Lane advised the Executive Officer via email that WEROC Inc.’s application had been accepted and that a formal welcome pack would be sent from WALGA. At the time of preparing the meeting agenda, the welcome pack had not been received.

Subsequent to the advice from WALGA that WEROC Inc.’s application for Associate Membership had been accepted, the Executive Officer contacted Ms. Clohessy to question whether this changed WEROC Inc.’s eligibility for insurance cover under LGIS. Ms. Clohessy responded as follows:

Hi Rebekah,

Thank you for your email.

As per my previous email, unfortunately at this point in time as per the current guidelines of the Trust Deed & LGISWA Scheme Rules, WEROC are not eligible for cover through the scheme itself.

For the Trust Deed & LGISA Scheme Rules to be changed to allow an incorporate ROC group to potentially join the scheme, this would need to be discussed & determined by the Board of Directors.

Whilst we don’t have any current competitive inexpensive insurance covers to provide to not for profit organisations, as a referral point and from a cost effective option our sister group – Local Community Insurance Services (LCIS) may be able to assist in providing a quotation/cover. This Insurance Services provides insurance products tailored to meet the specific needs of community groups throughout Australia. Local Community Insurance Services (LCIS) can be contract via use of their website www.localcommunityinsurance.com.au or by phone on 1300 853 800 (toll free).

Sorry I could not bring you more positive news at this time, however possibly in the future things could change where an allowance is made to allow incorporate ROC groups to join the scheme. We will let you know should this occur.

Kind Regards Sandra

The Executive Officer has obtained quotes from Local Community Insurance Services (LCIS) and for comparative purposes, an insurance brokerage firm - Countrywide Insurance Brokers (CIB). A summary of the quotations is provided below.

Insurance Type	LCIS	CIB	Limit of Liability	Excess/Retention	
				LCIS	CIB
Workers Compensation	\$659.25	\$500	\$50m	Nil	Nil
Cyber Insurance	\$2,486	\$1,183.05	\$1m	Nil	\$1,000
Public & Products Liability	\$1,222.48	\$670	\$20m	\$100	\$500
Associations & Officials Liability	\$533.50	\$2,171.40	\$5m	Nil	Up to \$5,000 ¹
Personal Accident – Volunteer Workers	\$412.50	\$670.18	Up to \$75,000 per insured person	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	\$5,313.73	\$5,194.63			

¹ The excess is determined by the type of claim and ranges from \$1,000 up to \$5,000.

Recommendation:

That given the relatively small difference in pricing, the lower excess fees and the tailored products for community groups and not-for-profit organisations, that WEROC Inc. accept the quotation from LCIS for the above listed insurance cover.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr. Jamie Criddle

Seconded: Mr. Wayne Della Bosca

That WEROC Inc. accept the quotation from Local Community Insurance Scheme for the following insurance coverage:

Workers Compensation

Cyber Insurance

Public and Products Liability

Associations and Officials Liability

Personal Accident – Volunteer Workers

CARRIED

7.2 Public Health Plans in Local Government

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose

Date: 14 August 2020

Attachments: Nil

Consultation: Ms. Kelly Crossley, Department of Health, Public and Aboriginal Health Division

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

Background:

At the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on Thursday 30 April 2020, Mr. Llew Withers, Environmental Health Consultant, presented to the Board on the topic of Public Health Plans. In response to the presentation by Mr. Withers the Board resolved as follows:

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr. Darren Mollenoyux

Seconded: Ms. Karin Day

Write to Mr. Llew Withers and request a quote for:

1) The development of an overarching Public Health Plan for the five WEROC Inc. Member Councils, which can subsequently be adapted to support the completion of individual Local Government Plans. Seek clarification on whether this is permissible under the Public Health Act 2016; and

2) The development of individual Public Health Plans for each of the five WEROC Inc. Member Councils.

On 4 May 2020, the Executive Officer wrote to Mr. Withers to request quotes as per the Board's resolution. Mr. Withers responded on the same day and advised that:

- 1) The Department of Health require that each Local Government furnish their own Public Health Plan and therefore he cannot assist with the development of an overarching Plan for the WEROC Inc. Member Councils; and

- 2) To prepare a Public Health Plan will take 100 hours of work and will cost each Local Government \$10,000 plus approximately \$500 in travel and accommodation.

At the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on 28 May 2020, the Executive Officer suggested that whilst the advice from Mr. Withers indicates that an overarching Plan is not sufficient to meet the Department of Health requirements, the Board might like to consider pursuing this as a separate but complimentary project to identify opportunities for collaborative action to address common areas of focus for Public Health.

The Board resolved to:

RESOLUTION: *Moved: Mr. Peter Clarke* *Seconded: Mr. Raymond Griffiths*

- 1) *WEROC Inc. will progress with the development of an overarching Health Plan that can be used as a proforma for the Member Councils to develop their individual Public Health Plans.*
- 2) *The Executive Officer seek quotations for the development of a WEROC Public Health Plan.*

CARRIED

Executive Officer Comment:

On 28 May 2020, the Executive Officer wrote to the Department of Health requesting clarification on the deadline for submission of the Public Health Plans. On 9 June 2020, Ms. Kelly Crossley from the Department of Health, Public and Aboriginal Health Division, responded as follows:

Hi Rebekah

Thank you for your email. I can confirm that the provisions of the Public Health Act 2016 related to public health planning will come into effect at stage 5 of implementation and that stage 5 has not occurred yet.

The repeal of the Health (Miscellaneous Provisions Act) 1911 necessitate the repeal of the regulations that sit underneath it. WA Health is currently reviewing all those regulations, as well as a number of provisions within the Act, that will be repealed at stage 5. The aim is to determine whether these public health risks must continue to be regulated under the new regulatory framework provided by the Public Health Act or can be managed in other ways such as a local law, other legislation or a guideline.

In order for stage 5 to occur, all new subsidiary legislation must be ready to be enacted. While this work is underway it is subject to factors beyond the control of the Department of Health, including assessment by the department of Finance's Better Regulation Unit, drafting by the Parliamentary Council's Office and Parliamentary process. As a result, it is not possible to set a date for stage 5 to occur. We are hoping that it will occur during 2021 and will update our website as soon as we know when this will be.

I hope that this answers your question. Please do not hesitate to contact me again should you have any further queries.

Kind regards

Kelly

Recommendation:

That based on the advice from the Department of Health concerning the ongoing review of the impact of the repeal of regulations and provisions under the old Health Act, and the potential for this to alter the requirements of Local Government in managing public health risks, the Board's resolution of 28 May 2020, be amended as follows:

The WEROC Inc. Executive Officer monitor progress toward the implementation of Stage 5 of the Public Health Act 2016 and at the commencement of Stage 5:

- 1) WEROC Inc. will progress with the development of an overarching Health Plan that can be used as a proforma for the Member Councils to develop their individual Public Health Plans; and
- 2) The Executive Officer will seek quotations for the development of a WEROC Public Health Plan.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr. Peter Clarke

Seconded: Mr. Raymond Griffiths

That the WEROC Inc. Executive Officer monitor progress toward the implementation of Stage 5 of the Public Health Act 2016 and at the commencement of Stage 5:

- 1) WEROC Inc. will progress with the development of an overarching Health Plan that can be used as a proforma for the Member Councils to develop their individual Public Health Plans; and
- 2) The Executive Officer will seek quotations for the development of a WEROC Public Health Plan.

CARRIED

7.3 Memorandum of Understanding between the Shire of Merredin, WEROC and the Shires of Cunderdin and Tammin for Visitor Servicing and Regional Promotion through the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre – Late Agenda Item Circulated to Members on 26 August 2020

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose

Date: 26 August 2020

Attachments: *Late Agenda Item Attachment 1. CWVC MOU Review August 2020*
Late Agenda Item Attachment 2. CWVC Annual Report 2019-2020

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

Background:

At the WEROC Council Meeting held on 2 May 2018 it was resolved that:

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr. Day

Seconded: Mr. Griffiths

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Shire of Merredin, WE-ROC and the Shires of Cunderdin and Tammin for Visitor Servicing and Regional Promotion through the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre be approved for a three (3) year period.

CARRIED

The term of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2021, with a review being undertaken annually.

Executive Officer Comment:

On 26 August 2020, Mr. Mark Dacombe, CEO Shire of Merredin, requested via email that the review of the MOU and the Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre Annual Report for 2019/20 be included as a late agenda item for the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting being held on 27 August 2020.

Proposed changes to the MOU as a result of this review include:

1. Removal of actions relating to the WEROC App and website from Schedules 1 and 2.
2. Updates to the Shire Contacts and Signatories.
3. Changes to the product development initiatives outlined in Schedule 2.

A report on the services provided by the Shire of Merredin through the Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre as they relate to schedules 1 and 2 of the MOU, for the 2019-20 financial year has been prepared and is provided as an attachment.

Recommendation:

That:

- 1) The WEROC Inc. Board approve the proposed amendments to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Shire of Merredin, WEROC and the Shires of Cunderdin and Tammin for Visitor Servicing and Regional Promotion through the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre.
- 2) The Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre Annual Report for 2019/20 be received.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Ms. Karin Day

Seconded: Mr. Rod Forsythe

That:

- 1) The WEROC Inc. Board approve the proposed amendments to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Shire of Merredin, WEROC and the Shires of Cunderdin and Tammin for Visitor Servicing and Regional Promotion through the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre.
- 2) The Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre Annual Report for 2019/20 be received.

CARRIED

7.4 WEROC Inc. Strategic Plan

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose

Date: 14 August 2020

Attachments: Attachment 5. FINAL DRAFT WEROC Inc. Strategic Plan 2020

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

Background:

At the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on 30 April 2020 it was resolved that:

RESOLUTION: *Moved: Ms. Karin Day* *Seconded: Mr. Rod Forsythe*

- 1) An in-person strategic planning workshop be held to identify a strategic direction for WEROC Inc. aligned to the objects of the association, with the meeting being convened as soon as practically possible.
- 2) The Executive Officer provide a quote to facilitate the workshop.

Executive Officer Comment:

A Strategic Planning workshop was held in Merredin on Thursday 11 June 2020. All Board Members were present. A workshop summary and agenda for the second workshop was provided to Board Members via email on 16 June 2020.

A second workshop was held in Merredin on Thursday 25 June 2020 and all Board Members were present.

The Draft WEROC Inc. Strategic Plan 2020 was sent via email to all Board Members on Monday 29 June with a request that any comments or edits be provided by close of business on Monday 6 July 2020.

Responses were received from:

- Mr. Darren Mollenoyux

- Mr. Peter Clarke
- Mr. Ram Rajagopalan

Edits to the Draft document included:

- 1) Additional information was added to the “Our Region” section on the economic contribution made by WEROC Inc. Member Councils; and
- 2) An adjustment to the wording of dot point three under “internal threats” in the Risks and Opportunities section.

Recommendation:

That the Final Draft of the WEROC Inc. Strategic Plan 2020 be adopted.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr. Raymond Griffiths

Seconded: Mr. Peter Clarke

That the Final Draft of the WEROC Inc. Strategic Plan 2020 be adopted.

CARRIED

7.5 WEROC Inc. Strategic Projects Status Report & Next Steps

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose

Date: 14 August 2020

Attachments: Nil

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

Background:

The WEROC Inc. Strategic Plan 2020, identifies five priorities and associated actions. An update on progress against the five strategic priorities is provided below and the next steps will be discussed.

Priority	Actions	Progress	Comments
Regional waste management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Undertake a review of existing waste management service delivery across the WEROC region including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Government Waste Management Plans; • Waste management services and infrastructure; • Recycling activities and capabilities; • Contract arrangements; and cost of delivery. 2) Complete a cost-benefit analysis for ownership of a shared truck for municipal waste and recycling collection. 3) Develop a WEROC Waste Management Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pauline Guest has been invited to present to the board on the Container Deposit Scheme. • The Shire of Tammin CEO, Mr. Neville Hale has been contacted to enquire about the Strategic Waste Management facility being investigated by the Wheatbelt Development Commission. 	Arrangements for the container deposit scheme have now been finalised for all WEROC Member Councils.
Tourism Product Development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Conduct an audit of physical and digital tourism assets across the WEROC region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An application was submitted on 7 July 2020 to the Regional Economic Development grant scheme to undertake an “Activating Tourism in the Eastern 	To be discussed further under Item 7.6

	<p>2) Undertake desktop research and consultation with regional tourism groups to better understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The existing tourism market; - Trends in tourism product development; and - Future target markets for visitors to the Eastern Wheatbelt. <p>3) Develop a list of priorities for investment inclusive of cost estimates and possible funding opportunities for new product development.</p>	<p>Wheatbelt” project”. Outcomes of this funding round have not been announced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WEROC Inc. have contributed to a co-operative marketing campaign facilitated by Australia’s Golden Outback to promote the upcoming wildflower season. • Tourism WA will host an “Our Story” workshop in Merredin in October. The intent is to provide tourism groups with an opportunity to shape the way each tourism region is represented in their “Spirit of Adventure” campaign. 	
Local business development	<p>1) In partnership with the Wheatbelt Business Network, Chambers of Commerce and Community Resource Centres, develop a targeted business improvement program with a focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online reputational management (e.g. how to respond to negative reviews); and • Improved frontline customer experience (both physical and digital). <p>2) Develop a project plan/business case to support an application for funding to implement the program.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CEO of the Wheatbelt Business Network has been invited to present to the WEROC Inc. Board to initiate discussion around a local business development program. 	To be discussed further under Item 7.7
Digital connectivity	<p>1) Establish partnerships to collaboratively address deficiencies in digital connectivity and capacity across the Eastern Wheatbelt.</p> <p>2) Work with telecommunications providers (e.g. Telstra, Optus, NBN Co.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Wheatbelt Development Commission have provided the following update on their current focus for telecommunications: <i>WDC have been keeping a watching brief on telecommunications as the Mobile Black Spot Program (MBSP) rolls on into more rounds.</i> 	To be discussed further under Item 7.8

	<p>to target improvements in fixed and mobile connectivity.</p> <p>3) Lend support to existing initiatives that have the potential to improve digital connectivity across the WEROC region (e.g. Crisp wireless, WA SuperNet).</p>	<p><i>Most recently we provided feedback into the Round 5A MBSP Discussion Paper. It is worth noting that MBSP round 5 was announced earlier this year with 19 sites listed for the Wheatbelt. These are scheduled to be built over the next few years, with finalisation expected at this stage by 2023.</i></p> <p><i>Other than that, we have played a role in responding to issues during the height of Covid 19 and raising any concerns out of those discussions.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Steve Mason has provided an update on the WA SuperNet Scheme: <p><i>Thank you (and WEROC) for your continued interest in WA SuperNet.</i></p> <p><i>At this point in time, given the nature of the conversations taking place with the WA and Federal governments, I'm not able to commit pen to paper but can confirm we did submit our response to the DPIRD RFP and have been working with the Department to progress the project since the start of March 2020.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CRISP Wireless have been awarded \$500,000 through the Digital Farm Grants program to provide a wireless internet services across the Shires of Merredin, Bruce Rock and Narembeen.• Leigh Ballard (CEO of CRISP Wireless) has met with the Shire's of Westonia and Yilgarn to discuss a possible network	
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		<p>extension funded through the Regional Connectivity Program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enquiries have been made with Digital Soul about their “Wheatbelt Wireless” concept. Their Managing Director, Richard Fear is conducting a Wheatbelt roadshow in late August/early September. 	
Ranger and regulatory services solution	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Complete a review of existing ranger service delivery arrangements and costing across Member Councils 2) Investigate avenues to fund and engage a Regional Community Emergency Services Manager. 3) Implement a ranger and regulatory service solution for WEROC Member Councils. The solution will include a provision to train additional Shire staff to support the ranger. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial enquiries have been made into how the regional CSEM for Cunderdin, Tammin, Quairading and Kellerberrin was initiated and funded. • The DFES Local Government Grants Scheme Manual 2020/21 states that “where a Local Government is interested in participating in the CFM/CESM scheme, this should be discussed in the first instance with the DFES Regional Office”. Contact with DFES has not been made as yet. 	<p>Executive Officer to contact Superintendent Mark Bowen to make further enquiries in relation to a regional CSEM.</p> <p>Executive Officer to contact Darren Brown, Executive Officer of Bushfire Volunteers WA.</p>

Recommendation:
That the Strategic Projects status report be received and discussed.

RESOLUTION: **Moved:** Mr. Wayne Della Bosca **Seconded:** Ms. Julie Flockart
That the Strategic Projects status report be received.

CARRIED

7.6 Tourism Product Development & Co-operative Marketing: Discussion and Decisions Arising from the Presentation by Mr. Marcus Falconer

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose

Date: 14 August 2020

Attachments: Nil

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

Executive Officer Comment:

Following the presentation from Mr. Marcus Falconer 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. Marcus Falconer be considered, and the matter discussed.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr. Rod Forsythe

Seconded: Mr. Peter Clarke

That:

1. The Executive Officer contact Skyworks WA to enquire about their services and costing.
2. WEROC Inc. will await the outcome of its application to the Regional Economic Development grants scheme before progressing with a tourism strategy.

CARRIED

7.7 Local Business Development Program: Discussion and Decisions Arising from the Presentation by Ms. Caroline Robinson

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose

Date: 14 August 2020

Attachments: Nil

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

Executive Officer Comment:

Following the presentation from Ms. Caroline Robinson 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. Caroline Robinson be considered, and the matter discussed.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Ms. Karin Day

Seconded: Mr. Rod Forsythe

That:

1. Board Members take the information as presented into further consideration and discuss the program proposal with local businesses to gauge the potential level of engagement.
2. The program proposal be reviewed at the next meeting of the WEROC Inc. Board.

CARRIED

7.8 CRISP Wireless: Discussion and Decisions Arising from the Presentation by Mr. Leigh Ballard

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose

Date: 14 August 2020

Attachments: Nil

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

Executive Officer Comment:

Following the presentation from Mr. Leigh Ballard 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. Leigh Ballard be considered, and the matter discussed.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr. Wayne Della Bosca

Seconded: Mr. Rod Forsythe

That WEROC Inc. provide a letter in support of the CRISP Wireless application to the Regional Connectivity Program.

CARRIED

8. EMERGING ISSUES

Nil

9. OTHER MATTERS

9.1 Future Drought Fund

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose

Date: 14 August 2020

Attachments: *Attachment 6. Future Drought Fund Factsheet*
Attachment 7. Drought Resilience Funding Plan

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

Background:

On 1 July 2020, the Australian Government announced the foundational programs for the Future Drought Fund (FDF).

The eight programs, totalling \$89.5 million, are:

The \$20m **Farm Business Resilience program** will provide farm businesses with training to strengthen their strategic business management skills and develop a farm business plan to build risk management capacity and drought resilience.

The \$10m **Climate Services for Agriculture program** will fund the development and delivery of interactive digital 'climate information services' for the agriculture sector to assist farmers to make real-time decisions.

The \$3m **Drought Resilience Self-Assessment Tool** will provide an online self-assessment tool for farmers to self-identify drought risks based on a range of social, economic and environmental indicators, and take action to build the drought resilience of their farm business.

The \$20.3m **Drought Resilience Research and Adoption program** will establish two regionally located Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs, and Innovation Grants will become available to research organisations, private sector, industry, not-for-profit organisations and community groups.

The \$15m **Natural Resource Management (NRM) Drought Resilience program** will fund regional NRM bodies to undertake projects to build drought resilience of natural resources on agricultural landscapes, and there will also be grants available to organisations, farmer groups and individuals to undertake NRM projects to build the drought resilience of natural resources on small scales.

The \$3.75m **Networks for Building Drought Resilience program** will support community-driven projects that enhance drought resilience and strengthen networks, including small-scale infrastructure projects to make community facilities drought resilient.

The \$7.45m **Drought Resilience Leaders program** will develop leadership capability in communities and include a mentoring component to foster uptake of innovative practices to build drought resilience of farmers and their businesses.

The \$10m **Regional Drought Resilience Planning** will provide funding to consortia of local councils or equivalent entities to develop Regional Drought Resilience Plans for agriculture and allied industries.

Executive Officer Comment:

Following an email from Mr. Peter Clarke on 17 July 2020, suggesting that the Regional Drought Resilience Planning component of the FDF, might present an opportunity for WEROC Inc., the Executive Officer contacted the FDF team requesting further information. On 24 July 2020, the following response was provided:

Good morning Ms Burges

Thank you for contacting the Future Drought Fund team and your interest in the Future Drought Fund programs.

This is the first suite of programs to be delivered under this initiative initially for one year. We will continue to monitor and adapt programs to make sure they are building resilience and delivering for farmers and the community. These programs will give farmers and communities the tools they need to prepare for, manage and sustain their livelihoods during droughts.

All proposed programs will seek to enhance the public good by building drought resilience, help farms and communities be more prepared to respond to the impacts of drought.

The \$10m Regional Drought Resilience Planning will provide funding to consortia of Local Councils or equivalent entities to develop Regional Drought Resilience Plans for agriculture and allied industries. This will support collaborative regional-scale planning to identify and guide innovative actions required to build regional resilience to future droughts. Plans will be independently assessed and published to allow communities to learn from each other, taking into account each region's unique conditions - socially, economically and environmentally.

Work with State and Territory Governments to develop this program is underway. At this point, we are not in a position to provide further details on the program.

Further information about the Future Drought Fund can be found on the Have Your Say page, [here](#). I'd encourage you to register your interest on this website, where you will receive updates as programs are released, including the Regional Drought Resilience Planning program.

Kind regards

Future Drought Fund team

Recommendation:

That the Executive Officer continue to monitor progress toward the implementation of the Regional Drought Resilience Planning program and report back to the Board as additional information is released.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr. Rod Forsythe

Seconded: Mr. Raymond Griffiths

That the Executive Officer:

1. Continue to monitor progress toward the implementation of the Regional Drought Resilience Planning program and report back to the Board as additional information is released.
2. Extend an invitation to the Hon. Melissa Price MP to attend the next meeting of WEROC Inc. to discuss to the Future Drought Fund and other Australian Government programs and initiatives.

CARRIED

9.2 Community Based Geo-Park in the Wheatbelt

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose

Date: 14 August 2020

Attachments: Nil

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

Background:

Over the past five years, Mr. Alan Briggs, President of Geoparks WA, has been working with the Shire's of Tammin, Kellerberrin, Bruce Rock and Quairading to research the possibility of establishing a Geopark in the Wheatbelt. The focus has been on revitalising the Granite Way scenic drive trail as a means to increase the number of tourists visiting the area.

Mr. Briggs has completed a research report and identified several strategies toward establishing a Geopark in the Wheatbelt. One of those strategies is to include Cunderdin and Merredin within the proposed boundary of the geopark. An additional strategy is to "review all current tourism businesses and opportunities to determine an overall strategic approach to developing each asset into the project".

Given that the latter of these two strategies has clear synergies with WEROC Inc.'s "Activating Tourism in the Eastern Wheatbelt" project, there may be an opportunity for WEROC Inc. to support Mr. Briggs with his Geopark concept.

Recommendation:

That the information presented be considered, and the matter discussed.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr. Raymond Griffiths

Seconded: Mr. Wayne Della Bosca

That Mr. Raymond Griffiths attend the meeting with Mr. Briggs scheduled for 22 September 2020, and report back to the Board.

CARRIED

9.3 Tourism WA – “Our Story Deep Dive” Workshop (for noting)

On Wednesday 21 October 2020, Tourism WA is hosting an “Our Story Deep Dive” workshop at the Cummins Theatre in Merredin. The workshop will run from 9.30am to 11.30am.

The Spirit of Adventure is WA’s new shared tourism story that defines our unique points of difference and sense of identity. The session will provide insight into *The Spirit of Adventure* followed by an interactive workshop where you are invited to participate. We will identify what we love about your region so we can convey this message to visitors”.

For more information contact Robyn McCarthy, Manager Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre visitor@merredin.wa.gov.au.

10. FUTURE MEETINGS

The WEROC Inc. Constitution states that “the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of WEROC is to be held not later than 31 December in each year”.

It is the Executive Officer’s understanding that the next meeting of the Great Eastern Country Zone will be held on 26 November 2020.

It is recommended that the next scheduled General Meeting and the Annual General Meeting of WEROC Inc. be held on 26 November 2020.

Comments from the Meeting:

- Members would like future meeting locations to be shared amongst all Member Councils.
- The Shire of Kellerberrin and Shire of Merredin meetings will be scheduled to align with the Great Eastern Country Zone meetings.
- The Executive Officer to develop a schedule of meetings for 2021.

The next General Meeting and the Annual General Meeting of WEROC Inc. will be held in Merredin on Thursday 26 November 2020.

11. CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Chair thanked Members for their participation and closed the meeting at 4.02pm.

DECLARATION

These minutes were confirmed by the WEROC Inc. Board at the meeting held

Signed _____

Person presiding at the meeting at which these minutes were confirmed