



Legatus Group CWMS Advisory Committee

Unconfirmed Minutes

Friday 19 July 2019

Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council Chambers Gleeson Street Clare

1. Welcome:

The meeting was opened at 10am by Chair Andrew Cole

2. Attendance:

CEO Andrew Cole (Chair), Adam Broadbent (Light), Chris Parish (Wakefield), CEO Wayne Hart (Mount Remarkable), Gary Easthope (Clare & Gilbert Valleys), Simon Millcock (CEO Legatus Group) and Paul Chapman (Project Officer Legatus Group)

3. Apologies

Lee Wallis (Goyder)

4. Minutes of previous meeting

The meeting noted that the minutes from the meeting held on 15 March 2019 were presented to the Legatus Group 31 May 2019 meeting where they were noted, and it was approved that the Legatus Group Councils promote the SA CWMS Conference 23 August 2019 within their councils.

Motion: That the minutes of the previous Legatus Group CWMS Advisory Committee meeting held on 23 May 2019 be taken as read and confirmed

Moved: Chris Parish Seconded: Wayne Hart

CARRIED

5. Discussion with regulators: cutting red tape and levelling the playing field

The Chair welcomed officers from the four regulators: Kamran Mangi Acting Manager, Dept of Health; Nathan Petrus and Ashley Harbutt, ESCOSA; Yannick Monrolin OTR; and, Shaun Thomas and Aiden from the EPA.

The Chair summarised previous considerations by the Committee and outlined that the aim of the meeting to consider issues of interest for the upcoming Conference.

a. Single, annual reporting

Committee members pointed to the difficulties small, regional councils faced in dealing with multiple, annual regulatory reports e.g. few staff and hence the need for each to cover multiple areas, staff turnover and the costs and training requirements it imposed, etc. Particular mention was made of the resource requirements of ESCOSA's reports and the functionality lacking in web-based interfaces. The reason some information is sought is often unclear to the reporter, leading to confusion and questions of relevance.

The response focussed on the fact that regulators need to cover many industries and agencies and shaping the processes for CWMS reporting was difficult. The agencies do coordinate their information collection and provide explanatory notes to the public which give reasons for the regulation.

It was generally thought that this issue might be pursued further. In particular that:

- SA Health and EPA reporting might be combined
- the agencies could provide further rationale for the information being sought
- some reporting simply repeated previous year's results and it might be possible to reduce the resource requirement by focusing only on reporting changes
- the concept of self-reporting could be useful ie the idea that the report need only provide assurances, based on evidence, that the entity is compliant
- the possibility that reporting to the Grants Commission might streamline reporting to ESCOSA – which asked for a copy of such a report
- the usefulness in better understanding current reporting costs so as to justify further investigating the reform options.

It was agreed that the Committee would provide the agencies with a dot point summary of issues and the agencies were invited to do the same. Issues to be included in the Conference would then be determined.

b. Levelling the playing field

This matter was addressed at a general level with regard to differences in the nature of private and of council CWMS operators. The Chair outlined that communities want councils to run CWMS: they are trusted to do so and might do so at lower cost. Councils also have concerns with any prospective private takeover of CWMS. The question was how regulators view private and Council CWMS and it was proposed that understanding the differences would be of benefit to both sides.

All the regulators reported that there was no difference in compliance requirements. The point was added that, in instances where Council owned the CWMS but with private involvement in some activities, the regulatory obligations remain with Councils. This issue was current in regard to the review of the Water Industry Act and immediate action was restricted only to the issues raised there.

Further discussion concerned some of the potentially significant differences such as the use of wastewater under council schemes and the problems with but interest in valuing these externalities.

c. Preparing for the Conference

The invitation to the agencies were repeated. It was noted that the Conference was intended for practitioners of CWMS. The agencies were asked for comment.

The opportunity to engage was seen as a great opportunity and all agencies accepted the invitation.

The EPA guidelines for septic tank pump out and sludge and septage spreading are being updated and the Conference was seen as an opportunity to engage on that issue. SA Health's new CWMS guidelines are now available, and they too might be included.

It was agreed that the Committee and the agencies exchange dot points over matters leading up to the Conference. The aim is to set out a work agenda for next few months and beyond.

The Chair thanked the invited guests who then left the meeting.

6. Draft report and interim findings Sludge Processing Project

The Committee noted the Executive Summary and Conclusions and Recommendations provided from the report. Simon Millcock outlined that the full report is being finalised and that he had met with Harsha Sapdhare and Simon Beecham from UniSA and had noted the feedback regarding the process and interactions Harsha had with councils and others was very positive.

Both Simon Beecham and Paul Chapman will provide final responses before the report is completed and it was noted that Harsha will be presenting at the CWMS conference in Port Pirie.

7. 2019 Conference Program

The draft Program was noted and that it is to be updated to reflect the outcome of discussions under Item 3.

8. TAFE Course certificate wastewater

Noted that Simon Millcock and Paul Chapman are in discussions re feedback from TAFE and possible participants regarding the wastewater course and that Simon is also in discussions with TAFE regarding a waste management course.

9. Research opportunities with UniSA

The proposed Memoranda of Understanding with the Natural and Built Environments Research Centre at the UniSA was noted.

10. Any other business

There was no other business.

11. Close

The meeting closed at 12 noon.