



Legatus Group CWMS Advisory Committee

Tuesday 26th May 2020

10.00 – 11.20 am

(DRAFT) Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

From the Chair, Andrew MacDonald opened the meeting. There were no apologies. In addition to Andrew, present were:

Adam Broadbent

Gary Easthope

Hayden Battle

Matt McRae

Hayden Battle

Simon Millcock

Paul Chapman

2. Previous Minutes

Draft Minutes from the meeting of the Legatus Group CWMS Advisory Committee (the Advisory Committee) on 6th March 2020 were *agreed* as correct.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Proposed CWMS training course

The Advisory Committee noted the progress in extending the proposal to include operational staff training. The course was seen as a useful overview and introduction for all Council staff and as likely to provide the best training available for regulatory compliance.

It was *agreed* that members of the Advisory Committee would form a Working Group with the Project Officer and the LGA CWMS Manager, Michelle Wittholz, to develop the course outline for operating small, isolated CWMS. Adam Broadbent and Matt McRae both agreed to assist.

3.2 Asset management by remote sensing proposal

There was general support for the development of this proposal from all parties: the Advisory Committee, the University of SA, the Copper Coast Council and the independent company, IPACS. Parties have indicated their willingness to proceed to develop the proposal. It was recognised that, before it commits funds, the Copper Coast Council is seeking an estimate of the potential savings of condition monitoring and this work is yet to be done. It was also recognised that the results of this work would be of benefit to all Councils.

The Advisory Committee *supports* the project and *recommends* that the Legatus Group partners with the Copper Coast Council including an allocation of up to \$7,000 from the 20/21 Legatus Group budget to support the progress of this project.

4. Feedback from CWMS Communications Sessions

Discussion of the anecdotal evidence being gathered through these sessions led to a broader consideration of the role of the regulators in the current era where there is no distinction between local government and private ownership and operation. It was understood that significant action was needed across a number of areas of Council involvement in CWMS and that this required Councils working with the LGA.

It was *agreed* that the primary, initial focus would be for Legatus to work with Dr Andrew Johnson Chief Executive Officer LGASA Mutual Pty Ltd and Executive Director Corporate Governance through the LGA CWMS Manager to better assess if Councils are appropriately accounting for and valuing the risks associated with CWMS.

5. Proposal for PhD Internship looking at capital expenditure

The Advisory Committee *supported* the proposal and *noted* that the 2020-21 Legatus Budget had an allocation for a PhD Internship in wastewater.

6. Alternative Business Models for CWMS in regional South Australia

The Advisory Committee *suggested* that the paper to be presented to the Legatus Regional Management Group include any outcomes from the work agreed to be undertaken at Item 5 which will help determine if there is a case to further assess alternative business models.

7. Cross-Council collaboration

Andrew made a general point that the issues facing CWMS, and as illustrated by those discussed at this meeting, required more resources than are available to the Legatus Advisory Committee. This prompts discussions with the LGA concerning the role of a central body to help oversee and coordinate regional CWMS in SA.

It was *agreed* to progress those discussions by raising the matter at the SAROC level after referral to the next meeting of the Executive Officers of the Regional LGAs. It was *recommended* that the Project Office develop a draft presentation to be provided to that meeting and share it with members of the Advisory Committee.

8. Other business

8.1 2020 CWMS Conference

The Conference would target operational level staff and raise awareness of CWMS across Local Government.

It was *agreed* that the Conference would be held in Kadina, with the timing likely to be February/March 2021 but to be determined in part by the research work currently underway. It was also *agreed* that CWMS equipment suppliers be invited.

8.2 Legatus Group Regional Sludge research

The Advisory Committee discussed the potential value of sludge and septage as a resource and the need for further work to determine the typical characteristics of CWMS sludge in particular.

It was *noted* that some Councils already held some information and this should be reviewed. It was *agreed* to make an application to the LGA R&D program for funding to work with the Universities under the Legatus MoU to progress this work.

8.3 Drought Futures Fund Project/s

The Advisory Committee *noted* progress with the projects currently being considered.

8.4 Coronavirus monitoring in regional CWMS

Simon Millcock provided an update from Michelle Wittholz that the results from Council collected samples are currently being processed and she is unsure if or when results will be made available.

9. Date of next meeting

Prior to the September 2020 Legatus Group meeting.

10. Close

The meeting closed at 11.15 am.