North Arm Cove Residents Association. Minutes of Executive Meeting 25 September 2019

Purpose: Define and agree on the position of the current Executive in relation to Oyster Farming in North Arm Cove

Meeting opened 8pm by teleconference

Present: Maria Pickles, Gail Chappell, Lyn McKee, Trevor Vanderberg

Minutes of the Previous meeting 14 Sept had been distributed and read.

Motion : Minutes of the previous meeting are an accurate record.
Proposer : Lyn McKee        Seconder: Gayle Chappell        Passed.

Correspondence in

- Email from Janine Reid regarding the history of Oyster Leases and complaints made on behalf of NACRA stating that a number of motions regarding oyster leases should be put to a meeting, and that a resolution is passed allowing Janine to speak on behalf of NACRA
- Email from Janine proposing that an Aquaculture committee acts as instated in 2013 18 Sept 2019 with 8 members.
- Email from Bob Reid requesting a statement to be provided in a hand out at an informal meeting to be held Saturday

Main discussion: Should NACRA support the protest for relocation of Oyster Leases at North Arm Cove?

Agreed that NACRA would not support a protest for the following reasons;

Oyster Farms have been in the Cove for many years and are supported by State and Federal initiatives. The farms are part of the local economy. Farmers have a right to earn a living and do employ locals in their industry. Kate Washington’s Office has informed NACRA that the Oyster Strategy identifies the North Arm Cove area as a priority lease area and the activities are legal. Compliance issues raised by residents are being actioned by Fisheries and the farmers.

The latest campaign from residents has been successful in gaining Fisheries response to installation issues on the southern lease and to making improvements to the leases to better suit the look of the leases for residents. Access to water ways through channels are in place. Old poles etc will be removed. This is part of the list that Fisheries will work to for compliance. The response from Fisheries to residents of North Arm Cove is on the NAC website.

The relocation of leases is beyond our mandate as a Community Association. The issues raised in relation to the removal of leases and the quality of the water for growing oysters and appropriateness of the bay for oyster farming is considered the role of the oyster farmers and Fisheries.

NACRA Executive focus is on improvements in structures, facilities and services for the community.

Noted that the current President has declared a conflict of interest and has removed himself from voting on this issue. He is not able to fulfil the role of President in this matter.

What areas will NACRA focus on in relation to Oyster Farmers and Aquaculture?
NACRA will facilitate the reports on the collection of debris through the NAC website and other media, work with Fisheries on the removal of old poles and the implementation of Good Neighbour Policy as outlined in the Oyster Strategy. NACRA will also focus on water quality for and safety for swimming.

The Aquaculture Subcommittee formed in 2013 terms of Reference were discussed. Members were not aware that this subcommittee was active. There was nothing formally acknowledging this in the minutes of 2013. There was no motion put at the last AGM or GM. This was probably an oversight. There is only one name on the Sub Committee document. This is a delegation from the Executive of responsibilities to a Committee. Janine has informed the Secretary that in the last few years she has been acting on her own however from time to time members of NACRA joined her to produce complaints and make visits to Fisheries.

Executive members agreed that at this point in time it is important to separate the activities of the petition group which was formed outside of NACRA and the formal correspondence between authorities and NACRA.

The work of Janine has previously been acknowledged. These are the areas where Janine has provided an extensive and dedicated effort for many years. Her role as the Aquaculture representative should be maintained however there needs to be a clear distinction between the activities of non members and NACRA. Correspondence should be made through the Secretary.

Motion: That the Aquaculture Sub Committee is discontinued. (Point 6 – The Executive at is own discretion choose to discontinue or reconstitute the subcommittee at any time)

NACRA will facilitate the reports by residents on the collection of debris through the NAC website and other media, work with Fisheries on the removal of old poles and the implementation of Good Neighbour Policy as outlined in the Oyster Strategy.

NACRA will also focus on water quality for and safety for swimming.

Moved: Lyn Mckee Seconded: Trevor Venderberg
Passed unanimously.

Discussion: Executive acknowledges the concerns and rights of members and non members to form a protest group. The group has been successful in bringing Fisheries into account and Fisheries have acknowledged the mistakes that have been made with the installation of the latest leases. Fisheries are keen to have a meeting with residents to facilitate better relationships.

These issues regarding the way forward for NACRA in regard to Oyster Leases should be discussed at the AGM.

Agreed that the visit by Kate Washington to NACRA meeting will be postponed until the Community Survey is completed and a Community Plan is developed.

Meeting closed: 9 pm