

FNQ NRM Ltd Directors Meeting
12 January 2004, 3:40 PM – 5:10 PM
James Cook University, Cairns Campus Library, Room B1.106
Ratified Minutes

Present

Cr Mike Berwick	Chair
Bill Shannon	Industry
Peter Stanton	Conservation
Caroline Coppo	Community / Catchment
Chris Gloor	Coastal & Marine
Ken Atkinson	Upper Herbert
Cr Ray Byrnes	Local Government
Troy Wyles-Whelan	Traditional Owners

Guests

Anne Withell	Australian Government
Professor Nigel Stork	CEO, Rainforest CRC
Professor Geoff McDonald	CSIRO / Rainforest CRC, Wet Tropics Plan Team Leader

Staff & Advisors

Brad Dorrington	A/- Executive Officer, FNQ NRM Ltd
Rachel Wicks	Communications & Regional Coord. Officer, FNQ NRM Ltd
Wendy Finlayson	Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator, FNQ NRM Ltd
Nigel Weston	Rainforest CRC, Wet Tropics Regional Planner

Apologies

Nil noted

1. Welcome & Apologies

Cr Mike Berwick declared this Director's Meeting open at 3:40 PM. After welcoming all present Mike informed the meeting that Professor Nigel Stork, the CEO of Rainforest CRC, would address the meeting regarding the CRC rebid process.

Nigel tabled a prospectus for the rebid titled "Living Forest Futures" which if successful would operate on a national scale and include new partner organisations including several regional NRM groups. The prospectus is seeking partner investment of \$4M which could leverage a further \$8M to deliver outcomes in four programs. The programs are biodiversity, sustainable land use, capacity building and natural resources / reef, which align well with NHT.

Mike stated that that FNQ NRM Ltd, as with other regional NRM groups, cannot invest NHT funds in research and would need to locate another source to become a full partner. Mike invited Nigel to write to the Board with specific details so as to seek clarification from the Australian Government.

Nigel Stork left the meeting at 4:00 PM

2. Confirmation of Minutes

FNQ NRM Ltd Directors Meeting
12 January 2004, 3:40 PM – 5:10 PM
James Cook University, Cairns Campus Library, Room B1.106
Ratified Minutes

2.1 Directors Meeting held 20 December 2003

Resolution 1: The draft Minutes of the Directors Meeting held 21 November 2003 are ratified with the following amendments:

- a) IFA funding bid, Page 5, paragraph 4, replace “nursery support” with “WONS funding”;
- b) NLP funding bid, Page 6, discussion regarding Resolution 14, insert “certification systems and international linkages” after “best management practice”.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

3.1 Coordinators and Facilitators

Cr Ray Byrnes asked what Coordinators had been told regarding employment as there appeared to be uncertainty.

Brad Dorrington responded that the matter was discussed at the staff meeting held 7 January during a working session on the preliminary IFA funding bid, including JSC comments on the bid and reduction in funds for Coordinators and Facilitators against those requested for the first quarter of next financial year.

Ray asked to see the letter which was to be sent to the governments as resolved at the 20 December Board Meeting. Brad responded that it has not been sent due to Christmas Holidays.

Resolution 2: The draft letter to governments to be circularised to Directors prior to mailing.

Bill Shannon stated that the Board would need to change the structure of funding applications, to include charging overheads to fund management and administration staff, and include coordinators in individual projects.

3.2 IFA Extension Funding Proposal

Brad Dorrington advised that no correspondence has been received further to the unofficial advice of December 19 December. Development of the bid is continuing for consideration at the Board Meeting scheduled for 23 January.

FNQ NRM Ltd Directors Meeting
12 January 2004, 3:40 PM – 5:10 PM
James Cook University, Cairns Campus Library, Room B1.106
Ratified Minutes

3.3 NLP (Landcare) Funding Proposal

Brad Dorrington advised that no agenda papers further to those tabled at the 19 December Board Meeting are available, as the bid continues to be developed as resolved for consideration at the 23 January Board Meeting. This process has identified further options that Brad presented to the meeting for consideration, which are:

A) Continue to further develop current projects, consulting with industry on these and other potential projects. Potential projects identified are:

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| • Irrigation Efficiency Project | \$71,000 |
| • Regional WQ Monitoring (St 2) | \$160,000 |
| • Herbert Catchment Soils Manual Adoption | unknown |
| • River bank stabilisation projects | \$80,000 |

B) Develop and commence delivery of a tiered accreditation system for primary industries in the region. There are several existing small scale and proposed larger scale systems such as Primary Green, Mossman Cane Accreditation System and Australian Landcare Management System (ALMS).

Steps to undertake this would include firstly defining Best Management Practice (BMP) by specific industry / location; and then negotiate, develop and market an incentive based accreditation system. Though the financial incentives in such a system are primarily market based some direct financial support would initially be required. There is both the scope and the potential for such a system to be adopted as a pilot in the development of an internationally recognised certification system.

C) Facilitate the adoption of priority actions or BMP adoption using a risk management approach and incentive mechanisms. This would involve firstly rapidly identifying 1 or 2 priorities that would likely deliver the maximum reduction in adverse biodiversity and resource condition impacts by primary industries. These may be identified for example as farm planning, minimal / zero tillage regimes etc, and paying incentives to individual landholders for adoption. This approach is a much scaled back and less strategic measure than option B, but likely to deliver resource condition improvements more rapidly. FNQ NRM Ltd would also substantially increase its public profile as a consequence.

Resolution 3: That option B, a tiered accreditation system for primary industries, is further developed for consideration as the priority proposal for NLP funding.

FNQ NRM Ltd Directors Meeting
12 January 2004, 3:40 PM – 5:10 PM
James Cook University, Cairns Campus Library, Room B1.106
Ratified Minutes

4. Correspondence Report

4.1 Significant Correspondence

Resolution 4: That Cr Ray Byrnes attends the Far North Queensland Pest Advisory Forum (FNQPAF) meeting in response to their invitation.

Resolution 5: That the correspondence report is accepted by the Board as presented.

4.2 Media Report

Noted that the investigation of the Russell – Mulgrave Catchment Coordinating Committee is a potentially important matter and scheduled for discussion as Agenda item 7.2.

5. Finance Committee Report

Brad Dorrington reported that Ms Linda Phillips has been appointed as Financial Controller (part-time) for the Company and will commence work tomorrow.

The Foundation Funding Activity Agreement has been received and needs to be signed and returned ASAP as some of these activities have been under way since September 2003, and the CRC component since June 2003.

Bill Shannon added that there is no financial activity to report since the meeting held 20 December 2003.

6. Plan Committee Report

6.1 Ratify or amend outputs from morning Targets Workshop

Cr Mike Berwick asked Geoff McDonald when the “Preliminary Targets” document will be edited to include the outputs flowing from this morning’s targets workshop. Geoff replied that it would take approximately two to three weeks and not be ready for the 23 January Board Meeting. Mike suggested that the Board schedule a mid February meeting and asked Directors to consult their diaries.

Resolution 6: That a Directors meeting is scheduled for 9 am to 4 pm on 16 February at the Company office in Innisfail and will reconvene on 17 February if required.

Resolution 7: That the “Preliminary Targets” document is circulated to Directors as soon as the workshop edits have been incorporated.

FNQ NRM Ltd Directors Meeting
12 January 2004, 3:40 PM – 5:10 PM
James Cook University, Cairns Campus Library, Room B1.106
Ratified Minutes

Anne Withell stated that Joint Steering Committee (JSC) requires two weeks to approve the final draft Plan for community consultation. Brad Dorrington responded that preliminary consultation regarding targets has commenced and is scheduled to continue using the "Preliminary Targets" document; however the draft NRM Plan will not be ready for JSC consideration for at least two months.

6.2 Draft communiqués to Governments, Plan Team, Staff re Plan decisions

Brad Dorrington stated that it was necessary for the Board to deliver a clear message to all parties, particularly regarding timelines and responsibilities, to ensure a unified direction in this stage of the Plan process. This message will be a summary of the Communications Strategy to be used as an action plan for completion of the Plan. It and will be developed prior to the next meeting.

6.3 Capacity Building Update

Resolution 8: That Caroline Coppo is appointed as interim Chair of the Capacity Building Working Group (CBWG).

Resolution 9: That Dr Colin Hunt remains a member of the Capacity Building Working Group (CBWG).

6.4 Plan Communications Strategy

Rachel Wicks presented an early draft Plan Communications Strategy for information and comment. The key communications issues at this stage are:

- The lack of a logo and branding other than the Company name.
- The time lines for the launch of documents.
- The format for the documents shortly to be released (Volumes 1,2A and 2B) which are being desk-topped as an in-kind contribution by Rainforest CRC.
- The use of a calendar as a key component of an awareness raising strategy.

Draft covers of volumes 1, 2A and 2B were circulated at this stage.

Resolution 10: That processes to develop the corporate image continue and does not impede the publication of Plan documents. The Company's registered business name, FNQ NRM Ltd, is to be used as an interim logo for Plan documents.

Resolution 11: That volumes 1, 2A and 2B of the NRM Plan are approved for release.

Resolution 12: That a calendar is produced as a component of the awareness raising strategy.

FNQ NRM Ltd Directors Meeting
12 January 2004, 3:40 PM – 5:10 PM
James Cook University, Cairns Campus Library, Room B1.106
Ratified Minutes

7. General Business

7.1 Resignation of Dr Colin Hunt

Chris Gloor outlined a proposal regarding the casual vacancy created by the resignation of Dr Colin Hunt.

As the venue was closing Cr Mike Berwick stated that item 7.1 and other General Business will be held over until the Board Meeting scheduled for 23 January.

8. Close

Cr Mike Berwick declared this meeting closed at 5:10 PM.

Minutes ratified at the Directors Meeting held 23 January 2004.

Signed _____

Mike Berwick, Chair FNQ NRM Ltd.