

**FNQ NRM Ltd Directors' Meeting
17 December 2004, 9.30am-4.00pm
Ratified Minutes**

Attendance:

Directors - Cr Mike Berwick (Chair), Prof Peter Valentine, Peter Stanton, Cr Ray Byrnes, Bill Shannon, Chris Gloor, Ken Atkinson, Caroline Coppo;

Guests/Presenters - Rachel Wicks (FNQ NRM Ltd), Nigel Weston (Rainforest CRC), Cath de Voil (Rainforest CRC), Leanne Materman (FNQ NRM Ltd), Elsie Go Sam (Indigenous Support Member).

1. Welcome and Apologies

Meeting opened at 9.30 am.

Apologies – Troy Wyles Whelan, Director Indigenous

2. Previous Minutes

2.1 Draft Minutes 20th November 2004

- It was noted that the Minutes of 20 November 2004 require clarification regarding attendance.
- Chris Gloor suggested that a protocol for decisions on out of session agenda items be developed. He noted that issues presented to the Board at the last meeting and subsequently approved for out of session consideration have been marked in the draft minutes as 'held over'. This is despite no objections having been received related to these matters and therefore these agenda items should be considered carried.
- RIS Update – Cr Ray Byrnes proposed that dot point 9 be reworded to end with example Water – as water was just one example and that this comment was related to sustainable and productive use of natural resources in general. Dot point 11 can be removed following amendments to dot point 9 as land and water are all examples.
- RIS Update – Dot point 12 should read built environment.

Resolution: That the minutes are adopted with the above changes.

3. Financial Committee Report

3.1 November 2005 Financial Statement

Resolution: That the financial statement is adopted as presented.

4. Business Arising

4.1 Regional NRM Plan

**FNQ NRM Ltd Directors' Meeting
17 December 2004, 9.30am-4.00pm
Ratified Minutes**

Cath de Voil provided a progress report on the draft Regional NRM Plan. The draft Plan has been provided to the JSC together with accompanying submissions report. Directors were provided with a breakdown of the submissions and advised that the draft Plan has been recommended for accreditation.

4.2 Regional Investment Strategy

Directors were provided with a copy of the RIS as presented to the JSC on 15 December 2004, and were provided with a report on the initial feedback.

The report advised that the JSC's feedback, while positive overall, raised concerns in relation to:

- The scope and number of programs and investments (including the number of small projects)
- That more emphasis is required on outcomes as opposed to activities
- The need for programs and outputs to determine human resource allocations (there would be no provision made for 'generalist' coordinators)
- The need to reduce the overall budget to match the indicative allocations, and
- That at least 60% of investment should be toward onground outcomes.

The Board was advised that the completed RIS is required by the JSC in mid February.

Nigel Weston suggested that one way to address these concerns may be to frame the RIS around the recognised output categories of capacity building, onground works, planning and resource assessment, which would allow for easy alignment with RCTs and activities in the Plan.

Directors expressed their concern over the JSC's direction to integrate coordinators into specific programs. Directors believe this approach undervalues this network as a resource, particularly given the strong community support that exists for the current approach. Chris Gloor suggested a process to attach tangible value to this resource.

Directors also expressed caution over removing small dollar components as they may leverage much larger investments and/or strong community engagement.

The Board discussed the need to approach the Australian Government to both record its appreciation for the assistance provided by Geoff Dyne, as well as seek further support.

In light of the JSC's comments, Directors were asked to provide feedback on the RIS by mid January. Directors were also advised that a prioritisation process would be required in the near future which would hopefully be facilitated by Geoff McDonald and Geoff Dyne.

Resolution: That Directors provide feedback on the draft RIS by mid January 2005.

**FNQ NRM Ltd Directors' Meeting
17 December 2004, 9.30am-4.00pm
Ratified Minutes**

Resolution: That the Australian Government be approached to seek approval for the continued involvement of Geoff Dyne in the RIS process and to express the Board's appreciation for his assistance to date.

Resolution: That a map be created indicating Envirofund funded projects.

4.2.1 Reductions Core Funding

As part of the RIS discussions, the Board was advised of a letter from Ministers Truss and Campbell (13 December 2004) relating to the State Government's reversal of its commitment to funding one-third of the core operating costs of regional bodies. Queensland's position is that it will now prepare a 'Green Paper' on options for NRM arrangements. This is despite a recent review commissioned by the State Government that had already acknowledged that the current arrangements were acceptable. The Australian Government also advised that it would only provide approval for funding for twelve months at a time (in principle agreement only for the three-year RIS) until this matter is resolved.

The Board were also presented with a letter from Minister Robertson (December 04 – generic version only), that outlined the State Government's position on the funding of core operating for regional bodies and the development of the 'Green Paper'.

A paper from the Regional Groups Collective - 'Perspectives of the Collective' a submission for consideration in the development of the Green Paper – was tabled for Board consideration.

It was agreed by the Board that responses be developed to all three pieces of correspondence that document the Board's concerns including:

1. The impact of the current funding arrangements on employment and operations.
2. That a review had already been conducted that demonstrated the current arrangements were favorable and an agreement regarding operational funding was to be resolved by October 2004 – why has the State Government delayed commitment?
3. That the Board seeks State Government commitment to this original agreement.
4. That the RGC's submission should urge the State Government to commit to the outcomes of the review.
5. In the interim adequate funding should be provided.

Resolution: That responses to the correspondence are developed as above and that an appointment with the Premier's Department is sought in relation to these issues.

4.2.2 Bridging Funding

The JSC reiterated that the Australian Government would only fund two-thirds of the core operating in the RIS and the Board should consider this when finalizing the document. Given the delays in approving the RIS, the JSC also approved two-thirds of

**FNQ NRM Ltd Directors' Meeting
17 December 2004, 9.30am-4.00pm
Ratified Minutes**

the core operating (\$96k) and the full coordinators and facilitators budget for the transitional period January - March 2005.

4.3 Executive Officer Recruitment Process

The Board was advised that Allan Dale had responded with a counter-offer of four days per week at \$80k per year. Following considerable discussions the Board teleconferenced with Allan Dale to present the following offer for consideration:

- A contract period of two years commencing 1st March 2005;
- Salary of \$75,000 per year (with a review at the conclusion of a six month probation period);
- Four day working week - flexible dependent on Company commitments and deadlines and provided all Company requirements are being met in a timely manner and to the satisfaction of the Board;
- Company vehicle (with provision for limited private use and home garaging);
- 9% superannuation;
- Relocation costs of up \$5,000 (including expenditure on temporary accommodation); and
- Offer is made for exclusive employment with the understanding that Allan will not accept any outside employment without first obtaining written approval from the Board of Directors.

Resolution: That a letter of offer be forwarded to Allan Dale for the Executive Officer position based on the above criteria.

5. Indigenous Support to the Board

Elsie Go Sam sought clarification in relation to the appropriateness in the level of financial support and remuneration processes for the Indigenous Support Position.

Directors, in recognising that there were occasions where this position required additional support – particularly in relation to travel - resolved that support be determined on a case-by-case basis and that Directors would endeavor to provide assistance with transport wherever possible. The Board would also assist by providing forward planning in this area.

Resolution: That the current policy in relation to Board expenditure stands.

6. Correspondence

6.1 Significant Correspondence

6.2 Media Report

**FNQ NRM Ltd Directors' Meeting
17 December 2004, 9.30am-4.00pm
Ratified Minutes**

7. General Business

7.1 Agricultural Industry Sub-Committee – Bill Shannon

Bill Shannon provided an update on the AISC Meeting of 16th December, including the BMP incentives project and the approval process for the Water Quality Grants.

Resolution: That the Board endorses the approval process for the Water Quality Grants.

Resolution: That Ken Atkinson and Bill Shannon become the official Board representatives on the AISC and exercise final sign-off on grant approvals.

The Board discussed options and the realities of providing financial assistance to the members of the Board's five subcommittees.

Resolution: In light of current funding uncertainties, the Board is not in a position to provide financial support for subcommittee members. However, every effort should be made to provide other means of support such as the provision of transport via coordinator's vehicles.

7.2 Forest Reserve Transfer Process – Peter Stanton

Peter Stanton briefed the Board on the Forest Reserve Transfer Process following correspondence from Bood Hickson regarding his concerns over community access to genetically diverse material in National Parks and Forest Reserves (Appendix 7.2).

Peter Stanton felt that collection should be undertaken with a scientific permit by National Park's staff and raised in National Park's nurseries from which limited supplies could be made available to community groups. This view was supported by Peter Valentine provided this transition was managed.

7.3 Tilapia in the Upper Herbert – Ken Atkinson

Ken Atkinson briefed the Board on the Tilapia issues in the Upper Herbert. He advised that given the extent of the problem that the appropriate measure is the use of Rotenone and the Board should provide support for this action to occur.

Resolution: That in conjunction with Ken's continued liaison with Cr Anne Portess, a letter be written to Biosecurity Australia, Warren Entch, Ministers Palaszczuk and Truss, and DAFF, expressing the Board's support for this approach and the urgency for action.

7.4 Grazing Land Management Project Landholder Survey Results Report

Ken Atkinson briefed the Board on the Grazing Land Management Project Survey as per Appendix 7.4.

**FNQ NRM Ltd Directors' Meeting
17 December 2004, 9.30am-4.00pm
Ratified Minutes**

7.5 K-12 Education Program

Chris Gloor provided an update on the K12 program development and sought the Board's continued support for the project.

7.6 Business Plan – Strategy Map and Recommendations

It was agreed that consideration of this issue be deferred.

7.7 Community Engagement 2005

It was agreed that consideration of this issue be deferred.

7.8 GBRMPA proposal for FNQ NRM funding for Reef Guardian Schools program

Chris Gloor tabled a proposal from GBRMPA seeking financial support for the Reef Guardian Schools Program.

Resolution: That the recommendation as outlined in Appendix 7.8 is accepted.

7.9 Additional Agenda Item: Draft ARC MOU

In response to the email discussions regarding the draft ARC MOU, the Board discussed the possibility of viewing this MOU as a capacity building project that could be included in the RIS.

7.10 Additional Agenda Item: Capacity Building Report Preface

Caroline Coppo tabled an edited draft preface for the Capacity Building Report. This would be emailed to all Directors for comment.

Resolution: Directors to provide comments on the draft preface to Rachel.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, February 9 2005, Innisfail.

Meeting Closed 5.00pm.

Minutes ratified at the Directors Meeting held 17 December 2004.

Signed _____

Cr Mike Berwick, Chair FNQ NRM Ltd.