

FNQ NRM Ltd Directors Meeting
29 July 2004, 9:00AM
The International Club, Atherton
Ratified Minutes

Attendees

FNQ NRM Ltd Directors

Cr Mike Berwick	Chair
Chris Gloor	Coastal and Marine
Ken Atkinson	Upper Herbert
Cr Ray Byrnes	Local Government
Caroline Coppo	Community/Catchment
Peter Valentine	World Heritage

Staff and Advisors

Brad Dorrington	Executive Officer, FNQ NRM Ltd
Rachel Wicks	Operations Manager, FNQ NRM Ltd
Leanne Materman	Client Services Officer, FNQ NRM Ltd
Nigel Weston	Plan Team/Rainforest CRC
Neil Sing	DPI

Apologies

Bill Shannon	Secretary/Director Industry
Peter Stanton	Director, Conservation
Troy Wyles-Whelan	Director, Traditional Owners

Presenters/Guests

Rebecca Clear	Australian Government
David Foster	Australian Government/Coastcare
Adam West	DPI
Raymond De Lai	Herbert Resource Information Centre

1. Welcome and Apologies

Meeting was opened at 9.10am.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes – 2 July 2004

Resolution: That the 2 July Minutes were adopted as presented.

3. Business Arising
3.1 CRC Funding

Noted that an announcement is expected in the near future. It was further noted that the partnership with Rainforest CRC has been vastly beneficial and a similar partnership should be negotiated with the new CRC.

3.2 Tilapia in the Upper Herbert Catchment

Verbal report by David Foster noted.

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Action: That a letter is sent to DPI requesting a dedicated officer to deal with the issue of Tilapia in the Upper Herbert Catchment before November.

Action: That a letter is sent to the Mareeba Shire Council to ask if they are aware of Tilapia in Stannery Hills Dam.

3.3 Further Business Arising

4. Correspondence

4.1 Significant Correspondence

Letter from Elaine Ridd – Concerns regarding Catchment to Reef Program.

Resolution: That the Board raises this matter with the CEOs of the two CRCs in relation to this subject.

Action: That Rebecca Clear develops an initial frame work outlining what research tasks are being performed by which groups, to present at the next meeting.

4.2 Media Report

5. Financial Committee Report

Finance Committee report noted.

6. Constitution Committee Report

6.1 Constitution

Action: A bound copy of the constitution to be forwarded to all Directors.

6.2 Membership Body Formation

Resolution: That the groups listed as “pending” be sent invitations to join the membership body.

Resolution: That the Board adopts the following criteria in considering Membership application:

- Minimum of ten members
- Demonstrate records of meetings
- The purpose of the organisation – mission statement
- Membership listing

6.3 Affiliate Membership Program

Action: A thank you letter to be sent to all those who have responded and accompany this with results of the survey.

7. Plan Committee Report

7.1 Draft NRM Plan Version 1.3

The Draft NRM plan is still being reviewed by the RCG. Agency representatives are working with the Plan Team to assist with edits prior to submission to the Joint

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Steering Committee (JSC). WTMA did not want the plan to go any further at this stage. Amendments requested from WTMA as tabled.

7.2 Draft Aboriginal Plan

It was noted there is a requirement for the Aboriginal Plan, as with all supporting documents to the NRM Plan, to be publicly available during the six week consultation period for the NRM Plan.

Troy Wyles-Whelan raised certain matters regarding Indigenous participation by way of a memo to the Board.

a) Cultural Awareness Training for the Board

Action: A suitable provider to be identified to conduct a one day course as part of a two day Board meeting.

b) Consideration of a second Indigenous Board Member

The Board considers that it does not have a mandate to modify the Company and Board structure determined during community consultation to establish the new Regional NRM Body. The Membership Body is the appropriate forum for consideration of matters such as this, however it also recognised that single indigenous Board or committee members is an identified impediment to effective engagement.

Resolution: That as an interim measure the Board will offer an invitation to an additional Traditional Owner to support the Indigenous Director at Board Meetings. This appointment will not be a voting position, however out of pocket (OOP) expenses and a professional fee will be applicable.

Action: The Indigenous Director to determine a suitable appointee, with reference to original Board selection process.

The Board also noted that Board Meetings are open to the public and anyone may attend.

c) Relationship with the Aboriginal Rainforest Council (ARC)

Action: That the ARC be invited to give a presentation and discussion at a future Board meeting.

d) Guidelines for Aboriginal Involvement on Boards and Committees

Action: The State and draft Commonwealth guidelines relevant to this matter to be made available for information at the next Board meeting.

e) Structure of the NRM Plan re integration of the Aboriginal Plan.

Resolution: That the Board's previous decisions regarding the structure of the NRM Plan are to stand, however the introduction section is to be edited to include an improved description of Traditional Owner's holistic values for cultural & natural resource management.

7.3 Capacity and Capacity Building Report

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To be discussed in further detail at the next meeting once Directors have had the opportunity to read the report.

7.4 NRM Plan Community Update

Action: That a draft of the community update be forwarded to the Board when available.

8. Executive Officer's Report

8.1 WRAC & WQCG Meeting Debrief

Action: That a brief description of this project and other Water Quality monitoring activities, both proposed and current, is prepared as a brief for the Board and community.

Noted that Regional Coastal boundaries appear to still be an issue, though this should not be the case, as they are clearly prescribed in the Bilateral Agreement.

8.2 BRICMA Coordinator Replacement

Resolution: That the process to recruit a replacement coordinator is endorsed.

8.3 Special Assignment Fees for Consideration

Resolution: Special assignment fees approved as presented.

Resolution: That in the future activities that may require special assignment fees be identified and approved at Board meetings in advance.

9. General Business

9.1 AGM Preparations

Resolution: That 8 October 2004 is adopted as an AGM date, subject to change pending membership acceptances.

9.2 Urban Community Engagement

Resolution: That the proposed review of Community group support arrangements in Cairns is endorsed.

9.3 Liaison with DPI

The report from Adam West was noted.

9.4 Riversymposium

Resolution: That Chris Gloor will represent FNQ NRM Ltd at the Riversymposium.

9.5 Queensland Landcare Conference

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Resolution: That a community member, or failing this, a staff member, is identified to attend.

9.6 National Landcare Awards

Resolution: That Cr Mike Berwick attends to represent FNQ NRM Ltd.

9.7 Further Business

There was discussion regarding the Board producing a series of cards detailing information for sustainable living covering such issues as food, building etc. This was held over for further discussion at the next meeting.

10. Presentation & Discussion
Wet Tropics Resource Information Centre

Presentation by Raymond De Lai, Herbert Resource Information Centre (HRIC) – Wet Tropics Collaborative Resource Information Centre Concept Proposal. Local Councilors and staff joined the Board for this presentation. The Board thanked Raymond and will further the proposal with FNQ ROC.

Resolution: That the Board will allocate \$25 000 towards the cost of a feasibility study and business plan, and invite Local Governments (via ROC) to also contribute \$25 000.

11. Future Activities

The next Board meeting will be held 27 August 2004 in the Innisfail office.

12. Close

Meeting closed 4.34pm

Minutes ratified at the Directors Meeting held 27 August 2004.

Signed _____

Cr Mike Berwick, Chair FNQ NRM Ltd.