
**FNQ NRM Ltd Directors' Meeting
Friday 1st April 2005
Malanda, 9.30am – 4.30pm
Ratified Minutes**

Attendance:

Directors - Cr Mike Berwick (Chair), Prof Peter Valentine (Director, World Heritage), Cr Ray Byrnes (Director, Local Government), Bill Shannon (Director, Industry) Chris Gloor (Director, Coastal and Marine), Ken Atkinson (Director, South West), Caroline Coppo (Director, Catchment and Community), Troy Wyles Whelan (Director, Indigenous).

Staff – Allan Dale (FNQ NRM Ltd), Rachel Wicks (FNQ NRM Ltd), Lyle Johnson (FNQ NRM Ltd), Dave Green (FNQ NRM Ltd), Rowena Grace (FNQ NRM Ltd) and Michaela Groenestyn (FNQ NRM Ltd).

Guests – Dr Geoff Dyne (Regional Liaison Officer, Queensland Section, Commonwealth Regional NRM Team, DAFF); Lex Cogle (Principal Scientist, DNR&M); John Armour (Senior Scientist, Land and Water Science Group, DNRM); Louise Hateley (Scientist, Land and Water Science Group, DNRM); Georgina Pitt (GIS Officer, Spatial Information and Products Unit, DNRM); Peter Bradley (Program Manager, DSC WQIP)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies received from Elsie Go Sam

The Board welcomed Allan Dale to his first meeting of the Board and thanked Rachel for her contributions in the intervening period.

2. Previous Minutes

2.1 Draft Minutes 9th February 2005 – Appendix One

- Page 7 – Previous minutes to be amended to clarify that the next meeting was to be held in Malanda.

Resolution: That the minutes are adopted as presented with above mentioned changes.

3. Business Arising

3.1 Regional Groups Collective Update (RGC) - Cr Mike Berwick- Appendix Two

Mike Berwick provided an update on activities of the Regional Groups Collective. This included discussion of the following key items:

Green Paper:

- Queensland Government has developed the Green Paper to consider future Regional Arrangements post 2007. The Draft Paper will be on public display in two weeks.
- The RGC is working to develop a common view to form the basis of a submission, including across sectors such as LGAQ and QFF.
- The State Government has announced it will fund one third of core operating cost in the interim until such time as the future arrangements are determined.

Resolution: That a process to develop the Board's position on the options presented within the Green Paper be included in the next meeting. This collective statement will form the basis of a response to the RGC.

Strategic Reserve:

- The Commonwealth clarified that Strategic Reserve provides opportunity for Government to fill identified gaps in investment priorities.
- Geoff Dyne advised that a letter would be forwarded from JSC to the RGC that lists a number of projects that the JSC will then present to Ministers. This list includes projects such as QCAMS, GLM package (centered on Desert Channels but takes in other regions) and GBR's Coastal Catchments extension.
- There was discussion regarding whether Cultural Mapping had made it onto the list of priorities via strategic reserve – Geoff Dyne advised that the State representatives of the JSC did not put it forward as a priority. There may still be an opportunity to have this project included, and this would be outlined in the letter from the JSC.

Darwin Forum:

- Considerations for the Board include whether there is a need for a national peak body of regional bodies from around Australia. The Board considered this a reasonable approach.
- Mike's presentation on Ecosystem Services will be circulated to Board members for comment prior to the forum.

QFF Response to Terminology:

QFF have proposed that there is a need to develop common terminology across the State related to BMP and FMS. The Board considered the IAG would have a strong role in assisting to respond to this proposal.

LGAQ Presentation:

LGAQ is proposing that Regional Bodies will deliver the NRM component of regional development plans (such as FNQ2010). Allan Dale advised recognition of Regional Plans under the Integrated Planning Act offered statutory recognition, but not statutory regulatory powers.

3.2 Update – Response to Tilapia Management – Rowena Grace (Biodiversity Officer)

Rowena Grace advised that DPI had issued a press release that outlined its intention to:

1. Increase allocations of departmental officers to raise the level of engagement in the pest fish area in Queensland
2. Develop a communications strategy
3. Survey the Burdekin River to determine the extent of the infestation
4. Collate existing knowledge on Tilapia
5. Put \$ into other control measures besides Rotenone
6. Develop a rapid response strategy

Resolution: A draft letter to be developed in response to the media release encouraging the Department to respond more efficiently to outbreaks and request clarification on the state of the Herbert River. The letter must also raise issues/seek clarification regarding the risks, process and notification/protection measures of employing Rotenone as a management solution.

3.3 Water Quality Monitoring in the Wet Tropics – Appendix Three

Directors were provided with a presentation on Water Quality Monitoring in the WT by Dr Lex Cogle (Principal Scientist, DNR&M), John Armour and other researchers. The presentation outlined the current project on short-term catchment modeling to assist regional target setting. This was followed by a presentation by Peter Bradley (Program Manager, DSC WQIP) on the Douglas Shire Water Quality Improvement Plan.

A key discussion item was the Board's concern regarding the extension of complex information to the community as community confidence in the data and uptake is a major challenge. If community perceptions are not managed, there is the potential that this could undermine the process of adoption of BMP. In the short-term it is advised the focus should be to develop interim targets, with the development of more defined targets being a longer-term process. In the meantime there is a need to manage communication flows to ensure support and credibility within the community. As such, messages should be clear and focus on what is known scientifically that will produce good management practices to improve WQ – ie: baseline data as opposed to reductionist targets.

Mike Berwick also raised the need to manage the expectations of the Commonwealth Government regarding the realities of drawing meaningful outcomes and outputs from an 18 month project.

Allan Dale suggested that the upcoming WRAC meeting would be an ideal place to reach agreement about issues relating to the required development of targets by June.

Resolution: It was agreed that, with respect to the development of WQ targets by June, that the Board considers:

1. Upcoming development of Sednet modeling should result in benchmark figures for water quality and that we focus on avoiding net decline on these benchmarks rather than load reduction targets at this stage.
2. That we concentrate of the development on targets for the implementation of Management Action Targets related to the uptake of farm management systems and best management practices.
3. The formation of a Board-based Steering Committee to manage the Board's involvement in the broader Water Quality agenda. Nominated Board members include Peter Valentine and Bill Shannon.

4. Correspondence

4.1 Significant Correspondence – Appendix Four

The meeting noted the schedule of significant correspondence.

5. Financial Committee Report

5.1 Financial Report

The meeting noted the financial reports for January and February 2005.

Resolution: That the Financial Reports be adopted as presented.

6. Executive Officer's Report

6.1 Overview of Future Operations

The Board received a detailed presentation aimed at fostering discussion on future operational arrangements and delivery frameworks. The aim was to ensure a common understanding of direction and allow progression of key areas of activity. The Board provided unanimous support for the proposed direction presented.

6.2 Review of the North Region Coordination Group –

The Board was provided feedback from the NRCG meeting on the 23rd March. Allan also tabled an accompanying survey to assist the NRCG undertake the review which Directors were requested to complete.

6.3 Regional Investment Strategy Update

The Board was advised that the Regional NRM Plan had been accredited by the State and Federal Governments.

6.3.1 Green Paper - Core Operating and 6.4 Strategic Reserve

These items were discussed under agenda item 3.1.

6.5 Launch of the Aboriginal Cultural and Natural Resource Management Plan

The Board was advised of the proposed arrangements relating to the launch of the Aboriginal Plan which are still being negotiated. Negotiations are focusing on staging a joint event with WTMA on the 29th April as part of the launch of the Regional Agreement.

6.6 Significant Dates:

Directors noted the date for the upcoming Natural Resource Management Facilitators Meeting on Monday 4th April 2005.

The Board was also directed to supplementary Board papers which included meeting notes and outcomes from the recent TOAC meeting.

Resolution: That the Board supports the proposed Mamu projects (Weedbusters and Stream Rehabilitation) and agrees to provide letters of support as requested.

Resolution: That the Board support FNQ NRM Ltd's participation as a partner in the pilot project 'Enhancing Indigenous Engagement in NRM'.

It was agreed that a process and protocols for resolving issues needed to be further developed given the delays between bi-monthly board meetings.

Resolution: The Board resolved that the process to enact resolutions on correspondence and other matters be implemented by which once appropriate Board input and endorsement has been sought, through an Article 16.7 resolution if necessary, that any correspondence be signed off by the EO or alternate staff member and distributed.

Troy Wyles-Whelan provided the Board with details related to the upcoming Indigenous Land and Sea Conference to be held in Alice Springs and requested the Board's permission to attend.

Resolution: The Board supports Troy Wyles-Whelan to attend the Indigenous Land and Sea Conference and report back to the Board.

7. General Business

7.1 Update - Regional Competitive Component – Noting Only

Directors noted the projects submitted under the program as presented. Geoff Dyne advised that RCC projects have been compiled and prioritized and notification is expected by the end of May.

7.3 K-12 Education Project – Update

Chris Gloor (Director, Coastal and Marine)

Ailsa Payne (Principal Education Officer, Performance Measurement, EQ).

Resolution: The Board resolved that only major decisions in relation to the K-12 project and Membership Body required full Board consultation in order to progress development of the programs.

It was noted that servicing requirements related to the membership body would be provided by the Company.

Resolution: The Board adopted the remaining resolutions tabled by Chris Gloor in his program updates. This included the engagement of Moni Carlisle as a Resource Feasibility Coordinator. It was resolved that this position would be reviewed and invoiced monthly and that the burden of financial risk related to developing the K-12 Education program is an organisational responsibility. Contracting of Moni was to be at the discretion of EO after ensuring that Education Queensland is fully supportive of the proposed approach.

Other Items

GBRMPA Aust Research Council Proposal (James Innes/ Karen Vella). The Board was supportive of exploring potential partnerships with respect to this project, but required a review of the research agreement before finalized.

There was some discussion about the proposed CERF (post CRC Reef/Rainforest) arrangements.

7.4 CRC for Coastal Zone, Estuary and Waterway Management – Research Project for Environmental Planning for NRM: Enhancing the role of local government in cooperative regional natural resource management – Appendix Six

The Board noted the outcomes of the first workshop as tabled.

7.5 Industry Advisory Group – Bill Shannon (Director, Industry) - Appendix Seven

The Board noted the outcomes from the IAG as tabled.

7.6 Future Presentations

A request was been received from Jax Bergerson, Kuranda Envirocare to address the Board to discuss the current management challenges related to the alignment of Local Government boundaries with those of bioregions. Jax's attendance was agreed.

7.7 Next Meeting

Friday 3rd June 2005.