

**FNQ NRM Ltd  
Board of Directors  
Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> February 2005  
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** - Rachel Wicks (FNQ NRM Ltd), Nigel Weston (Rainforest CRC), Cath de Voil (FNQ NRM Ltd), Angie Gattera (FNQ NRM Ltd), Lyle Johnson (FNQ NRM Ltd) and Rowena Grace (FNQ NRM Ltd).

**Guests/Presenters** - Elsie Go Sam (Indigenous Support Member), Charley Loudon (JRCMA), Sam Pagano (JRCMA), Melissa George (State Indigenous Coordinator).

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

Meeting opened at 9.30 am.

**Apologies** – Peter Stanton, Director Conservation

The Board welcomed Melissa George, the recently appointed State Indigenous Network Coordinator. Melissa outlined her role and desire to gain Regional Body support to encourage continued government support for the process of working with Traditional Owners to look after Country.

**2. Previous Minutes**

**2.1 Draft Minutes 17 December 2004**

Bill Shannon advised that Discussion Item 5 – Indigenous Support to the Board should be revised to include only that discussion (and resolutions) related directly to the agenda item.

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

**3. Business Arising**

**3.1 Regional Groups Collective Update and 3.2 Green Paper**

Cr Mike Berwick provided an update on the recent Regional Groups Collective meeting (as per appendix two), the status of the 'Green Paper' and current negotiations on the State's commitment to funding core operating for Regional Bodies.

This included reference to discussions held between Cr Mike Berwick and Minister Desley Boyle in relation to better integration of the State's environmental agenda with local government, LGAQ's position on the Regional Arrangements arising through the Green Paper process and the relationship between local government and regional NRM planning processes.

The Board determined that FNQ NRM Ltd should continue to pressure the State for a resolution on core funding.

**Resolution:** The Board resolved that a letter be written to both Minister Desley Boyle and Minister Robertson seeking a meeting to discuss the above issues as well as opportunities to better engage Local Government in NRM.

### **3.3 Access to Genetic Resources in National Parks**

The Board continued discussions on access to genetic resources in National Parks based on correspondence received from Bood Hickson. Mr Hickson is seeking a letter of support from the Board on the issue prior to a scheduled meeting with Minister Boyle.

The Board, while supporting Mr Hickson, felt that the protocols should be broader in focus than wildlife and should include reference to biodiversity in general as well as encourage a nation-wide approach to ensure consistency where appropriate.

**Resolution:** A letter of support outlining the Board's position (including previous discussions) to be forwarded to Mr Hickson.

### **3.4 Update - Tilapia in the Upper Herbert**

The Board continued discussions regarding the issues in managing Tilapia in the Wet Tropics. Cr Ray Byrnes provided an update on the Herberton Shire Council's efforts to contain spread of the species through installing screens in the dam. Cr Ann Portess has proposed that a letter be forwarded to Minister Palaszczuk requesting that an officer be placed directly in charge of the Tilapia situation. In addition, the Board felt that there is also a need to address Bio Security issues related to the use of Rotonone.

The Board also expressed support for a press release notifying the public that the situation has not been dealt with in support of Herberton Shire Council.

**Resolution:** That a letter be sent to the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries, The Hon Henry Palaszczuk MP, outlining the order of events in the Herberton Shire and broadly the issues encountered with managing noxious fish within the region. This letter is to be based on a previous draft developed by David Foster to DPI.

## **4. Correspondence**

### **4.1 Significant Correspondence**

The meeting noted the schedule of significant correspondence.

## **5. Financial Committee Report**

## 5.1 December 2004 Financial Statement

The Board discussed the financial statements as tabled. The meeting noted that the Company held adequate funds to operate until June 2005. The statements do not include RIS allocations in the cash flows.

### 5.1.1 Board Memberships

Discussion was held regarding the status of Membership Categories of the Company.

**Resolution:** It was resolved that a full list of current members of the Company and potential members of the Company be circulated at the next meeting, that the category and package for Supporting Membership be progressed as a priority, and that official Members be advised of committee and Board meetings.

**Resolution:** That the financial statement is adopted as presented.

## 6. Regional Investment Strategy Update

Board members were provided with the latest copy and a full update on development of the RIS. This included advice that Board meetings were reduced to bi-monthly meetings from 2005 due to funding limitations.

## 7. General Business

### 7.1 Risk Management Approach to Achieving Better Water Quality in the Wet Tropics - Charley Loudon & Sam Pagano (JRCMA).

The Board was presented with and discussed a revised version of the 'Primary Green' project with the aim of securing the Board's support to continue its development.

Acknowledging the merits of the concept and consideration of the issues raised, it was acknowledged that the Board is progressing toward addressing these issues via the Industry Advisory Group (IAG), from within which there is support to move away from an agricultural focus toward a broader 'industry' approach. It was suggested that it would be of value for both Charley Loudon and Sam Pagano to attend the next IAG meeting.

**Resolution:** An invitation be extended to both Charley Loudon and Sam Pagano to participate in the next Industry Advisory Group (IAG) meeting on the 17 March 2005.

### 7.2 Water Quality Improvements Steering Committee

**Resolution:** Members sought further clarification on the role and function of the proposed committee and as such this item be deferred to the next meeting.

### 7.3 Regional Competitive Component

The Board considered a range of projects that were to be delivered via FNQ NRM Ltd, delivered via another regional body in partnership with FNQ NRM Ltd, or with FNQ NRM Ltd endorsing the project for an external proponent.

**Resolution:** Following discussion, the Board agreed that from the suite of projects present, the following were supported:

1. Project 4 - Savanna Plan for the Upper Herbert.
2. Project 2 - Natural and Cultural Landscape Management and Mapping
3. Project 3 - Control of Hymenachne (approved with an amendment of wording to state that 'must' include revegetation).

#### **7.4 CRC for Coastal Zone, Estuary and Waterways Management- Research Project for Environmental Planning for NRM: Enhancing the role of local government in cooperative regional natural resource management**

Following consideration of the details provided, the Board felt that the research objectives and methodology of the project were still unclear and sought further clarification prior to the first workshop.

Members suggested that communication with local government was necessary and that the next ROC meeting presented an opportunity to do this.

**Resolution:** Cr Ray Byrnes to contact Darryl Low Choy to refine the proposal and set a date for the workshop for March.

#### **7.5 ARC Memorandum of Understanding**

Indigenous Project Officer Lyle Johnson informed the Board that he was continuing to develop the MOU with relevant partners of ARC.

**Resolution:** That a revised MOU be available for discussion at the next Board meeting.

#### **7.6 Review of the North Region Coordination Group**

Members discussed the invitation from DNR&M to participate in the review of the role of the NRCG.

**Resolution:** Bill Shannon and Cr Mike Berwick together with Alan Dale participate in the meeting. Members also agreed to invite Mark Cranitch Chair (NRCG) to next Board meeting in April.

#### **7.7 Rainforest CRC – NRM Plan Process Award Nomination**

**Resolution:** The Board resolved to provide a letter of support.

#### **7.8 Chris Gloor/Bill Shannon presented a letter from Herbert River Catchment Group Inc (HRCG) Re: The Reef Guardian Program**

The Board agreed that Chris Gloor and Caroline Coppo should work with Bill Shannon to develop a response.

**Resolution:** That the Board respond to the letter, including addressing education issues and biodiversity requirements. In addition, a formal meeting be arranged between GBRMPA and FNQ NRM Ltd to discuss the matter further.

### **7.9 Draft Queensland Strategic Reserve Proposal List (DQSRP)**

A list of proposed Strategic Reserve projects prepared by the RGC was tabled for consideration by the Board. Members were uncomfortable with being required to make decisions on prioritizing the list based on the information provided and the lack of previous consultation/guidance in preparation as well as advice from the JSC on process.

**Resolution:** No decision would be made until more information was made available.

**Next Meeting:** Friday 1 April 2005, Malanda. Cr Ray Byrnes to arrange a meeting room.