

**FNQ NRM Ltd Directors' Meeting**  
**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2005**  
Hotel Noorla Ingham, 8.30am-5.00pm  
**Ratified Minutes**

**Attendance:**

**Directors:**

Ken Atkinson	(Upper Herbert)
Cr Mike Berwick	(Chair)
Cr Ray Byrnes	(Local Government)
Caroline Coppo	(Catchment & Community)
Chris Gloor	(Coastal & Marine)
Bill Shannon	(Industry)
Assoc Prof Peter Valentine	(World Heritage)
Troy Wyles-Whelan	(Director Indigenous)

**Staff:**

Rebecca Clear	(Manager Programmes and Partnerships)
Allan Dale	(Executive Officer)
Fiona George	(Contracts and Project Management Coordinator)
Elsie Go Sam	(Indigenous Support Member)
Michaela Groenestyn	(Communications Officer)
John Reghenzani	(Program Leader Sustainable Agriculture)
Rachel Wicks	(Manager Community Engagement)

**Guests:**

Bryony Barnett	(TREAT)
Moni Carlisle	(Contractor)
Sinan Ogan	(Global Studies Institute)
Frances Verrier	(GBRMPA)

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The meeting was opened at 8.30am.

Apologies received from Peter Stanton due to sickness.

The Board welcomed Frances Verrier from GBRMPA, Bryony Barnett from TREAT and Sinan Ogan from Global Studies institute.

**2. Previous Minutes**

**2.1 Draft Minutes 12<sup>th</sup> August 2005**

**Resolution:** *That the minutes are adopted as presented.*

### **3. Business Arising**

#### **3.1 Chair's Update – Cr Mike Berwick**

Cr Berwick circulated the international working group update.

##### **3.1.1 Regional Groups' Collective Update 8<sup>th</sup> October 2005**

###### **For Noting Only**

Mike Berwick provided an update on activities of the Regional Groups Collective. It was noted that the Board may have to increase financial support for the Collective from \$10,000 to \$15,000.

##### **3.1.2 Brad Dorrington Memorial**

###### **For Noting Only**

At its last meeting the Board resolved to approach Johnstone River Catchment Management Association (JRCMA) regarding the proposal to establish a riparian corridor as a memorial to Brad Dorrington. Initial discussions with the Chair Sam Pagano indicate support for the concept although JRCMA's ability to invest in this or a similar project would need to be negotiated with the full committee at its next meeting.

### **4. Significant Correspondence**

The Board noted the letter from Johnstone Ecological Society that expressed its concern as to the Board's funding priorities. It was noted that Allan will be attending JES's next meeting, taking a letter of response.

### **5. Financial Committee Report**

#### **5.1 July and August 2005**

Bill Shannon outlined the Financial report noting the sound financial position of the Company but with the continuing need to close monitor costs.

**Resolution:** *That the financial report be adopted as presented. Moved Bill Shannon, seconded Ray Byrnes.*

### **6. Executive Officer's Report**

The Executive Officer used the standard report structure in Appendix 4 to report progress since the last Board meeting.

A lot of effort is being put into the National Partnerships debate for NRM arrangements post 2007. The Board has support from the National Farmers Federation, the Australian Conservation Foundation, WWF, and the Local Government Association of Queensland. At the State level, partners are working to get dialogue between farmers and the State.

Allan gave an update on community engagement in each of the catchments. From this discussion the Board determined that the community in the Tully/Murray catchment needs to be re-enthused about NRM business and activities.

Amongst this discussion the board expressed their support of the joint funded project to employ Peter Bradley in the Daintree/Mossman catchment and supported a commitment \$30,000 per annum towards the position.

## **6.1 Integrated Landscape Program Discussion**

### **For Discussion**

The EO provided an update on progress towards the development of the Integrated Landscape Partnership Proposal between JCU, CSIRO and FNQ NRM Ltd.

## **6.2 Concept for Expansion of the Burdekin Dry Tropics Investment**

### **For Discussion**

In a recent JSC review of the Burdekin Dry Tropics, JSC has allowed the BDT Board to explore the potential expansion of its Regional Investment into non-NHT Regions. This session explored a draft concept to oblige.

Discussion revealed that the JSC is concerned about BDT's expenditure. The Board will approach BDT with proposed areas of investment in the Wet Tropics region. These are outlined below:

1. Implementation of the BDT plan, sugar based NRM change issues and rangelands via devolved grants. Through this the Board plans to lift support presence in upper and lower Herbert sugar and rangeland areas, which will also add to the Grazing Land Management program.
2. Move to a full time fte and delivery model in the upper Herbert
3. A spread of Wetlands dollars and progress in any gaps in the program.
4. Extend K12 concept.
5. Hymanachne control.

## **6.3 Performance Discussion – Closed Session**

### **For Discussion**

1. In accordance with the Board's original letter of offer, the Executive Officer and the Board facilitated a two way discussion on the Executive Officer's performance over the first six months of his appointment. It was decided that the Chair would articulate the proposed outcomes from the performance review to the Executive Officer.

## **6.4 Final Strategic Reserve Project**

### **For Noting Only**

The Executive Officer provided the outcomes to date of the Strategic Reserve Process.

## **7. Annual Report and Notice of Annual General Meeting**

### **7.1 Annual General Meeting**

This year's AGM is scheduled for Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2005, to be held at the Tanks Art Centre in Cairns. As previously advised, the event will be held in conjunction with an environmental arts exhibition, official signing of the MOU and the Ministerial launch of the Regional NRM Plan. Cr Mike Berwick has been successful in securing Greg Bourne of WWF and John Cherry of QFF as the key note speakers. Senator Ian Macdonald and Minister Desley Boyle are yet to confirm their availability.

It was determined that Mike and Allan will each give an address at the AGM. Mike will include FNQ NRM Ltd's achievements in his public address. Chris Gloor informed the Board that he would not be present at the AGM as he will be in Germany. Mike suggested there be a short panel session at the meeting so attendees can ask questions of the key note speakers.

## **7.2 Annual Report 2004/2005**

Directors have received a copy of the Company's 2004/2005 Annual Report. The Directors considered the document in detail. As the timelines for production are extremely tight, Directors are asked to forward any additional comments by Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2005, to enable a final document to be circulated prior to printing.

***Resolution:** That the annual report, including financial statements, reports and notice of meeting be approved. Mike Berwick and Bill Shannon authorised to sign the documents on behalf of the Board.*

## **8. General Business**

### **8.1 Supporting Membership Package**

Development of the Supporting Membership Program has continued, with the six key investment areas for program subscribers now identified and an application form developed. In addition, the process of securing Deductible Gift Recipient status has also been advanced. A draft Supporting Membership package was tabled for the Board's consideration. It is expected that in light of current progress, this program could be launched at the AGM.

There are several key decisions the Board must consider in fully developing this program. To assist the Board in this area, local communications and marketing consultant Andrew Mackenzie has been engaged to assist the Board consider and manage the range of matters related to developing a full donor program.

Rachel Wicks made the Board aware that the Supporting Membership program needs to have a clear focus (money making or community engagement) so the marketing and development of the program, including fees, could progress.

Chris Gloor proposed that the program start as a community engagement tool which will eventually grow into a resource development tool.

The Board decided to change the name of the program from 'Supporting Membership' to 'Supporting Member Program' to ensure there was no confusion with 'Ordinary Membership'.

Moni Carlisle suggested that Directors be involved in marketing of the program to show the community the faces of those investing the money. It was noted that the program could also be a way to involve the community in re-branding the Company. The Board expressed concern about integrating the 'Partner' category into the Supporting Member Program. It was agreed that this category be separate, as its marketing will be different to the other categories in the program.

## **8.2 Ordinary Membership Applications**

Following a second major recruitment campaign there are now 95 ratified Ordinary Members of FNQ NRM Ltd. Contact has been made with the organisations that have not responded to the invitation to join the Membership Body. A total of 12 organisations have declined the offer.

Appendix Nine of the Board Papers is a list of current ratified members, organisations who have been invited to join but have not yet responded, and organisations that have declined Ordinary Membership.

All FNQ NRM Ltd Natural Resource Coordinators have been provided with a full recruitment package.

Below are the names of new Ordinary Member applicants seeking ratification by the Board. All applicants meet the criteria for Ordinary Membership.

- Mitchell River Watershed Management Group
- Australian Tropical Research Foundation
- Greening Australian Queensland
- Daintree Cassowary Care Group Inc
- Wangetti Recovery Group
- Cairns Region Economic Development Corporation
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
- The School for Field Studies

***Resolution:*** *The Board accepts the above mentioned organisations as ratified Members of the Company.*

## **8.3 Review of existing NRM arrangements in the Herbert River Catchment** - John Reghenzani, Program Leader, Sustainable Agricultural Systems

### **For Discussion**

John Reghenzani presented a review of existing NRM arrangements including institutional and FNQ NRM Ltd support in the Herbert River Catchment. This review was prepared during his role as acting catchment coordinator for both the upper and lower catchments, during which he gained a valuable insight into the field operation of catchment coordination within in the Herbert.

The review contains a series of recommendations to the Board with strategies to support the catchment's longer term development. Some of the specific recommendations included within the report are the need for locally based coordinator positions for both the upper and lower catchments, a plan to rehabilitate degraded mining sites in the Mt Garnet district, better coordination between FNQ NRM Ltd and Burdekin Dry Tropics Board activities particularly for the upper catchment, development of nitrogen fixation by sugarcane and a coordinated attack within the FNQ region on invasive weeds.

The Board noted and accepted the report's recommendations in principle.

#### **8.4 Update re: Proposed K-12 Environmental Education Program 2006 – Moni Carlisle**

The Stage 2 contract supporting Moni Carlisle (GSI) to further develop relationships, strategies, materials and ground work to successfully implement an effective 2006 Pilot Study has been approved. Moni will continue to work in partnership with the FNQ NRM Ltd Education Committee who will also be developing the future financing and marketing of the Program.

It is envisaged that the 2006 Pilot Study Education Program (K-12) will require a full time Environmental Education Coordinator (EEC), employed by FNQ NRM Ltd, who will work in a select number of Education Queensland (EQ) schools, starting in Term 1, 2006. The ECC will facilitate the acquisition/development of resources, evolving the web site and developing partnerships with local community members actively involved in NRM issues ('Community in the Classroom' profiles) and the schools involved. The 'Community in the Classroom' profiles will be developed for different areas over time by cooperation with the NRM Coordinators.

***Resolution:*** *That the Board endorses the Environmental Education Coordinator position description as presented.*

#### **8.5 Catchment Chairs' Meeting Outcomes**

Chairs and representatives of each of the region's Catchment Management Associations gathered in Atherton during August for a meeting with Allan Dale, Rachel Wicks and Rebecca Clear. The meeting focused on the future Catchment Management partnership with FNQ NRM Ltd and aimed to develop a collective understanding on how this partnership should be maintained.

Discussion focused around maintaining healthy catchment arrangements in the Wet Tropics, the roles of each of the players, preferred support from FNQ NRM Ltd and regional alliances to progress common priorities.

### **9. Next Meeting**

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2005, 8.00am-1.00pm in Cairns (the day after the AGM).