
FNQ NRM LTD
Board Meeting
8th – 9th June 2006
Mareeba RSL, Mareeba

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Apologies

An apology was received from Mike Berwick, Chair and Allan Dale, CEO, FNQ NRM Ltd as he is on leave. Bill Shannon, Director Industry and Secretary, took Mike's place in chairing the meeting. Bill acknowledged the Traditional Owner Group whose country the meeting was held on.

Attendees:

Ken Atkinson	Director Upper Herbert
Ray Byrnes	Director Local Government
Caroline Coppo	Director Catchment and Community
Chris Gloor	Director Coastal and Marine
Bill Shannon	Director Industry
Peter Stanton	Director Conservation
Peter Valentine	Director World Heritage
Elsie Go Sam	Indigenous Support Member
Rebecca Clear	A/Chief Executive Officer
Kim Forde	Green Corridor Project Coordinator
Michaela Groenestyn	Communications Officer
Ian Little	Grazing Land Management Coordinator
Rachel Wicks	Manager Community Engagement
Ian Adcock	Mitchell River Water Management Group/Queensland Water and Landcare Board
Jeff Onas,	Conservation Volunteers Australia
Joe miller	BRICMA
Chantal Roder	Aboriginal Rainforest Council
Rob Ryan	North Queensland Mining Association, MRWMG
Bryony Barnett	TREAT
Kathy Retter	Kuranda Envirocare
Jerry Calwell	Citizen
Colin Hunt	Chair, SISP
Part attendees:	
Joe Crawford	Malanda Landcare
Matt Hyde	Eacham Shire Council
Gwyneth Nevard	Wildlife Conservancy of Tropical Queensland

2. Information Items

2.1 Introduction to Chantal Roder, ARC – Rebecca Clear A/Chief Executive Officer, FNQ NRM Ltd & Chantal Roder, Cultural Heritage Mapping Project Coordinator

Chantal gave a presentation outlining the Cultural Heritage Mapping Project in the Wet Tropics.

2.2 Green Corridor Project – Kim Forde, Green Corridor Project Coordinator, FNQ NRM Ltd

Kim gave a presentation outlining the Green Corridor project including the progress to date and the aims of the project.

2.3 Director Retirement Process – Colin Hunt, SISP Chair, FNQ NRM Ltd

Colin gave an update on the director retirement and recruitment process to date. The SISP plans to meet on the 13th of August in Malanda to shortlist applicants. Interviews for positions are anticipated to be held on the 24th and 25th of August.

Decision: The FNQ NRM Ltd Board will pay for advertising and other suitable expenses incurred by the SISP during the director retirement and recruitment process.

Action: Bill to develop a structured budget for the 2006 director recruitment process that can be used for future director recruitment processes.

2.4 Landcare Australia Ltd Program Update – Penny Scott, Manager Cyclone Response, FNQ NRM Ltd

2.5 FNQ NRM Ltd Support for Council Nurseries – Ray Byrnes, Director Local Government, FNQ NRM Ltd & Matthew Hyde, Manager Corporate, Planning & Environment Eacham Shire Council

Matthew informed the Board that Councils cannot continue their nurseries with the current lack of funding. There is a need for longer term strategies and long term planning to ensure council nurseries will be able to operate now and into the future.

Decision: FNQ NRM Ltd take participatory action for a long term strategy to maintain sustainable nursery operations. This will be progressed through the existing Council Revegetation Unit steering committee to be established and supported by Rowena Grace, Biodiversity Coordinator, FNQ NRM Ltd. This committee, with the support of Ray Byrnes & Rebecca Clear, will explore funding opportunities to leverage further investment for strategic revegetation outcomes and service provisions from the Council revegetation units.

3. Open Discussion Time

Jeff Onas, CVA suggested that FNQ NRM Ltd support council nurseries. He believes there is a need for a plant health inspector to inspect nurseries. Jeff suggested issues to be investigated include plant health, local provenance and legislation compliance, particularly endangered ecosystems. He believes there should be a plan to bring all the nurseries together to work collaboratively.

Colin Hunt raised the issues of the economics of TREAT in relation to Eacham shire council nursery. He believes it should be funded by public money. He also suggested that FNQ NRM Ltd bring public money into small nurseries who are acting for the public good.

Ian Adcock commented that he was impressed with Chantal Roder's presentation on the Cultural Heritage Mapping Project. He also said FNQ NRM Ltd is functioning and progressing very well and believes it is the most cohesive NRM body in the State.

Gwyneth Nevard raised the issue of Mareeba's weed problem, particularly with Giant Rats Tail and Belly Ache Bush. She expressed her concern that DPI in Walkaman gave out Hymenachne and promoted it for use on properties. She suggested Regional Bodies like FNQ NRM Ltd should approach the Government about the conflicting promotion of weeds across Government Departments and NRM organisations.

Rob Ryan told the Board that as community's voice to Government, FNQ NRM Ltd must continue to work hard on pushing the NRM agenda at the Government level. He suggested nurseries should have a database for demand and put out requests to other nurseries if there is a need. Rob also wanted to emphasise that minerals are an important natural resource but are often overlooked

Joe Crawford said Landcare groups in the Wet Tropics are happy with what FNQ NRM Ltd is doing and how NRM is progressing in the region. He said the Northern Gulf NRM Group are working on the Ghosts Net program and are faced with a huge job of clearing large nets from the ocean. He also expressed concern that there seems to be a lack of enthusiasm in younger generations to get involved in Landcare and NRM.

Ray Byrnes said the Board should look at its climate change policy and take a more active role in it. It is an area that has the potential to attract the urban population to participate in NRM. He emphasized the need to push sustainable housing design – solar hot water systems, rainwater tanks and switching off lights etc.

Colin Hunt commented that the community needs incentives to conserve and adopt sustainable practices.

Meeting adjourned at 5.25pm.

1. Welcome and Apologies

The meeting reconvened at 9.05am, 9th June.

Part Attendance:

Rowena Grace	Biodiversity Coordinator, FNQ NRM Ltd
Ian Little	Grazing Land Management Coordinator, FNQ NRM Ltd
Mark O'Donohue	Manager Planning, FNQ NRM Ltd
Rachel Wicks	Manager Community Engagement, FNQ NRM Ltd
Bryony Barnett	Representative of TREAT
Joe Miller	Barron River Integrated Catchment Management Association

2. Previous Minutes

2.1 Draft Minutes FNQ NRM Ltd Board Meeting 28th April 2006, South Johnstone

That the minutes of the Board meeting, 28th April 2006, South Johnstone are adopted as presented. Moved Ray Byrnes, seconded Peter Valentine. Carried.

3. Business Arising

The Board acknowledged that welcome letters have been sent to new Ordinary Members.

It was noted that FNQ NRM Ltd's NRM coordinators in areas where Board meetings are held should contact members of that community and invite them to mingles and Board meetings.

Directors expressed desire for Board meeting dates and locations to be calendared one year in advance.

4. Correspondence

The Correspondence was noted.

5. Financial Committee Report: March & April 2006, January - March 2006 Quarterly Expenditure Report by Projects

That the Board adopts the Financial Committee Report and Quarterly Expenditure Report. Moved Bill Shannon, seconded Chris Gloor. Carried.

The Board noted that Linda Philips, Financial Officer, FNQ NRM Ltd, was doing an excellent job handling the company's financials.

The Board acknowledged it was important that members of the public who attend Board meetings receive Board papers and financials. It was noted that spare copies of these documents are always brought to meetings.

The Board expressed concern that updates on the K-12 education program are not being circulated to Directors. It was noted that Moni Carlisle should come to the next Board meeting and report on the progress of the K-12 pilot. Rebecca Clear noted the organisation is transitioning to new processes for internal reporting.

6. Decision Items

6.1 Branding Proposal for Marmalade – Rachel Wicks, Manager Community Engagement & Chris Gloor, Director Coastal and Marine, FNQ NRM Ltd

The Board agrees to progress the branding process with Marmalade. It is proposed that a driving team be supported to progress the process. This team will consist of Chris Gloor and Rachel Wicks with support from Andrew McKenzie and Allan Dale.

The Board supports the draft branding proposal. Directors should forward comments on the draft proposal to Rachel Wicks by June 16th.

It was noted that it is important to articulate the target audience in the proposal.

6.2 Board Meeting Protocols - Rachel Wicks, Manager Community Engagement, FNQ NRM Ltd

It was agreed that decision papers should preferably not be submitted as supplementary papers.

It was agreed that decision items received after the due date for Board papers would not normally be included in supplementary papers as decision items.

It was suggested that there should be a written CEOs report given at each Board meeting. Directors also requested a report outlining highlights of organisational business and progress be circulated at each Board meeting.

That the Catchment Chairs' Committee be formalised as an advisory committee of the Board and the Catchment and Community Director chair these meetings. All Board Directors should be advised of these meetings and receive meeting minutes. Moved Chris Gloor, seconded Ray Byrnes. Carried.

6.2 Strategy Mapping Update – Chris Gloor, Director Coastal and Marine, FNQ NRM Ltd

Chris gave a presentation on the benefits of strategy mapping and how it might be used for FNQ NRM Ltd.

6.3 Policies and Procedures – Rebecca Clear A/Chief Executive Officer, FNQ NRM Ltd

Action: Rebecca to circulate Commerce Queensland's Environment Policy to Directors.

The Board will make a decision about becoming a member of Commerce Queensland at its next meeting in August.

That the Board accepts and endorses the Traditional Owner Advisory Committee honorarium policy. Moved Peter Stanton, seconded Caroline Coppo. Carried.

That the Board accepts and endorses the Industry Advisory Group honorarium policy. Moved Peter Valentine, seconded Ray Byrnes. Carried.

That a rate of \$400 be paid to members of the Standing Independent Selection Panel who are not the chair and a flat rate of \$500 be paid to the Chair for the Director recruitment process. This is a one off honorarium payment for the current SISP process and is based on the extent of input advised. Out of pocket expenses will be reimbursed on a receipts basis. The balance of the \$5000 budget allocated for the process will be used for advertising. Moved Chris Gloor, seconded Ken Atkinson. Carried.

7. Information Items

7.1 GIS Update - Mark O'Donohue, Manager Planning, FNQ NRM Ltd

Action: Mark O'Donohue to articulate FNQ NRM Ltd's GIS and data needs and present this to the Board at their next meeting.

7.2 Ecosystem Services – Mark O'Donohue, Manager Planning, FNQ NRM Ltd

It was noted that there should be investigation into how ecosystem services links with natural capitalism.

7.3 Memorandums of Understanding

7.3.1 MOU between FNQ NRM Ltd and the Tropical Landscapes Joint Venture.

The Board should provide comments on the MOU by June 16 for any revised MOU that goes back to the Joint Venture. The Board should provide comment on the documents using track changes.

Action: Michaela Groenestyn to circulate the draft MOU to Directors and staff electronically.

7.3.2 State and Federal Agencies for the Reef Water Quality Partnerships MOU

Action: Michaela Groenestyn to circulate State and Federal Agencies for the Reef Water Quality Partnerships MOU to Directors and staff electronically.

Mark gave an update on the National Water Initiative and effort alignment.

7.4 Presentation from the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) – Peter McVay, Senior Director and Cameron Mathie, Performance Analyst, Australian National Audit Office.

Submissions for the ANAO's draft report must be received by the end of July 2006. Rowena Grace will prepare information for a formal submission from the FNQ NRM Ltd Board. This submission is to be finalised as an out of session item.

7.5 CEO's Update – Rebecca Clear A/Chief Executive Officer, FNQ NRM Ltd

Rebecca updated the Board on the Company's current activities and priorities. Particular reference was made to the proposed mechanisms for effort alignment discussions in North Queensland NRM and 2007-2008 Regional Indicative Allocations.

8. Next Meeting and Close

The next Board meeting will be from the 16th – 17th of August with an optional day for Directors on the 18th. It was suggested a three day meeting would be provide opportunity for a 'Board retreat' (for example on an evening) at which corporate planning could be conducted and performance review processes could be established for Directors.

On behalf of the Board, Chris Gloor and Bill Shannon to provide input, if requested by staff, on the schedule for the retreat.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.09pm.