

**FNQ NRM LTD**  
**Board Meeting**  
**16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> August 2006**  
**Port Douglas Community Hall**  
**Port Douglas**

**RATIFIED MINUTES**

Attendance:

Directors:

Ken Atkinson	Director Upper Herbert
Mike Berwick	Chair
Ray Byrnes	Director Local Government
Caroline Coppo	Director Catchment and Community
Chris Gloor	Coastal and Marine
Bill Shannon	Director Industry
Peter Stanton	Director Conservation
Peter Valentine	Director World Heritage

Support Members:

Elsie Go Sam	Indigenous Support Member
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Staff:

Rebecca Clear	Manager Program and Partnerships
Allan Dale	Chief Executive Officer
Kathryn Dryden	Program Coordinator Community Engagement
Michaela Groenestyn	Communications Officer
Mark O'Donohue	Manager Planning

Guests:

Geoff McDonald	CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems
Gordon French	Regional Groups Collective (RGC)

**Community Information and Discussion Session - Guests**

Attendance:

Gordon French	Regional Groups Collective
John Reghenzani	Coordinator Sustainable Agricultural Systems
Cathy Ellis	Environmental Protection Agency
Mike Ronan	Environmental Protection Agency
Paul Cavallare	Environmental Protection Agency
Jasmine Leach	Environmental Protection Agency
Bob Peever	GIS Coordinator, FNQ NRM Ltd
Liz Stealey	Port Douglas resident
Denis Ballam	
Paul Trotman	Douglas Shire Council

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

Apologies received from Troy Wyles-Whelan. Due to Mike Berwick's notification that he would be late, Bill Shannon took the position of chair in his absence.

**2. Previous Minutes**

**2.1 Draft Minutes** - FNQ NRM Ltd Board Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> June, Mareeba

*That* the minutes are adopted as presented. Moved Ken Atkinson, seconded Ray Byrnes. Carried.

### **3. Business Arising**

#### **3.1 Ratification of Ordinary Member**

*That* the Board ratifies the Douglas Shire Sustainability Group as Ordinary Members of FNQ NRM Ltd. Moved Chris Gloor, seconded Ray Byrnes. Carried.

### **4. Correspondence – March to August 2006**

The correspondence was noted.

### **5. Financial Committee Report - May and June 2006 and Project Expenditure Details for April to June 2006**

It was noted that the Company's budget is increasing significantly. Large projects such as SCAS, Landcare for Larry and the regional competitive components have contributed to the growth of the budget.

### **6. General Business**

#### **6.1 The absence of Troy Wyles-Whelan, Director Indigenous.**

Due to unforeseen circumstances related to family matters, Troy Wyles-Whelan sought Board support for a leave of absence for today's meeting.

Moved Bill Shannon, seconded Chris Gloor. Carried.

#### **6.2 Standing Independent Selection Panel**

*For noting only*

Allan Dale and Rachel Wicks met with the SISP recently to brief them on the role of FNQ NRM Ltd and the SISP terms of reference. There was some concern in the early stages of the director recruitment process regarding SISP operating processes. This identified the need for the role of the SISP and its relationship to the organisation to be clearly articulated to SISP members.

The Board recommends selected staff and Directors de-brief the SISP on its roles, responsibilities and improvements in its operating process. Ray Byrnes and Chris Gloor expressed interest to attend such a briefing.

It was agreed that a policy document articulating the SISP's roles, boundaries and operating processes as an entity within FNQ NRM Ltd be developed for incorporation in the FNQ NRM Ltd Policies and Procedures Manual.

Directors noted the importance of the SISP having a good understanding the Board, its nature and role within the organisation.

#### **6.3 Restructuring within the organisation**

Allan Dale advised the Board of the current considerations to employ a 'Business Manager' to be responsible for overseeing the business operations of FNQ NRM Ltd i.e. HR, finance, budgets and contracts. The Business Manager will also potentially explore commercial enterprise opportunities.

#### **6.4 Global Eco-Design Dialogue Conference**

Sinan Ogan (Network for Sustainable and Diversified Agriculture and Global Studies Institute) has organised a Global Eco-Design Dialogue Conference to be held in Cairns on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September. David Suzuki has been confirmed as the key note speaker. Sinan has asked that an FNQ NRM Ltd staff member or Director speak at the event.

Directors noted the conference as a good opportunity to promote FNQ NRM Ltd and the Ordinary Membership Program. It was suggested that it would be appropriate to have a Traditional Owner speak at the conference also.

It was decided that Rachel Wicks and Chris Gloor will meet with Sinan Ogan to discuss FNQ NRM Ltd's support for the conference.

*That* \$5000 is approved in principle for the conference. Moved Chris Gloor, seconded Ken Atkinson. Carried

## **7. Decision and Key Information Items**

### **7.1 Community engagement Unit Update**

#### **7.1.1 Branding – Chris Gloor, Director Coastal and Marine**

Chris Gloor updated the Board on the Company's re-branding process with Marmalade. Rachel Wicks and Chris will go to Melbourne on August 31<sup>st</sup> to review Marmalade's work to date. Marmalade anticipate having a final proposal to present to the Board between mid and late September. Chris emphasised that Rachel has done a fantastic job during this process and also praised her ability and skill across all facets of the organisation.

#### **7.1.2 AGM 2006 - Kathryn Dryden, Program Coordinator Community Engagement, FNQ NRM Ltd**

It was determined that a Board meeting be scheduled prior to the AGM.

#### **Resolution:**

That the AGM be held on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November and the K-12 theme is supported. It was suggested that Ross Clark from Education Queensland be invited to speak about K-12.

### **7.2 CEO Report and Update – Allan Dale, CEO, FNQ NRM Ltd**

Allan provided a detailed update of activities to the Board. He emphasised the challenge in managing the continual growth of the organisation. Some of the key points Allan discussed include:

- Business Unit reforms
- Member Services
- Next Phase Governance Review
- Weed Menace contracts
- Lessons From Larry Forum – the forum will be held in Innisfail on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September.
- Burdekin Investments – in particular the Upper and Lower Hebert River Catchments.
- National partnership approach for ecosystem services
- Progress in Douglas carbon deal

The Board approved in principle allocation of the following budget amendments to achieve outcomes within existing contracted milestones:

- Allocation from administrative fees to appoint Business Manager
- Allocation of RIS savings for Communication and Policy support in Community Engagement Unit
- Allocation of RIS savings for GIS services

At this point, Mike Berwick joined the meeting and resumed the position of Chair.

**8.1 Marine and Tropical Science Research Facility Water Quality Program and its links with FNQ NRM Ltd** - Professor Richard Pearson, James Cook University

Richard outlined the outcomes of Catchment to Reef, the MTSRF water quality program, its relevance to FNQ NRM Ltd, and the potential for partnership for mutual benefit.

**8.2 FNQ NRM Ltd GIS** - Bob Peever, GIS Coordinator, FNQ NRM Ltd

Bob discussed FNQ NRM Ltd's development of its GIS (global information system) capability. It was noted that the current GIS challenge is to identify and document the organisation's information management priorities, cater for data produced from current projects, source appropriate data and present this data in an easily accessible form.

**8.3 Queensland Wetland Information System (Wetland/Info Queensland)** – Mike Ronan, Environmental Protection Agency

In 2003 the Australian and Queensland Governments established the Queensland Wetlands Program to protect wetlands in the Great Barrier Reef catchment and throughout Queensland. The Program is the umbrella program for the Great Barrier Reef Coastal Wetlands Protection Program and the Queensland Natural Heritage Trust Wetlands Program.

The Environmental Protection Agency, in partnership with the Australian Government, is developing a wetland information system (Wetland/Info Queensland) to deliver wetlands mapping and classification and other useful information to wetlands stakeholders. It is intended that Wetland/Info Queensland will provide the appropriate mechanism for Wetland information capture, storage, discovery and delivery.

**8.4 Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility – Strategic Natural Resource Management and Land Use Planning** - Geoff McDonald, CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems

The Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility (MTSRF) is sponsoring research that will assist and inform planning in the Wet Tropics. The project will develop a regional/catchment water quality management model that produces cost-effective programs of action suited to the socio-economic context and implemented to meet environmental and water quality targets.

Mark O'Donohue will be a principle means to broker the development and application of the MTSRF research findings for the Wet Tropics. Discussions are being held with MTSRF researchers to develop annual deliverables that align with the Wet Tropics Management Actions Targets.

**8.5 North Queensland Climate Alliance** – Ray Byrnes, Director Local Government, FNQ NRM Ltd

A core working group – the North Queensland Climate Alliance (NQCA) - has been established to develop and implement an action plan arising from the workshop outcomes. The Board discussed the opportunities for FNQ NRM Ltd to support and be involved in the NQCA initiative and how it fits with climate actions and targets in the Wet Tropics Regional Natural Resource Management Plan.

**8.6 Presentation from the Douglas Shire Sustainability Group** - Marion Freeman

Marion Freeman gave an update on the Douglas Shire Sustainability Group and highlighted some of the group's current activities and challenges.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 5.15pm