

FNQ NRM Ltd Directors' Meeting
Friday 28th April 2006
DPI Conference Room, South Johnstone
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/Company Secretary)
Peter Valentine	(World Heritage)

Staff:

Rebecca Clear	(Manager Programmes and Partnerships)
Allan Dale	(Chief Executive Officer)
Elsie Go Sam	(Indigenous Support Member)
Michaela Groenestyn	(Communications Officer)
Lyle Johnson	(Coordinator Indigenous)
Jessica Klok	(Land Management Facilitator)
Mark O'Donohue	(Manager Planning)
Penny Scott	(Manager Cyclone Response)
Rachel Wicks	(Manager Community Engagement)

Guests/Presenters:

Cr David McCarthy	(Johnstone Shire Council)
Andrew McKenzie	(McKenzie Community Relations)
Tony Stokes	(Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Mike Berwick welcomed everybody to the meeting.
Apologies were received from Peter Stanton (Director Conservation), and Bob Katter MP (Independent Member for Kennedy).

2. Previous Minutes

2.1 Directors' Meeting February 17, 2006

The draft minutes of the February 17, 2006 Directors' Meeting were adopted as presented with the following correction –

- Niko Jendrich's last name is spelt with a J, not a T.

3. Business Arising

Ken Atkinson gave an update on the Tilapia Action Committee. The Committee has been unable to meet because of the cyclone. The Board discussed the possible spread of Tilapia from the floods during and after Cyclone Larry and the impacts this would have on the eradication of Tilapia in the region.

3.1 Chair's Update – Cr Mike Berwick

Mike gave an update on the NRM Ministerial Council he attended in Sydney. It was suggested that a monitoring and reporting framework be put together for Ministers. This will help monitor Ministers' actions resulting from ministerial councils.

4. Correspondence

Resolution: The Board accepts the correspondence as presented.

5. Financial Committee Report – January and February 2006

Resolution: The Board accepts the Financial Committee Report, January and February 2006, as presented.

6. Decision Items

6.1 Ratification of Ordinary Members

The following organisations have applied for Ordinary Membership with FNQ NRM Ltd.

- Reef Check Foundation Ltd
- Innisfail Babinda Cane Productivity Services Limited
- School of Tropical Environment Studies and Geography
- Millstream and Ravenshoe Water Action Group

Resolution: The Board adopts the resolution to accept Reef Check Foundation Ltd, Innisfail Babinda Cane Productivity Services Limited, the School of Tropical Environment Studies and Geography and the Millstream and Ravenshoe Water Action Group as Ordinary Members of FNQ NRM Ltd.

6.2 Communications Strategy Update – Andrew McKenzie

Andrew McKenzie thanked the Board Directors for their time over the development of the communications and community engagement strategy. He also thanked the staff of FNQ NRM Ltd and acknowledged the skills of the FNQ NRM Ltd Community Engagement Unit.

Andrew gave the Board an overview of the draft strategy and some of the suggestions in it. He stressed to the Board the need to conclude the branding issue within the next three months.

Decision: The Board should give feedback on the strategy via Rachel Wicks within two weeks (May 11). Feedback on priorities would be especially appreciated. Specific enquiries can be directed to Andrew McKenzie. Rachel will circulate the feedback to directors. Once the strategy has been completed it will form the basis of the work plan for the community engagement unit.

Decision: Rachel Wicks to prepare a brief for Marmalade considering the re-branding of FNQ NRM Ltd. This matter may be dealt with as an out of session item. Brief to be completed by mid-late May.

6.3 FNQ NRM Ltd Board Meeting Protocols Discussion Paper – Allan Dale, Rachel Wicks.

Rachel presented an options paper to the Board considering Board meeting protocols. Options included:

Option 1: Meetings be held over a longer period (1 ½ days)

- Some additional costs related to extended venue hire and meals for Directors and staff.
- Some increased pressure on Directors' and staff availability and time required.
- Some increased preparation and lead time required.
- Greater scope for flexibility in 'mingle' timing

Option 2: Meetings be held more regularly

- Potential for significant additional costs.
- Significant increased pressure on Directors' time, staff time, and generally more accommodations, travel, and other associated costs.
- Significantly increased preparation and lead time required.
- Increased community exposure and opportunities for 'doing business'.
- Much greater scope for restructuring and timing of 'mingle'.

Option 3: Increased use of Out Of Session (OOS) decision making

- Reduced agenda items at meeting
- Progression of agenda items between meetings
- Potential to assist consensus based decision-making by facilitating preliminary discussion or increase durations for consideration.

Resolution: That the Board accepts the recommendation to endorse and formally progress Option 1 (Supplementary Board Papers – FNQ NRM Ltd Board Meeting Protocols), with increased support from Option 3, where future Directors' meetings will cover 1 1/2 days to allow for improved community engagement and time management.

Decision: In relation to OOS papers, a summary of discussion and final decision to be circulated to Directors. All OOS decisions need to be formally adopted at each Directors meeting.

Action: Rachel to expand on Option 1 and circulate to the board by mid-May 2006.

Peter suggested that if OOS decisions can not come to consensus, they should be taken to the next Directors meeting for final decision.

It was decided that the dates for Directors meetings will be determined for a whole year at the beginning of each year. It was also agreed that at the board will decide how to reallocate budget funds end of each quarter.

Draft Industry Advisory Group honorariums for Board related activities and Traditional Owner remuneration/honorariums for Board related activities were presented to the Board for consideration.

Resolution: The Board accepts draft policies 5.11 Industry Advisory Group honorariums for Board related activities and 5.12 Traditional Owner remuneration/honorariums for Board related activities.

Lunch

Tony Stokes (Regional Liaison Manager, Far Northern Region, GBRMPA) gave an update on cyclone damage to the reef. The results have been compiled into a document that will be available for the public in due course.

6.4 Expiring terms of Directors

Under the FNQ NRM Ltd constitution the following eight listed directors (Clause 14.1) hold office until the AGM in 2006:

- Chairperson of Directors

- Director Catchment & Community
- Director Industry
- Director Conservation
- Director Coastal & Marine
- Director Indigenous
- Director Local Government
- Director World Heritage

A retiring Director shall be eligible for reappointment as per Clause 14.11. At least six months prior to the scheduled AGM, the directors may agree among themselves or determine by lot, which of them must retire. The standing independent selection panel then takes on the process of appointing/reappointing directors (Clause 20.7). The Director – other (currently the Director Upper Herbert, Ken Atkinson) also holds office until the AGM in 2006 as per Clause 14.1. His reappointment is a matter for the Board to consider post the AGM 2006 dependant on the geographic representation and expertise or experience of the Board at that time.

Mike Berwick, Ray Byrnes, Bill Shannon, Caroline Coppo, Peter Valentine and Chris Gloor all indicated that they would like to continue on for another period and if they were to retire, they would put in an application for re-selection.

Action: Mike Berwick to contact Peter Stanton and Troy Wyles-Whelan to gage whether they wish to retire or not.

Decision: Allan Dale, Rachel Wicks and Rebecca Clear to oversee the ballot process to select three Directors to retire. Colin Hunt (Chair of the SISP) to be present for this process.

6.5 Chief Executive Officer's Report and Updates – Allan Dale

The CEO provided a detailed update of the Company's activities to Board members. The Board discussed the progression of ecosystem service arrangements. All agreed that there needs to be a link between political and technical elements when giving advice to Ministers about ecosystems services.

Allan updated the Board on the budget and made mention that there does not need to be any budget amendments as fist thought (refer to CEO presentation; page 33 Board papers 28 April 2006). Money for the CVA Emergency Response Teams and the Cyclone Response manager will come from the strategic reserve.

Penny Scott, Manager Cyclone Response, gave an overview of the FNQ NRM Ltd program for cyclone response, including the Landcare for Larry program. Ray Byrnes stressed the need to roll out the program quickly to avoid losing community support.

7. Information Items

7.1 Cyclone Response and Regional Pest Management – Cr Paul Gregory, Kirby Doak, Cairns City Council and Darlene Irvine, FNQ ROC

Cr Paul Gregory spoke of the affect Cyclone Larry had on land and coastal vegetation in the region. Some of the elements Paul spoke of included fire management, pest plant management, riparian vegetation management, coastal wetlands, on-farm design and water quality monitoring.

Allan Dale added to the discussion the issue of landscape recovery and resilience from the cyclone. Darlene Irvine then updated the Board on FNQ ROC's cyclone response strategy.

Kirby Doak updated the Board on the regional pest management arrangements and his position as Regional Pest Management Officer. He also outlined some of the projects he has been working on since his appointment.

7.2 MTSRF rainforest research and impact assessment study – Steve Turton, James Cook University

Steve updated the Board on the JCU/CSIRO Tropical Landscapes Joint Venture. He talked about the structure of the Joint Venture and some of its focus areas. He also spoke about cyclone damage in the region.

7.3 GBR Water Quality Partnership – Progress Report - Mark O'Donohue

Mark spoke about the Alignment of Regional Bodies - currently there are 6 coastal Regional Bodies seeking to deliver on Reef Plan actions. He also spoke about the alignment of the Coastal Catchments Initiative (CCI), Great Barrier Reef Water Quality Partnership, Marine and Tropical Science Research Facility (MTSRF) priorities - there are currently several institutional and funding opportunities emerging for Queensland East Coastal regions. There was discussion on CCI Support and Strategic Reserve monies in FNQ NRM Ltd – funding to operate the Partnership has been conditionally agreed by the Joint Steering Committee. It has been proposed that FNQ NRM Ltd host the funds (NAP + NHT) and administer contracts on behalf of the Regional Bodies. Mark also spoke about the possibility of expanding the Partnership Model to biodiversity and sustainable land resource assets.

Mark will develop a paper about ecosystem services to present to the Board at their next meeting. He will also develop a paper considering what service arrangements FNQ NRM Ltd should make.

7.4 GIS project update - Bob Peever, FNQ NRM Ltd

Item differed.

7.4 Wild Rivers Act 2005 – Implications for NRM in the Wet Tropics – Ken Atkinson

The Board discussed the Wild Rivers Act 2005 and the implications for the region if the laws in the Act are enforced on rivers in the Wet Tropics. The Board agreed that there needs to be another round of community consultation on the Act. It was decided that Mike will work with the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water to discuss the possibility of a second round of consultation.

Action: Allan Dale will develop budgetary options for a policy analyst to progress a collective paper on NRM bodies and their statutes. He will present this to the Board at their next meeting in June.

8. Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held on Friday June 8, 2006.

9. Meeting Closed

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.45pm