

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 1st March 2011 – 12.30PM – 2.30PM

Council Chambers

ATTENDANCE: Cr Cameron, Cr Walker
Lisa Kermode, Stuart Holley, Dale Arvidsson
Margaret Lane,
Bruce Milles

APOLOGIES: Cr. Steindl, Saskia von Fahland, Joan Fitzsimmons,

CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting held 07/12/10 were accepted as a true and correct record (moved Margaret Lane, seconded Bruce Milles).

1. **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

1. **Coastal project update**

A detailed report on this item was received as per the agenda.

The Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve entrance sign on East Gordon St will be moved to a more prominent location on the path, as it is currently partially obscured by a tree.

The committee recommended that the construction of the alternative path be funded through future capital works funding. This project should include improvements along East Gordon St including the removal of Leucaena and other weeds, clean up of the drain and shade planting with appropriate local native plants. A concept plan needs to be developed by Engineering Services or a consultant to undertake this work. Also consider a link to Queens Park. In the interim, the alternative path needs to be mown frequently to ensure it is attractive to walk on.

A link through the reserve was discussed (rather than along Chain St) with a possible boardwalk over the mangroves and drainage line, however it was recommended in the management plan that no more built infrastructure be placed in the reserve. Chain St is the preferred access.

Recommendation – the committee recommends that council develops a concept plan for the formalisation of the alternative pathway, including the potential for sealing shoulders on East Gordon St and planting appropriate local native plants to provide shade, and considers funding this project through council's capital works program.

Action: Lisa to organise a site meeting with Cr. May and Cr. Walker to discuss recent vegetation clearing at Blacks Beach. Options for addressing this matter and other instances of vegetation clearing, particularly on the coast, to be brought to the next meeting, with the intention of developing a policy/standard procedure for consideration by council. (this action was carried over from the previous meeting).

2. Land for Wildlife Program

Updates were provided by the catchment groups. Highlights from the reports include:

Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group

- Land for Wildlife Survey underway: 21 surveys sent to participants, 7 returned. 21 previous LfW participants are no longer current (e.g., moved address, phone disconnected, etc)
- First site assessment and Property Management Plan (PMP) complete
- Second site assessment complete, PMP underway.
- LfW folders reviewed and updated (including the inclusion of 2010 SEQ LfW newsletters)
- Negotiations for landholders to be included on SEQ LfW newsletter distribution list underway
- First newsletter article for inclusion in Feb 2011 PCL newsletter

Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Assoc.

- First site assessment undertaken PMP underway. Property recommended for Land for Wildlife registration.
- SLCMA Catchment Newsletter Dec/Jan: LFW logo added to newsletter & advertisement that LFW information & property visits are available, relevant LFW articles included: 'Minor use permit for Hymenachne control', 'Weed to watch out for: Celosia argenticia', 'Fantastic weather for frogs in the Sarina Community Gardens', 'Plant (profile) of the month'.
- Liaise with PCL and MRC regarding survey. Survey will commence in February 2011. SLCMA has LFW landholders that are situated within the Isaac Regional Council (previously Broadsound Shire) boundaries. After discussion with Lisa Kermode it was decided under the current arrangements to only survey and liaise with the LFW landholders within the Mackay Regional Council boundaries.

- Liaise with PCL regarding distribution of SEQ LFW newsletter to Sarina LFW landholders.

3. Sarina and Mirani Landcare Support and Special Projects allocation

Reports were provided by both Catchment Groups for the period December 2010 to the end of January 2011. Reports have been circulated to committee members.

4. Natural Environment Plan Review

Updates on recent works by Reef Catchments were provided. The presentation to the committee has been deferred to the April meeting as presenters were not able to attend the reschedule meeting time.

5. Planning Scheme Review Update

Jaco Ackerman will present information on the review process at the April meeting as he was unable to attend the rescheduled meeting time.

2. FINANCIALS

The financial report was circulated in the meeting. Stephanie Griffith was available to answer questions and will also be available at future meetings.

Discussion was held regarding the new report format. It was agreed that the new format was much better than the old format, but there were still some areas that were hard to understand. The possibility of increasing the cap on the land acquisition fund was discussed.

Action: Stephanie to provide a bottom line figure i.e. the amount currently in the reserve that is unallocated. Also make negative amounts easier to see (reformat the cell so that the “-“ sign is closer to the figure to which it refers). It needs to be clearer which areas are underspent and where there are opportunities to reallocate funding.

Action: 2011/2012 year budget plan to be discussed at the next meeting.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Shared walkway between Marion and Mirani.

Margaret Lane will speak to Stuart Holley about the project and potential links to the Pioneer River Project that PCL is being funded to deliver under the Pioneer Landcare Support Project.

It was noted that Cr Walker is a landholder in that area.

2. Slade Point Reserve.

It was noted that Slade Point Reserve is one of the very important reserves in the Mackay area. Illegal motorbikes are a very big issue in the reserve. Fencing, education and enforcement need to occur to address this issue. Once this issue is dealt with, additional management works such as weed control, revegetation and repairs to sand ladders and walkways can occur.

Action: Council to consider developing a detailed works plan to address the management issues in the reserve.

3. Monitoring database

Reef Catchments and council have developed a monitoring database that is being used to track work completed across natural environment sites, by council crews, contractors, community members etc. Lisa outlined the database to the committee. This is still a work in progress but will prove useful for reporting, tracking changes at sites across time, and capturing the variety of work that is undertaken by different groups etc.

Meeting closed 2.30 pm

Next meeting April 4th, 12-2pm Council Chambers.