

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 13th April 2010 – 12.00PM – 2.00PM

Botanic Gardens meeting room

ATTENDANCE: Cr. May, Cr. Christensen, Cr. Cameron
Helen Paulsen, Stuart Holley
Frank Perna, Margaret Lane
Bruce Milles, Joan Fitzsimmons

APOLOGIES: Lisa Kermode, Saskia von Fahland

CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting held 15/02/10 were accepted as a true and correct record.

1. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**1. Review of the Natural Environment Plan**

The committee sought clarification on the status of the project with reference to the influence of the adoption of the coastal project and the individual beach plans completed in draft form to date.

Stuart Holley advised that the beach plans are potentially being brought to council for consideration by the end of May.

2. Land for Wildlife

Report received on the progress of this project.

Action: SLCMA and PCL to discuss with Lisa how they may possibly assist with the delivery of elements of this project

3. Land Acquisition

An update was provided at the meeting.

4. Orphanage Swamp/Reliance Creek

Stuart Holley advised that council had not supported the ongoing management and maintenance of this area. The existing land is under state control. A management plan would be required and council do not have funds or staff available to develop this area.

Action: The tenure and trusteeship arrangements of the McReady Creek area to be brought to the next meeting.

5. Potential purchase of land

This matter was discussed and a course of action determined.

6. Coastal project update

A report was received on this item.

It is anticipated that public consultation will be undertaken by the end of April and that beach plans be considered by council at the end of May.

2. STORMWATER PROJECTS UPDATE

A written report was received.

PCL and SLCMA have met with Waterways and Open Space staff to develop monitoring projects that will meet regulatory requirements. Water-testing facilities within council have improved and these facilities will assist with gaining more data and with more timely testing. PCL have some funds which could be utilised to implement the lagoons project.

3. FINANCIALS

Helen presented the budget spreadsheet.

Discussion on catchment group support to undertaken the implementation of special projects as well as Sarina and Mirani projects, in order to assist council staff.

It was recommended that a consultant be engaged to undertake the SEMP for Midge Point and that funds be allocated from the NEL. It was also recommended that further funds be allocated for management plan implementation.

Tuesday 18th May was suggested as a possible date for a special meeting to further discuss 2010/11 budget.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

1. The committee recommended that a card be sent to Robyn Birkett
2. **Water weeds at the botanic gardens**
Control activities are being undertaken.
3. **Significant Tree Study**
A consultant brief is being prepared.
4. **St Helens drainage issues**
A consultant has been engaged to provide advice on potential environmental issues. (This item is for general interest as it is not being funded through the NEL).
5. **Cyclone Ului**
Substantial vegetation was lost across the region. Current priorities for clean up are Midge Point and Eungella, Queens Park and the Botanic Gardens. Additional crews from Cairns have been made available to assist with the clean up operation. The residential green waste clean up will be finishing this week. (This item is for general interest as it is not being funded through the NEL).
6. **Prison program**
Prisoners will be arriving at the Seaforth recreation centre shortly. It is anticipated that there will be a long-term work team available for a range of council projects. (This item is for general interest as it is not being funded through the NEL, although the prisoners could potentially be utilised to undertake natural environment projects).
7. **Cr representation**
Cr May extended her appreciation to the members of the committee for their involvement, and the committee thanked Cr May for her work with the committee.

Meeting closed at 2.00 pm.

Next meeting June 1st 12-2pm Council Chambers.