

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 7th June 2011 – 12.00PM – 2.00PM

Council Chambers

ATTENDANCE: Cr Cameron (acting chair), Cr Steindl
Lisa Kermode, Peter Cluff
Frank Perna, Margaret Lane
Bruce Milles

APOLOGIES: Stuart Holley, Saskia von Fahland, Cr Walker, Joan
Fitzsimmons

Cr Cameron welcomed Peter Cluff to the meeting.

CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting held 05/04/11 were accepted as a true and correct record (moved Lisa K, seconded Bruce M).

1. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

1. Coasts and Communities project update

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

The committee expressed its compliments to Kerri Woodcock from Reef Catchments for the development of the Coastal Project Update Brochure. A similar brochure and program of events is being developed for the Sarina Beaches.

Discussions have been held with QPWS with the view to include the Cape Hillsborough area in the next set of beach plans, due for release in March 2012.

The Far Beach area was discussed and Margaret raised the possibility of PCL being involved in the maintenance of past revegetation site in the area. Further discussions will be held with PCL regarding this when the beach plan is being developed.

2. Land for Wildlife Program

Updates were provided by the catchment groups.

Margaret will liaise with the catchment groups for minor alterations to the report, so that the reports from both groups are in the same formats.

The program is currently running well but some key challenges include:

- Developing a process for signs to be returned from properties that sold etc, and keeping abreast of properties changing hands.
- Developing a project to keep in contact with program participants, and to provide training, advice, networking opportunities and communications on an ongoing basis
- Offering revisits and further assessments to participants who have been part of the program for some time.

There has been a good response from the public regarding the program at recent markets and events held throughout the region.

3. Sarina and Mirani Landcare Support and Special Projects allocation

Reports were provided by the Pioneer and Sarina Catchment groups on the landcare support projects .

Reports were provided by SLCMA on the African Tulip and Community Native Gardens special projects.

Margaret updated the committee on the progress of the Pioneer River project.

Margaret will discuss a specific issue a property owner is having with riverbank erosion with Crs Cameron and Walker for advice on who to contact.

4. Natural Environment Plan Review

Kerri and Derek from Reef Catchments presented on the progress with the NEP review and the development of the website.

- The plan will cover all MRC areas
- The plan will be web based rather than paper based so it will be easy to update with new actions, community events and project reports etc.
- The scoring system for environmental values was discussed and several names were proposed for the units e.g. habitat value, biodiversity value, ecosystem services value etc
- The coastal chapter and the natural environment calendar were previewed on the website
- It is anticipated that the website will be live by October 2011

- Reef Catchments staff will present a draft list of priority coastal projects/zones at the August meeting.

5. Significant tree register

The committee were given the previous draft scope for consideration and discussion at the next meeting.

Frank suggested that the reference to trees on private land be deleted as it is recommended that the project only deals with trees on public land at the moment.

6. Environmental Levy brochure

The draft version of the brochure was circulated to the committee.

Discussion was held on updating the grant information and including details of specific projects including work at Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve, the Mackay Coasts and Community Projects, interpretive signage such as the turtle or shorebird signs, a shot of the NEP website, details of some of the Community Environmental Projects and some statistics e.g. number of trees planted, number of schools worked with etc. Cr Cameron asked that council be spelled with a capital C. Also include that council is actively involved in the purchase of strategic parcels of land in the brochure.

Committee members to email any additional comments on the brochure to Lisa.

Lisa will make changes and present back to the committee for further comment when completed.

2. FINANCIALS

The financial report was circulated in the meeting.

The committee asked that the financial report be circulated with the agenda. Lisa will seek approval from Stuart Holley.

The committee enquired about funding the stormwater officer position for 2011/12 and indicated that they had not recommended funding the position in 2011/12. The original agreement was to fund for 3 years only and additional funds had already been made available beyond this period.

Stuart Holley to be asked to report back at the next meeting on whether the funding for stormwater officers and projects has ceased, and also why the funding has continued longer than the originally agreed three year period.

(note: Robyn Birkett will also be presenting the highlights of the program over the last 3+ years).

3. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Pest Management Options

The background memo from Margaret Lane was briefly discussed. This will be considered in more detail at the next meeting.

Meeting closed 2.35 pm

Next meeting August 9th, 12-2pm Council Chambers.

Actions arising from this meeting (June 2011).

Action: Reef Catchments to present priority coastal projects/zones at the August meeting.

Action: Committee members to email any further ideas on the Environment Levy brochure to Lisa.

Action: Lisa to make the suggested changes to the Environment Levy brochure and present back to the committee for further comment.

Action: Lisa to prepare a scope of works for the Significant Tree Register and report back to the committee for further consideration.

Action: Lisa to seek approval from Stuart Holley to circulate the financial statements with the meeting agenda.

Action: Stuart Holley to report to the committee on the stormwater officer and project funding for 2011/12.

Action: Committee to consider the Pest Management proposal at the August meeting.

Outstanding actions (from previous meetings)

Action: Stuart Holley to report back to the group whether the proposed bridge in the tidal section of the Gooseponds will go ahead.

Action: Robyn Birkett to be asked to report back at next meeting on whether the Renae St GPT has been completed and why there is still an allocation of funding to the Caledonia Drive project.

Action: Joan to speak to Cr Hatfield about the proposed development off Kippen St and the condition of the state land.

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.