

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES2nd June 2009 – 12.00PM – 2.00PM

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

ATTENDANCE: Lisa Kermode,
Cr. May, Cr. Steindl, Cr. Cameron
Bruce Milles, Joan Fitzsimmons
Margaret Lane, Frank Perna

APOLOGIES: Helen Paulsen, Stuart Holley,
Saskia von Fahland, Lyn Stevens

1. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting held 31/02/09 were accepted as a true and correct record. Moved Margaret Lane, seconded Cr Steindl - carried

2. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MINUTES - MATTERS ARISING**1. Review of the Natural Environment Plan.**

This item has been deferred to the August meeting where Derek and Lisa will present a funding proposal

Action: Lisa and Derek to work on a funding proposal to be presented at the August meeting.

2. Significant Tree Study

A meeting of subgroup (Margaret and Lisa) is scheduled for mid June and it is anticipated that a more detailed scope of works will be available for the August meeting. It is considered important to develop a robust set of assessment criteria, possibly using the National Trust criteria as a guide, to ensure trees placed on the register are significant.

Action: Sub-committee to work on this project and report back to the committee at the August meeting.

3. Funding applications

The Midge Point Shoreline Erosion Management Plan funding application was submitted back in February 2009. Funding allocation has not yet been announced. Lisa has contacted the funding provider to confirm the application was received. It is anticipated that successful applicants will be notified in the next two months.

Action: Lisa to report back to the committee when the funding has been announced.

4. Are your garden plants going bush?

\$2000 was provided for the printing of this brochure as discussed at the last meeting. The brochure underwent a minor review and has now been printed. Copies are available from Lisa and Margaret. It was suggested that schools in the area would find this brochure useful.

Action: Lisa to discuss the communication plan for this brochure with the Mackay Regional Pest Management Group to ensure schools get a copy.

5. Draft Natural Environment Levy brochure

Lisa is updating the brochure to include more specific details about projects that have been funded in the past.

Action: Lisa to amend draft to include more specific details about projects that have been funded to date and circulate to the committee, together with estimates of printing costs.

Action: Committee to review draft, advise Lisa of any changes and discuss allocating funding for printing at the August meeting.

6. Gooseponds Tidal Reaches Masterplan

The committee discussed the extent to which actions had been implemented and potential future projects.

Action: A sub-group (consisting of Lisa, Margaret and Bruce) will meet to identify potential actions for implementation and report back to the group at the August meeting.

7. Slade Point Andergrove (Keeley's Rd) wetland project.

Margaret presented an overview of this project, which has been supported by Natural Environment Levy and Marine Beaches operational funds in partnership with Reef Catchments, Pioneer Catchment and Landcare group and local landholders (including the Port Authority and Wetland Walkabout). Significant work has been achieved in a targeted effort to control the invasive woody weed Broad-leafed Pepper Tree. Community capacity building and creating knowledge-sharing networks has also been a significant feature of this project. A summary sheet regarding the project and the work undertaken to date was circulated.

Action: Sub-group (consisting of Lisa, Margaret and Cr May) to meet to discuss potential opportunities for continuing and expanding this project.

8. Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve Management Plan

An update on the status of the Management Plan for Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve was provided by Derek Ball and Kerri Woodcock from Reef Catchments. The presentation included a summary of the major issues associated with the Reserve and the major management recommendations.

It is anticipated that the draft plan will be finalised shortly and will be available for community comment in June. The final plan will be circulated prior to the August meeting, so that discussion can take place regarding possible funding allocation at the August meeting.

Action: Lisa to continue to work with Reef Catchments to finalise the draft, and undertake community consultation, with a view to having the plan finalised by August.

3. STORMWATER PROJECTS UPDATE

Shelley Sharma gave an update on the major stormwater projects being undertaken.

Action: Stormwater officers to provide a map of all monitoring sites.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Committee member absence**

Committee member Lyn Stevens has advised the committee that she will be unable to attend committee meetings for 16 weeks.

Resolution: The committee resolved to allow Lyn to remain a member of the committee and to tender her apologies for the June and August meetings.

2. **Land for Wildlife**

Action: Lisa to provide an update on the project at the August meeting and include a brief update on Land for Wildlife initiatives and assessments undertaken at each meeting.

3. **Dog free and off lead areas**

Action: Report back to the committee whether council is identifying potential dog free and off lead areas, as part of the review of the Recreation and Open Space plans, or other initiative.

4. **Schools Program**

Action: Report back to the committee on the schools program, including the goals and the schools involved.

5. **Letter of thanks**

A letter of thanks from Mackay and District Turtlewatch Association was tabled. The group thanked the committee and council for the support provided enabling four members to attend the recent 29th Sea Turtle Symposium held in Brisbane.

6. **Reef Guardian Council**

Council has agreed to become a Reef Guardian Council. Staff are currently working on an action plan which is required as part of this program. There will be a regional launch of the program in July.

5. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 4th August 12-2pm (Council Chambers)
Lunch will be provided at 11.45am

Future meetings will be the first Tuesday of every second month
(6th October, 1st December)

Meeting closed at 2.10 pm

RECORDED BY: Lisa Kermode