

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES31st March 2009 – 12.00 – 2.00PM

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

ATTENDANCE: Lisa Kermode, Helen Paulsen,
Cr. May, Cr. Steindl, Cr. Cameron
Saskia von Fahland, Margaret Lane, Derek Ball
Bruce Milles, Lyn Stevens

APOLOGIES: Stuart Holley, Joan Fitzsimmons, Frank Perna

1. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the February meeting held 02/02/09 were accepted as a true and correct record.

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

Derek Ball gave an overview of the project as detailed in the project proposal considered at the February meeting, and the committee had the opportunity to ask questions.

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

2. Significant Tree Study

Action: Lisa to organise a meeting of the sub-committee to work on this project.

3. Draft Natural Environment Levy brochure

If anyone has comments on the brochure, please forward them to Lisa.

Action: Lisa to amend draft to include more specific details about projects that have been funded to date.

4. Funding applications

The Midge Point Shoreline Erosion Management Plan funding application has been submitted. A response back has not been received as yet.

The Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve Interpretive signage project funding application through the Natural Resource Awareness grants was unsuccessful. The approximate amount to develop and install 6 interpretive signs at Sandfly Creek which promote the value of the local biodiversity is \$13,500.

The committee recognised the importance of interpretive signage for the reserve.

Margaret Lane raised a motion to allocate \$20,000 from next year's Natural Environment Levy budget for implementation of recommendations from the Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve Management Plan. This motion was not carried.

The committee agreed to wait until the Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve Management Plan is produced and recommendations are made regarding priorities and opportunities for funding. The plan should be ready to be presented to the June NEAC meeting. Following this, the committee will assess the budgetary requirements for implementation of the plan and will make a recommendation to council regarding funding allocation and priorities for works.

3. STORMWATER PROJECTS UPDATE

Robyn Birkett gave an update on the major stormwater projects being undertaken.

Robyn's presentation is included as an attachment to the minutes.

The committee requested that a status report be given on the implementation of the Gooseponds Tidal Reaches Masterplan.

Action: an update on whether any recommendations contained in the Gooseponds Tidal Reaches Masterplan have been implemented will be given at the next meeting.

4. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Helen presented an overview of the 10-year budget.

The committee discussed the budget allocation for Sarina and Mirani based projects. PC&L and SLCMA expressed their willingness to work with council to suggest possible projects in these areas. The committee suggested that if there were unallocated funds in the budget, the priority should be to deliver projects in the Sarina and Mirani areas, since the majority of the expenditure so far has been in the Mackay area.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Recommendations for allocation of Community Environmental Projects Funding.

A total of \$20,000 is available for this funding round.

Council has already agreed to fund \$10,000 from this round and an additional \$10,000 from the next round to the Mackay Coastal Project. This leaves a total of \$10,000 to be allocated.

One funding application was received from Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group. The project is Nutrient Management for Weed Control in Mackay's Recreational Wetlands (Gooseponds and the Botanic Gardens Lagoon). The amount applied for is \$15,000.

One additional application was received a week after the closing date. This was from Pioneer High School, seeking funding to support weed control and tree planting work at the wetland on their school grounds, including repairs to the dam wall. The amount applied for is \$5000.

It was agreed that the application from Pioneer High School would be considered in the next funding round and that \$10,00 be allocated to the Pioneer Catchment & Landcare group project.

Action: Lisa will review the application form and revise if required and will email future applications to committee members to read prior to the meeting. Lisa will also notify applicants regarding the outcome of their applications.

2. Opportunity to fund reprint of 'Our Your Garden Plants Going Bush'

A nominal amount of (\$3000) has been set aside in the 08/09 budget to fund brochure production/printing. This amount has not been spent as yet

A funding request has been received from the Mackay Regional Pest Management Group for \$2000. Details provided as an attachment to the agenda.

Recommendation: The committee supports \$2000 being allocated for printing of this brochure.

3. Mackay Natural Environment Centre

Margaret raised concerns that the centre was operating with very little budget which limited the effectiveness of the program. An example of this was the lack of an automated sprinkler system which covers all areas of the nursery.

The committee will consider options for funding the centre at the next meeting.

4. Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve

Margaret raised concerns with maintenance of the Sustainable Landscapes Project planting at Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve and suggested that future projects need to be funded to be sustainable (ie sufficient funding needs to be allowed for ongoing maintenance of works).

5. Slade Point/Andergrove Wetlands

Action: Margaret and Lisa to provide an overview of this project at the next meeting.

6. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 2nd June 12-2pm (Council Chambers)
Lunch will be provided at 11.45am

Future meetings will be the first Tuesday of every second month
(4th August, 6th October, 1st December)

Meeting closed at 2.50 pm

RECORDED BY: Lisa Kermode