

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2013 – 12.30 noon – 2.30 PM

Council Chambers

**ATTENDANCE:** Cr Jones, Cr Morgan (chair)  
Lisa Kermode, Stuart Holley  
Peter Alden, Saskia von Fahland, Di Williams, Derek Ball  
(proxy for Rob Cocco)  
Bruce Milles

**APOLOGIES:** Joan Fitzsimmons, Rob Cocco

1. **CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The minutes of the previous meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> December 2012 were accepted as a true and correct record, with a request for a minor correction of SLCMA's name.

2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

1. Action: Map showing St Helens campground fencing to be sent to Crs Jones and Morgan

Completed

2. Action: Meeting to be organised between Peter Alden and Stuart Holley to confirm the process to be followed for declaring weeds

Discussions held, follow up discussions to be organised

3. Action: Stuart Holley to follow up about the East Point Development and report back

Stuart reported that this matter is currently with the planning court and further information will be given when available.

Action: Stuart Holley will report back to the committee about the East Point development when further information is available.

3. **PRESENTATIONS**

1. Presentation of proposed activities at the Mackay Natural Environment Centre – Richard Brown from MRC.

This presentation was deferred. A revised version of the plan will be circulated shortly with a view to obtaining out-of-session feedback on funding the recommended projects.

**Action:** Meeting with the councillors to be organised prior to each NEAC meeting to discuss agenda and reports.

#### **4. GENERAL BUSINESS**

##### **1. Coasts and Communities project/coastal activities update**

The committee received a detailed report on this item.

**Action:** Saskia to provide more information to Stuart Holley regarding the potential requirement for fencing to be included in a development project at Salonika Beach

Cr Jones mentioned a sum of money available from the now defunct Friends of Slade Point Reserve which could be used to purchase materials for projects in the reserve. Recommendations to be made to Cr Jones about potential purchases.

##### **2. Land for Wildlife Program**

The committee received an update on this project.

##### **3. Landcare Group support projects**

Detailed reports on this item were received.

##### **4. Special Projects funded projects**

A report on the Sarina Community Native Gardens Project was received.

Saskia advised that a native garden completion was planned for September.

##### **5. Significant tree register**

Update provided as per agenda.

## 6. Blacks Beach Spit

Update provided as per agenda.

It is anticipated that the draft report will be presented to the next NEAC meeting, followed by a briefing to council. An engagement plan will be developed.

The committee discussed matters relating to tracks, picnic tables and bins.

Cr Jones mentioned a letter from the Mackay Recreational Fishers Alliance Inc congratulating council on keeping the Spit as an Environmental Reserve with **NO** vehicle access.

## 7. Land Acquisition Policy

**Recommendation:** That council adopt the revised Land Acquisition Policy and consider reviewing the policy at a later date to incorporate land acquisition as one of a suite of methods to protect and restore biodiversity.

The committee discussed other potential ways to achieve biodiversity outcomes such as the Land for Wildlife Project, Nature Refuges, Reef Rescue, establishment of a revolving fund to purchase land, register a covenant and on sell land etc.

## 8. Community Environment Grants

Reports provided on the SLCMA Community Nursery Equipment Supply Project and the SLCMA Rainwater Tank Installation Project.

### *February Grant Round*

No grant applications were received.

## 5. FINANCIALS

**Action:** Predictions for expenditure to the end of the financial year to be presented at the next meeting.

## 6. OTHER BUSINESS

**1. Natural Environment Plan Priority Projects**

**Action:** Recommendations for priority projects for 2013/14 will be presented at the next meeting.

**2. McReady's Creek Reserve**

Cr Jones suggested Council consider developing a management plan for this area.

Meeting closed 2 pm

Next meeting: 26<sup>th</sup> March - Council Chambers 12.30-2.30pm  
Apologies – Bruce Milles, Peter Alden

## 7. UPDATED ACTION LIST

### **Actions arising from this meeting**

**Action:** Meeting with the councillors to be organised prior to each NEAC meeting to discuss agenda and reports.

**Action:** Saskia to provide more information to Stuart Holley regarding the potential requirement for fencing to be included in a development project at Salonika Beach

**Action:** Predictions for expenditure to end of financial year to be presented at the next meeting.

**Action:** Recommendations for priority projects for 2013/14 will be presented at the next meeting.

### **Actions arising from the December meeting**

**Action:** Further discussion to be had between Peter Alden and Stuart Holley to confirm the process to be followed for declaring weeds.

**Action:** Stuart Holley to follow up about the East Point Development and report back.

### **Actions arising from previous meetings**

**Action:** Cr Morgan, Jessica Renton, Stuart Holley and Peter Cluff to discuss the potential to increase penalty units (particularly for vegetation clearing) with local laws staff and report back to the committee

**Action:** Councillors to discuss with Stuart Holley and investigate how the Natural Environment Plan could inform development and report back to the committee.

**Action:** Lisa update the Environment Levy brochure *In progress*

**Action:** Committee to consider the Pest Management proposal at the August meeting.  
*To be considered by the committee*