

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 3rd April 2012 – 12.00PM – 2.00PM

Council Chambers

ATTENDANCE: Cr Walker, Cr Cameron, Cr Paul Steindl, Stuart Holley, Lisa Kermode, Robert Cocco, Joan Fitzsimmons, Margaret Lane and Saskia von Fahland.

APOLOGIES: Peter Cluff, Jessica Renton and Bruce Milles.

1. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was clarified that funding for the Peri Urban Project is provided by Reef Catchments and is not necessarily fully funded. The project may be bigger than expected which would affect the amount of funding required. Additional funding would enable a bigger project to be undertaken.

It was noted that the minutes of the previous meeting held 14th February 2012 were adopted by Council on 7th March 2012.

The minutes of the previous meeting held 14th February 2012 were accepted as a true and correct record.

Moved Margaret Lane

Seconded Lisa Kermode

CARRIED

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

1. Environmental Ranger

This discussion was deferred to the next meeting as Jessica could not attend the April meeting.

2. Sustainable Futures Committee

Hailey Bolland provided an overview on the role of the Sustainable Futures Advisory Committee and sub-committees. Some of the recent projects the committee has achieved include:

- The introduction of 4 Policies which promote sustainability
- Mackay Region Carpool
- Carbon Warrior Kits
- "MyFootPrint" Community Campaign

Action: Lisa to invite Hailey to every second Committee meeting to provide an update on her work.

Action: Lisa to email Committee Members a copy of the Reef Guardian Action Plan for information.

3. Climate Monitoring in the Mackay Region

A potential biodiversity monitoring project at Mount Dalrymple was presented to key Council staff on Monday 19th March by Professor Roger Kitching of Griffith University Queensland.

Issues such as access to the site, funding and who will monitor the data will need to be discussed further before making a decision on this project. It is anticipated that a more detailed brief will be submitted for the committee's consideration next financial year.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Coasts and Communities project/coastal activities update

A detailed report on this item was provided by Lisa.

2. Land for Wildlife Program

A detailed report on Land for Wildlife Program was received.

Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association is currently working on upgrading the access database of registered participants.

3. Sarina and Mirani Special Projects allocation

These reports were not received prior to the meeting.

The Pioneer Landcare Support Project report was tabled at the meeting.

Action: Lisa to email the Sarina Landcare Support Project reports to members when received.

4. Update on Natural Environment Plan

Committee members have been supplied with the password for accessing the NEP website and are now able to make comments. Kerri is in the process of updating the plan based on the comments received and the report/website should be finalised shortly.

It was noted that work on the NEP to date has been excellent.

5. Community Grants

SLCMA have submitted two grant applications for the community grants round in February. These were not considered in the originally submitted category and the grants team has requested that they be considered under the Natural Environment

Grants category. Projects can be considered by the committee at any time, or held over until the next grant round (August 2012).

The applications were as follows:

1. \$4000 – for 2 water tanks for the nursery.
2. \$665 – for tools & equipment for the nursery & volunteers: including a cement mixer, hand tools, gloves and chairs.

At 1.15pm Saskia left the room while a discussion was held.

It was also noted that administration and delivery costs are included in the price for the two water tanks.

Saskia returned to the room at 1.19pm.

Recommendation: The Committee recommends that Council acquit funding to the SLCMA on 1 July 2012 of \$4000 to fund two water tanks for the nursery and \$656 to purchase tools and equipment for the nursery and volunteers.

Moved Margaret Lane

Seconded Joan Fitzsimmons
CARRIED

6. MRPMG representation on the NEAC

Council has received a letter from the Mackay Regional Pest Management Group requesting that consideration be given to appointing a MRPMG representative on the committee. The person proposed is Peter Alden who currently works for DEEDI.

Having a representative from the Mackay Regional Pest Management Group will strengthen working relationships between the Committee and Pest Management.

Recommendation: The Committee supports the inclusion of a representative from MRPMG and to allow this to take place a review of the Terms of Reference will need to be undertaken.

Moved Margaret Lane

Seconded Joan Fitzsimmons
CARRIED

4. FINANCIALS

Members reviewed the changes made to the 2011/12 Environmental Levy Reconciliation with no further changes to be made.

Action: Lisa to include the Significant Tree Register as a permanent item on the NEAC Agenda.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

1. SEMP Midge Point

A preliminary draft of the Midge Point SEMP (Shoreline Erosion Management Plan) has been received. An initial internal review will be required before organising a briefing to the new council and undertaking community consultation.

2. Fishways

Margaret discussed developing a program to monitor Fishways which would track fish numbers to determine whether Fishways are making a difference to fish ecosystems. If developed within the next 18 months, this program could monitor three Fishways at the bottom of the Botanic Gardens Lagoon.

Funding for this type of program will be an issue as it is DPI who request the inclusion of Fishways, not Council.

Action: Margaret to discuss presenting information to Council with Tim Marsden from DPI.

3. Signage at Bluewater Trail

Lisa reported there are generic mangrove signs from DPI and F which are available and ready for installation, however the intention is to develop interpretive signage that is specific to the location. This can be a project for next financial year and will tie in with the existing signage in the Sandfly Creek section.

Action: Lisa and Margaret to discuss content and positioning of new interpretive signs along Bluewater Trail.

4. Pest Management

Council is looking into getting a pest management company added to its Standing Offer Arrangements (SOA).

5. Leucaena

Leucaena is not currently listed as a declared weed which makes it difficult to treat. Council requires recommendations from the Pest Management group before being able to start processes to have Leucaena, and any other recommended plants, declared weeds.

Meeting closed 2.15 pm

Next meeting 5th June, 12.00-2.00pm Council Chambers.

Actions arising from this meeting: April 2012

Action: Lisa to invite Hailey to every second Committee meeting to provide an update on her work.

Action: Lisa to email Committee Members a copy of Reef Guardian Action Plan for information.

Action: Lisa to email the Sarina Landcare Support Project report to members when received.

Recommendation: The Committee recommends that Council acquit funding to the SLCMA on 1 July 2012 of \$4000 to fund two water tanks for the nursery and \$656 to purchase tools and equipment for the nursery and volunteers.

Recommendation:

The Committee supports the inclusion of a representative from MRPMG and to allow this to take place a review of the Terms of Reference will need to be undertaken.

Action: Lisa to include the Significant Tree Register as a permanent item on the NEAC Agenda.

Action: Margaret to discuss presenting information to Council with Tim Marsden from DPI.

Action: Lisa and Margaret to discuss content and positioning of new interpretive signs along Bluewater Trail.

Actions arising from previous meetingsFebruary 2012

Action - Lisa to amend the 2012/13 budget as per meeting discussions.
Completed

Action - Lisa to investigate what capital works are required at the Natural Environment Centre and report back to Stuart Holley. In progress

Recommendation – The Committee recommends that Council acquit funding to the Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group Inc. on 1 July 2012 of \$4065 to fund the Nest Box project and \$6714 over three years starting on 1 July 2012 for the *Ruellia tweediana* trial and treatment sites project. (\$2214 in year 1, \$2034 in year 2 and \$2467 in year 3) Completed

Action - Lisa to investigate the Grant Policy to determine if the Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group Inc. will have any issue applying for future grants within the next three years as the Ruellia grant will not be finalised until 2015.
Completed

Action - Cr Cameron to forward detailed information to Robert.

December 2011

Action: Stuart Holley to investigate the status of the East Point development and provide an update to the February meeting. Completed

Action: Lisa to enquire about the committals for the Mirani projects.

Action: Committee to consider the 2012/13 budget at the February meeting.
Completed

Action: Reef Catchments to provide access to the NEP website for committee members and present the priority ranges, plains and waterways projects at the February meeting. Completed

October 2011

Recommendation: That council further investigate opportunities to purchase the land at Blacks Beach Spit and keep the committee informed of progress.

June 2011

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

In progress

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