

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 11th June 2013 – 12.30 – 2.30 PM

Engineering Conference Room

ATTENDANCE: Cr Morgan (chair)
Lisa Kermode, Stuart Holley, Peter Cluff
Peter Alden, Di Williams, Sal Gray (proxy for Rob Cocco)
Joan Fitzsimmons

APOLOGIES: Rob Cocco, Cr Jones, Saskia von Fahland, Bruce Milles,
Lydia Gibson

1. **CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The minutes of the previous meeting held 26th March 2013 were accepted as a true and correct record.

Moved - Joan Fitzsimmons, Seconded - Lisa Kermode.

2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

1. **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

Stuart advised that this information had been provided and that he is currently working through the issue.

3. **PRESENTATIONS**

The presentation from Wild Mob has been deferred to the August meeting as the presenter was unable to attend today's meeting.

4. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

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

The committee received a detailed report on this item.

Additional items discussed included:

- Blacks Beach Spit Management Plan is now available for public comment and submissions are welcome. The closing date for receipt of submissions is close of business Friday 5th July 2013.
- Vandalism of revegetation at Bucasia. Options include investigating higher resolution surveillance cameras, installing additional cameras and using billboard- type signage or shipping containers to block potential views gained.
- Coasts and Communities activities are scheduled for Saturday 15th June - 9-11 am at Ball Bay and 2-4 pm at Bucasia.
- There will also be a community day held at the Gooseponds on Saturday 15th June as part of the Reef Guardians project.
- The Mackay Coastal Clean up activity targeting beaches in the Sarina area held in May was a great success. Approximately 200 volunteers attended. Council supports this event through staff time and the provision of quad bikes to assist with the clean up, as well as assisting with advertising and promotion. The next event will be held in October and Council is planning on adopting at least one beach - most likely Blacks Beach Spit. The adopting group is responsible for recruiting volunteers and providing general support on the day.

Action: Lisa will circulate information on the Coasts and Communities activities and the Gooseponds open day for the attention of committee members and councillors.

2. Land for Wildlife Program

The committee received an update on this project.

It is anticipated that the agreed works will be completed by the contract expiry date of 1st November. Funds for this project will be expended prior to the end of the financial year.

Joan mentioned that Landcare Facilitator funding arrangements had changed. Lisa advised that this is not expected to impact the Land for Wildlife Program as Council funds the landcare groups to deliver this program and the Project Officer/Manager are responsible for delivery, not the Landcare Facilitator.

3. Landcare Group support projects

Detailed reports on this item were received.

It is anticipated that that the agreed works will be completed by the contract expiry date. Funds for this project will be expended prior to the end of the financial year. The contracts with Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group and Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association expire in January 2014.

4. Significant tree register

Update provided as per agenda.

5. Community Environmental Grants

Update provided as per agenda

5. FINANCIALS

The financial statements as at end May 2013 were discussed.

Joan asked how the interest was calculated. Stuart advised that interest accrued on the balance of both the Natural Environment Levy and the Land Acquisition Fund and was added to the accounts each month.

There has not yet been any formal advice given on whether the funding application for the purchase of the Blacks Beach Spit was successful.

It was noted that Council recently received a briefing on the research project underway in the Eungella area. The potential exists to contribute funding towards this project in the future from the Natural Environment Levy, should a funding submission be received.

Recommendation: that 'in principle' support be given to providing funding support for the Eungella research project if required.

Moved Joan Fitzsimmons, Seconded Cr Morgan.

It was noted that spending was on track this financial year.

The washdown facility project was discussed. Peter Alden advised that the identified preferred site is not preferred by the Mackay Whitsunday Pest Management Group. A report is due to be submitted for the project and will be presented to the NEA Committee at the August meeting.

Joan asked how projects were proposed for funding. Lisa gave an overview of the prioritisation process.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Peter Alden advised that a new weed had been found at Kuttabul, called *Blainvillea gayana*. It is a daisy-type plant (in the family Asteraceae) and is an annual herb. It was found in a paddock and has been controlled by the landholder. The site will be monitored. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry will produce a brochure and media releases to inform the community about this new weed.
2. Peter Alden advised that the pest book 'Weeds of Mackay Region' is being prepared. A grant has been received to publish 2000 copies. An official launch is planned. The format of the book is similar to 'Weeds of South-east Queensland'.
3. Local weeds declaration. The committee can give a recommendation about this at the August meeting for Council's consideration.
4. Joan mentioned that Kerri from Reef Catchments raised the possibility of a planning scheme overlay to show natural vs. park areas, at the recent Healthy Natural Environment Planning Scheme Information session.

Action: Lisa to discuss a potential natural areas overlay with Kerri.

Meeting closed 1.30 pm

Next meeting: 6th August - Council Chambers 12.30-2.30pm

7. UPDATED ACTION LIST

Actions arising from this meeting

Action: Lisa will circulate information on the Coasts and Communities activities and the Gooseponds open day for the attention of committee members and councillors.

Action: Lisa to discuss a potential natural areas overlay with Kerri.

Actions arising from February meeting

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
Completed

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
In progress

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 to 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