

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Lisa Kermode, Helen Paulsen, Stuart Holley, Cr. May, Cr. Cameron.

APOLOGIES: Nil

1. Membership

The following nominations were received for the three group representative positions:

- Reef Catchments nominee – Derek Ball (Biodiversity and Marine Operations Manager and previous committee representative)
- Pioneer Catchment and Landcare nominee – Margaret Lane (Chairperson)
- Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association nominee – Saskia von Fahland (Coordinator)

The following nominations were received for the two community group positions

2 community representative positions

- Lynette Stevens
- Bruce Milles (previous committee representative)
- Joan Fitzsimons (previous committee representative)

The committee considered the applications and resolved to accept the nominations for the three group representative positions, and to appoint the three applicants for the community representative positions. The committee also resolved to ask Cr Paul Steindl (Health, Sport and Recreation portfolio) to join the committee, as many projects the committee considers have pest management components, which is one of Cr Steindl's areas of responsibility.

Recommendation: that council vary the terms of reference for the committee to allow membership to consist of three council officers, three councillor's, three nominated group representatives and three community representatives, and that all 6 applicants and Cr Steindl be appointed to the committee.

Action: Lisa Kermode to notify applicants of their appointment, once approved by council.

2. Community Environmental Project allocation

The committee considered the applications received and resolved to recommend allocating the \$25,000 to the following partnership projects:

1. Mackay and District Turtlewatch Association – Council to purchase a 4wd buggy vehicle to be utilised by the group for turtle monitoring purposes between October and April each year. The vehicle will be used for Council projects at other times. Allocation: up to \$15,000, with any additional costs to be covered within the Parks and Environment operational budget.

2. Morag McNichol Reserve - \$5,000 to assist the group with revegetation and weed control work in the reserve, in partnership with Natural Environment staff.
3. Beaconsfield State School - \$5,000 to enable the school to continue the environmental education program in partnership with Natural Environment staff.

Action: Lisa Kermode and Helen Paulsen to liaise with MDTWA and council's fleet staff regarding vehicle requirements.

3. Other business

1. Next meeting

The committee will meet on 20th January 2009 at 10am in council chambers to discuss the February meeting agenda and opportunities for the promotion of the Natural Environment Levy, the Natural Environment Advisory Committee and the Community Environmental Projects program.

Action: Lisa Kermode to send a request for this meeting.

2. Sandfly Creek Management Plan submissions

Lisa reported that seven submissions had been received, ranging in price from \$8,000 to over \$60,000. A recommendation regarding the preferred applicant will be sent to the committee for approval as soon as possible.

Meeting closed at 3.00 pm

RECORDED BY: Lisa Kermode