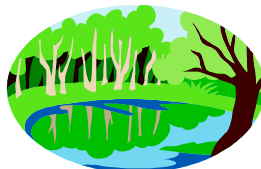


HERBERT RIVER IMPROVEMENT TRUST

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY 11 APRIL 2013

AT 9.00 A M



- A. ATTENDANCE – Present were Mr WH Pickering (Chairperson), Cr DG Carr (Member), Cr WG Skinner (Member), Mr BE Leach (Trust Engineer) and Mr S Hall (Trust Works Manager)
- B. APOLOGIES – Ms Leanne Mash (Trust Secretary) and Michael Nash Terrain NRM Coordinator

Trust Chair explained when the meeting commenced that the Trust Engineer's absence was due to the need for him to ring Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QldRA) prior to this meeting. Mr Pickering continued to update Members on the NDRRA Cyclone Yasi submission issues and the Trust's recent discussions with Minister Andrew Cripps wherein the Minister suggested that the northern trusts band together to lobby the Federal Government regarding its submissions. A person with an Engineering type background should also be present when meeting with the Federal Government (perhaps Bruce Leach). It was also suggested that the Trust should inform the Federal Member for Kennedy, The Hon Bob Katter of the Trust's obstacles being encountered as a matter of courtesy.

Trust Engineer entered the meeting at 9.25am

Trust Engineer advised that he had telephoned Greg Mellis of QldRA whom advised QldRA has informed the Department of Natural Resources and Mines in writing that in their opinion the Trust's Yasi claim could be assessed under the Federal guidelines and the delay is currently with the Department. It was suggested the Trust write to the Department seeking a response in relation to the progress on the outcome of the Trust's submissions.

Resolved - That the Trust seek a formal response from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines regarding the progress of the Trust's NDRRA Yasi funding submissions.
(Crs Skinner and Carr – Carried)

- C. MINUTES - Confirmation of Minutes of the General Meeting held on 7 March 2013.

Resolved – That the minutes of the General Meeting held on 7 March 2013 be approved.
(Crs - Carr and Skinner - Carried)

D. WORKS REPORT –

Consideration of Trust Engineer's February and March 2013 report of works performed to date and activities in progress.

Discussion occurred regarding the WBM Risk Analysis being carried out for Lower Herbert and the Trust's plan for discussion at the impending meeting with Lower Herbert residents at Halifax at 2.00pm.

Resolved – That the Report be received and noted.
(Crs Carr and Skinner - Carried)

The meeting adjourned at 10.45 am for morning tea.

The Trust participated in a GIS presentation with Hinchinbrook Shire Council's Asset Management Coordinator, David Laakso at 11.00 am and the meeting resumed at 11.25 am

Consideration of GIS presentation of Trust Assets.

Resolved – That the Presentation be received and noted.
(Mr Pickering and Cr Skinner - Carried)

E. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AND STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS -

The Secretary submitted accounts for payment as hereunder and statements of receipts and disbursements for the period up to 11 April 2013:-

<u>General Fund</u> -	EFT.....	<u>\$78,430.42</u>
		<u>\$78,430.42</u>

Resolved – That payment of accounts as submitted be approved and the statement of receipts and disbursements be received and noted.
(Crs Skinner and Carr - Carried)

F. SESSION WITH HERBERT RIVER CATCHMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

It was noted that Michael Nash was an apology.

Consideration of request from Catchment Coordinator and Acting Terrain NRM, Hinchinbrook Area Team Leader, Mr Michael Nash for Trust to discuss QRA – ELR projects funded by Terrain especially in relation to how the Trust intends to move forward with Girgenti's (or back up jobs) if the necessary approvals have not been forthcoming and progress to date on other approved works.

It was noted that the permit for Girgenti has not been forthcoming due to the tidal works permit not being issued from the Department of Environment and Heritage.

Resolved – The Trust submit the following works for Critical Water Course Riparian and Beach Recovery funding in lieu of Girgenti:-

1. Cuzzubbo (Ripple Creek);
 2. Tua (Herbert River); and
 3. Balanzategui (Stone River).
- (Mr Pickering and Cr Carr - Carried)

G. CORRESPONDENCE –

1. DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES

Consideration of letter dated 13 March 2013 seeking the Trust's views and / or requirements in relation to an Application for Renewal of Lease SP205034 over Lot 127 on CWL3680. The proposed use of the land is primary industry (cane growing). (101/0004)

Resolved – The Trust advise the Department of Natural Resources and Mines that it does not have any views or requirements in regard to the proposed lease renewal.
(Crs Skinner and Carr - Carried)

2. RECORD OF INSPECTION – THURSDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2013

Consideration of Record of Inspection from Trust Engineer dated 3 April 2013 regarding inspections carried out by the Trust on 7 February 2013 at Northern end of Gangemi's Road, Halifax Washaway, Skene's Avenue Halifax, Mona Road Halifax, River Avenue Halifax, and Old Wharf Road Macknade.

Resolved – That the Report be received and noted.
(Crs Skinner and Carr - Carried)

3. RECORD OF INSPECTION – THURSDAY 7 MARCH 2013

Consideration of Record of Inspection from Trust Chairperson dated 7 March 2013 regarding inspections carried out by the Trust on 7 March 2013 at Halifax Museum Gallery (Halifax Progress Association), Old Wharf Road (Macknade) and Skene's Avenue (Halifax).

Resolved – That the Report be received and noted.
(Mr Pickering and Cr Carr - Carried)

4. RECORD OF DISCUSSIONS – MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES (NRM) THE HON ANDREW CRIPPS, HINCHINBROOK ELECTORATE OFFICE – THURSDAY 28 MARCH 2013

Consideration of Record of Discussions between Trust Members and the Hon Andrew Cripps on Thursday 28 March 2013.

The Meeting noted:-

- the Minister stated at the meeting that he would follow up with his Department regarding the Trust's NDRRA submissions situation;
- the Minister indicated he shared the Trust's concerns in regard to its ability to maintain assets into the future given the loss of NDRRA eligibility in natural disasters, however he noted that the change in eligibility was as a result of a decision by the Commonwealth rather than the State and suggested the Trust approach the federal Attorney General with its concerns;
- in relation to the Trust's suggestion to impose a moratorium for the Herbert until the new legislation is established regarding levees, the Minister indicated that a moratorium could only be implemented where there was regulatory framework in place;
- the Minister updated the Trust on progress with the Land Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and requested the Trust to put forward a submission;
- the Minister was interested to hear of the Trust's work undertaken in its Herbert River Levee Modelling Study and encouraged the Trust to make a submission to the Parliamentary Committee to progress the Bill. A copy of the Study was provided to the Minister.

Resolved – That the Report be received and noted.
(Mr Pickering and Cr Carr - Carried)

5. TRUST SUBMISSION IN RELATION TO THE LAND, WATER AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2013

Consideration of Trust correspondence dated 3 April 2013 forwarding the Trust's submissions to the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee in relation to the Land, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013.

Resolved – That the correspondence be received and noted.
(Crs Skinner and Carr - Carried)

6. QUESTIONNAIRE – FLOOD LEVEES IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

Consideration of Trust answers (dated 3 April 2013) to Department of Natural Resources and Mines' questionnaire for information regarding existing and possible construction of levees in the local area. The questionnaire is borne from the Queensland Government's investigation of options for the regulation of levee banks, as part of the implementation of the recommendations of the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry. The Department has been in discussion with the Local Government Association of Queensland on the likely implications of any new regulatory proposals and in order to assess any possible impacts as a result of the proposals, the Department requires information on the existence of levees in each local council area. The information will be used to prepare a draft regulatory impact statement which will detail the costs associated with the regulatory proposals which is expected to be released for public comment later this year and community feedback will be considered as part of developing the management framework for new levees.

Resolved – That the questionnaire and response be received and noted.
(Crs Skinner and Carr – Carried)

7. STATE COUNCIL OF RIVER TRUSTS

Consideration of correspondence dated 8 April 2013 updating the Trust on the State Council Executive's actions over the last few months:-

- 30 January 2013 – met with Minister to discuss matters of concern to Trusts. The question of NDRRA funding being unavailable for most of the Trust's assets was raised and the Minister's response was that he had written to the Prime Minister regarding this and had not received a response. To date the Executive have not heard anything further. A request for an increase in the amount of the annual grant was also raised with the Minister however he was not sympathetic and the State Council Secretary asked for at least a CPI increase.
- Attended a meeting with Department Officers regarding legislation to regulate levees and the minutes were circulated in early February. The Executive has not heard if the necessary legislation has gone before the House yet.
- The changes to the River Improvement Trust Act are included in the Water and Other Legislation Amendment (WOLA) Bill which is currently going through the Parliamentary process.
- Whitsunday have booked a venue for the State Council Conference on the 10 and 11 October 2013. Thursday night will be the welcome party and Friday the conference with inspections in the afternoon.
- The Executive has not received any claims for subsidy as yet and urging the Trust to send them in as soon as possible and not wait until the last week in June 2013.

(104/0001)

Resolved – That the correspondence be received and noted.
(Crs Carr and Skinner - Carried)

H. GENERAL BUSINESS –

Cr Carr raised the issue of debris that needs clearing between Catherina Creek and the floodgates which is choking the creek. It was suggested that a letter be forwarded to Mr David Pearson requesting permission to carry out maintenance in this creek and the Trust Engineer investigate the possibility of carrying out this work as Trust maintenance taking into account that the work has to relate to an asset.

Resolved – That the Trust investigate clearing maintenance work in Catherina Creek and seek permission from the landowner to enter his property to carry out the work.
(Cr Carr and Skinner – Carried)

The Trust also agreed to meet with Mr Tim Smith of the Cairns River Improvement Trust on Thursday 18 April 2013.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.06 pm and resumed at 2.00pm.

I. HALIFAX LEVEE DISCUSSIONS –

The Trust met with Lower Herbert residents at 2.00 pm at the Halifax Hall to discuss their concerns with the Halifax Levee in flood events.

J. CONCLUSION – The meeting concluded at 4.00 pm.

Mr WH Pickering
TRUST CHAIRPERSON