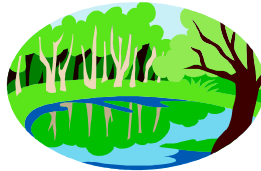


HERBERT RIVER IMPROVEMENT TRUST

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY 18 APRIL 2013

AT 2.15 PM



- A. ATTENDANCE – Present were Mr RA Bosworth (New Chairperson), Cr DG Carr (Member), Cr WG Skinner (Member), Mr GB Accornero (Member), Mr KT Phillips (Member), Mr BE Leach (Trust Engineer) and Ms LE Mash (Trust Secretary).

Also in attendance were the outgoing Chairperson Mr WH Pickering and Mr Tim Smith of the Cairns River Improvement Trust.

- B. BUSINESS

The new Chair, Mr Arthur Bosworth welcomed members, and acknowledged the immediate past Chair Mr Bill Pickering. Chair asked Mr Pickering to take the floor and speak to the purpose of the meeting.

Mr Pickering noted and congratulated new HRIT Members. Mr Pickering made note of his disappointment that as an unsuccessful applicant he has to date received no advice from the Department as to the outcome from the process.

Mr Pickering gave a summary of the historic content of NDRRA decisions with regard the eligibility of Trust assets to claim funding from the NDRRA Program. Mr Pickering spoke to the inclusion of the Northern Trusts in a document going forward to the Federal Government to represent the current position.

Mr Pickering went on to thank the many past Trust Members and associated Officers. Particular mention was made of Bruce Leach as Trust Engineer, the on the ground workforce who completed Trust works, Carol Trost for managing trust finances and Belinda Edwards and administration staff for their support. Thanks were made to Councillors Skinner and Carr for their efforts and involvement to date.

Trust Engineer, Bruce Leach explained the current 2012 situation including ineligibility of Trust assets and the likelihood of assets now not being approved for repair.

Tim Smith referred to the Discussion Paper written by Bruce Leach in 2012 and thanked him for his efforts. Tim spoke to the position Cairns, Johnstone and Cardwell Trusts find themselves in post Yasi.

Tim spoke to history of Northern Trusts of Cairns, Johnstone and Cardwell. The situation post Yasi has left these three Trusts in dire straights. The Trusts have taken their concerns to the political arena with deputations, letters and the like.

General discussion ensued regarding NDRRA both past and present, land holder contributions, tidal works, the difference between maintenance works and capital projects and the future funding situation.

Meetings have been held with Minister Cripps. To date the progress from such meetings has been marginal. It is felt by some that the public servants at a State level may be hampering progress on several matters.

Past land owner contributions in the Herbert have been based on the Trust maintaining assets into the future. A position was put to the State that funding was required to complete outstanding maintenance of such assets then the Trust would exit from ownership of such assets thus avoiding future repair to these assets after natural disasters.

Discussions regarding possible future meetings with the Minister and the involvement of the Northern Trusts in ongoing discussions.

Discussions as to targeting the State or Federal Government regarding which level would prove most successful to bring about required actions and a decent way forward.

HRIT proposed to meet with Minister Cripps to discuss a way forward in light of the upcoming Federal Elections. A presentation should be developed to allow the Minister to convey Trust concerns to his colleagues and the Federal Government.

ACTION - Trust Engineer to update the 2012 Report with the current situation in conjunction with Tim Smith. Circulate the revised paper to Trust Members. Table at the next meeting of the Trust for further discussion.

Trust Chairperson, Mr. Arthur Bosworth spoke to the relevance of delegation sizes when speaking with Ministers.

3.05pm Bruce Leach and Bill Pickering left the meeting.

ACTION - Trust Secretary to supply the previous information regarding the approaches made by the Trust to the Department to progress eligibility issues including the involvement of the Ombudsman Office to Trust Members.

ACTION - Secretary to invite relevant members of the Department to meet with the Trust to meet the new Members, discuss departmental priorities and move forward on relevant issues.

Discussion of a public meeting once there is surety around the way forward. Agreed that this should be held once there is some certainty around the position of funding going forward.

Awareness of the upcoming Federal Election and the campaign visits that may be paid to the area. To have a briefing paper ready for use should such opportunities arise to meet with campaigning politicians.

ACTION - Dinner to be held for the immediate past Chair to thank him for his efforts. Trust Members, past Trust Members, Councillors, past Trust Officers to be invited and other identified guests. Prefer Friday night. Prefer TYTO and cater from Majestic Café. Guests invited at per head cost, past Chair and wife as guests of Trust. Gift to present on the night.

ACTION - Create a new HRIT email group.

C. CONCLUSION – The meeting concluded at 3.45 pm.

Mr R A Bosworth
TRUST CHAIRPERSON