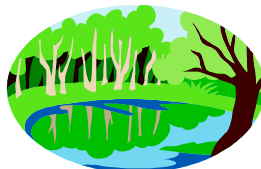


HERBERT RIVER IMPROVEMENT TRUST

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY 26TH APRIL, 2012

AT 9.00 A.M.



- A. ATTENDANCE – Present were Mr. W.H. Pickering (Chairperson), Cr. G.P. Gianotti (Member), Cr. P.D. Lynch (Member), Mr. R.W. Clark (Trust Secretary), Mr. B.E. Leach (Trust Engineer), and Mr. S. Hall (Trust Works Manager).

- B. MINUTES -

Confirmation of Minutes of the General Meeting held on the 29th March, 2012.

Resolved – That the minutes of the General Meeting held on the 29th March, 2012 be approved.
(Crs. Gianotti and Lynch - Carried)

- C. WORKS REPORT –

Consideration of Trust Engineer's March, 2012 report of works performed to date and activities in progress.

Resolved – That the Report be received and noted.
(Crs. Lynch and Gianotti - Carried)

- D. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT -

1. The Secretary submitted accounts for payment as hereunder and statements of receipts and disbursements for the period up to 26th April, 2012:-

<u>General Fund</u> -	Cheque	\$Nil
	EFT.....	\$9,222.79
		<u>\$9,222.79</u>

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

Cr. G. Gianotti left the meeting at 10.10 a.m. and returned at 11.00 a.m.

E. SESSION WITH MICHAEL NASH OF HERBERT RIVER CATCHMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE.

Consideration of discussions held with the Catchment Coordinator and Acting Terrain NRM, Hinchinbrook Area Team Leader, Mr. Michael Nash who advised that he has finalised the Reef Rescue project proposal for the Morselli location, subject to completion of budget information with Hinchinbrook Shire Council Engineering staff. Michael further advised that CSIRO are undertaking a barra migration and water quality project with assistance from the Catchment Group.

The meeting was also attended by Ms. Tanya Simmons (Terrain NRM) and Mr. Errol Colman (Terrain NRM) to discuss audit (QRA) requirements in relation to the Critical Water Course Riparian and Beach Recovery (Waterways) Project. Their role is to give technical advice on the projects, including Quality Assurance checking, however Michael Nash is the principal local contact.

Resolved – That the discussions be noted.

That the Trust note Michael Nash's advice that the results of the Reef Rescue application will be advised in mid June 2012.

(Crs. Lynch and Gianotti - Carried)

F. CORRESPONDENCE –

1. HERBERT RIVER EROSION AT TIMRITH PROPERTY – ABERGOWRIE ROAD.

Consideration of article in Herbert River Express dated Saturday 14th April, 2012 expressing landowner concern at the current erosion situation and the Timrith Erosion Study Herbert River Report by WBM Oceanics Australia dated 30th April, 2002 in relation to this area.

Trust Secretary's Comment – This property was sold by Mrs. Belinda Musumeci to Ms. Toni Lee Paton on the 10th April, 2003. The land is leasehold tenure.

Resolved – That the Trust received and note the advice.

(Crs. Gianotti and Lynch - Carried)

2. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, Townsville, 29th March, 2012, advising that The Hon. Neil Roberts MP, Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services, activated the Commonwealth / State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements on the 20th – 22nd March, 2012, following heavy rainfall and flooding as a result of a monsoonal trough situated over the far southern Gulf of Carpentaria on the 16th March, 2012. Forwarding a copy of the Minister's activation. Inviting the Trust to provide the Department with submissions for restoration of assets under the State and Federal agreement to provide grant and loan assistance to disaster affected community members. (103/0027)

Resolved – That the advice be received and noted.

(Crs. Lynch and Gianotti - Carried)

3. TERRAIN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, 14th April, 2012, requesting the Trust's support for the Terrain NRM Hinchinbrook Area Team Leader, Michael Nash to attain a 3 year (part-time) Masters Degree in Integrated Water Management through the International Water Centre based at the University of Queensland. Michael also has an option to complete a post-graduate Certificate (1 year) or post-graduate Diploma (2 years) which provides a year by year alternative towards the Masters Qualification. Advising the Trust that he believes that by attaining this post graduate qualification, it will not only increase his capacity to assist the Trust in securing future funding, but increase his capacity to provide technical and political support to the Trust. Requesting the Trust's support including a letter and details of any additional support the Trust would be willing to give. (101/0002)

Resolved – That the Trust provide a letter of support and advise that it would be prepared to consider other levels of support for example travel or other costs in relation to the study on a case by case application basis.

(Crs. Lynch and Gianotti - Carried)

4. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, Brisbane, 18th April, 2012, forwarding correspondence concerning the annual budget preparation and approval process for River Improvement Trusts for the 2012 / 2013 financial year.

Resolved – That the advice be received and noted.

(Crs. Gianotti and Lynch - Carried)

5. HINCHINBROOK SHIRE COUNCIL, Ingham, 18th April, 2012, referring to the Trust's request dated 30th March, 2012 for Council to investigate a levee at Fontana's Road, take appropriate action, and liaise with adjacent landholders regarding the levee, advising that Council will carry out an investigation and take appropriate action.

Resolved – That the advice be received and noted.

(Crs. Lynch and Gianotti - Carried)

6. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, Brisbane, 20th April, 2012, forwarding Frequently Asked Questions regarding the new financial accountability obligations for Trusts. Advising that the exemptions previously granted from full compliance with the Financial and Performance Management Standard (FPMS) end on the 30th June, 2012, and as such, full compliance with the FPMS is obligatory for Trusts from the 1st July, 2012. *See attached questions*

Consideration was also given to a Report from Trust Secretary dated 26th April, 2012 regarding accrual accounting.

Resolved – That the Trust is of the view that the Herbert River Improvement Trust should continue as a Statutory Authority under the River Trust Act.

That the Trust make representations to the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines to seek an extension of at least 12 months on the requirement for Trusts to comply with accrual accounting principles, pending the clarification of issues surrounding treatment and valuation of assets and to give time to prepare strategic, operational and performance management plans.

(Crs. Lynch and Gianotti - Carried)

7. HEAVY RAINFALL & FLOODING NORTHERN QUEENSLAND 16TH MARCH, 2012 – NDRRA WORKS. Consideration of correspondence from Trust Secretary to Department of Environment & Resource Management dated 20th April, 2012 advising that the Trust's preliminary estimate of damages to infrastructure is \$12,000,000 (excl. GST) which comprises fresh damage solely attributed to the recent event and sites damaged in the Yasi event and that have sustained significant further damage. Also advising the Department that the Trust has inspected a number of sites which are considered to be eligible for funding under Timely Preventative Works with the current preliminary estimate for this work at \$1,500,000 (excl. GST) which are separate to those previously submitted to the Department under the Yasi event. Submissions for the TPW sites are currently being worked up for lodgment shortly.

Resolved – That the advice be received and noted.

(Crs. Lynch and Gianotti - Carried)

8. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, Townsville, 24th April, 2012, forwarding agenda for scheduled meeting between Councils, River Improvement Trusts, and the Department of Natural Resources and Mines on Friday 27th April, 2012 at 10.30am at the South Johnstone Centre for Wet Tropical Agriculture with The Hon. Andrew Cripps, MP, Minister for Natural Resources and Mines.

Resolved – That the Trust be represented by the Trust Secretary and Trust Engineer and submit the apologies of the Chairman.

(Crs. Gianotti and Lynch - Carried)

9. DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES & MINES, Townsville, 23rd April, 2012, seeking the Trust's views and / or requirements regarding an application for renewal / conversion of Special Lease 24/46594 over Lot 102 on Crown Plan CWL 1965 at Elphinstone. The proposed use of the land is for agricultural (sugar cane growing) purposes. (101/0004)

Resolved – That the Trust advise the Department it has no interest in further dealing with the land.

(Crs. Lynch and Gianotti - Carried)

10. V. MONZEGLIO, Ingham, 19th April, 2012, requesting an immediate response from the Trust in relation to revegetation work at Black Gin Creek which he has paid a 25% contribution in October, 2009 which was commenced at the end of 2010 and stopped to go elsewhere which has no re-commenced. The erosion has continued and threatens his farm. (103/0004)

Resolved – That Mr. Monzeglio be advised that the work was completed in 2010 but that the Trust is continuing to seek funding under NDRRA for 2011 damage to assets.

(Crs. Gianotti and Lynch - Carried)

11. RECORD OF INSPECTION – THURSDAY 29TH MARCH, 2012.

Consideration of Record of Inspection from Trust Engineer dated 2nd April, 2012 regarding inspections carried out by the Trust on Thursday 29th March, 2012 at the following properties:-

- Mahony Property – Lot 39 on CWL3625 - Halifax Road – Mr. Mahony expressed concern that the washaway outfall was not working as initially designed / intended and suggested that remedial works are required on outlet channels downstream of the level spreader (both blockages and scours) and silt build-up upstream of roadway in vicinity of Mombelli levee. The Trust also discussed the new Mahony levee in the vicinity of Skene Avenue to Stephensen Avenue and advised Mr. Mahony that their information was that the structure had resulted in adverse impacts to adjacent lands in the recent event. The Trust requested removal back to pre-existing levels.

Resolved – That the Trust look to re-establish the whole washaway structure back to the original working levels.

That the Trust note that the Department of Transport and Main Roads has indicated that road improvement works were planned about the washaway area.

The Trust noted that correspondence has been forwarded to Mr. Bruce Mahony dated 4th April, 2012 requesting that the new levee constructed by him in the vicinity of Skene and Stephensen Avenues be removed, and the levee bank reinstated to its pre-existing level.

(Crs. Lynch and Gianotti - Carried)

- Washout adjacent Old Wharf Road – Just North of Macknade Creek – Trust inspected damage noting scour had appeared to result from breach in an unauthorised levee along Macknade Creek, just before its junction with the Herbert River. The scour was quite extensive and had damaged Old Wharf Road which has since been repaired. Trust also noted there had been longitudinal scouring of Old Wharf Road, north of Macknade Creek Bridge which has also been repaired. The damage appears related to redirection / concentration of flows associated with the start of the unauthorised levee structure.

Resolved – That the Trust Engineer investigate Timely Preventative Works (TPW) as a possible source of repair funds.

That the scour at the riverbank be repaired to pre-existing levels only.

The Trust noted that correspondence has been forwarded to the Herbert River District Cane Growers dated 4th April, 2012 (in response to their letter dated 27th March, 2012 on behalf of a number of growers along Old Wharf Road) advising of the Trust inspection carried out; advising that the breach of the unauthorised levee structure at this location and other outflows of the Herbert River via Macknade Creek severely scoured out Old Wharf Road which has been reinstated under NDRRA emergent works provisions; advising that the Trust reported unauthorised tree clearing and earthwork in the vicinity of the breach to DERM as the agency responsible and that the Trust is not aware that the Department has taken any action; and requesting the Cane Growers organisation's assistance to meet with respective landholders to discuss a possible long term fix for the scouring problems at this location.

(Crs. Lynch and Gianotti - Carried)

- Lorenzo Rosadi – Flood Impacts about Skene Avenue, Halifax – Mr. Rosadi advised of his concern of heightened flood impacts about this vicinity and the Trust noted that recent levee construction in the downstream Mahony property had the effect of narrowing the river overflow path at this location and directing overflows to the south rather than eastwards along Skene Avenue. Levels recounted by Mr. Rosadi suggested river levels at slightly above the 100 year level, or just over the designed overflow chute level at the head of Skene Avenue which suggests a localised high river level at this location. The Trust further noted damage to the Trust levee (which extends south of Skene Avenue).

Resolved – That the Trust Engineer investigate possible funding sources for repair and corrective works.

The Trust noted that correspondence has been forwarded to Mr. Lorenzo Rosadi dated 4th April, 2012 advising that the Trust will assess what remedial works can be carried out at this location to ensure river outflows are directed down Skene Avenue, as originally intended with the levee reconstruction several years ago, and that the Trust will make it a priority with the intent being to complete any remedial works prior to the next wet season.

(Crs. Lynch and Gianotti - Carried)

- Rob Toigo – Lot 175 on CWL1040 - 8 Eddleston Drive, Cordelia – Trust inspected bank damage at rear of 8 Eddleston Drive and Trust noted it has an asset along the full extent of the lot boundary with the Herbert River.

Resolved – That the Trust Engineer investigate Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) funding as the damage to the bank appears to be about an existing Trust Asset.

The Trust noted that correspondence has been forwarded to P.A. Toigo & R.D. Toscano dated 4th April, 2012 advising that the Trust will investigate funding and decide on a possible solution.

(Crs. Lynch and Gianotti - Carried)

- D. & G. Weston – Lot 117 on CWL658 – 78 Eddleston Drive, Cordelia – Trust inspected a “sinkhole” on landward side and bank damage to riverside of the “unauthorised” levee that exists at location. Damage appears to result from drainage at this location naturally flowing back into the river but being blocked by the levee structure. Pooling of runoff appears to have produced the hydraulic loading necessary to cause the sink back towards the river.

Resolved – That the Trust Engineer investigate Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) funding as the damage to the bank appears to be about an existing Trust Asset.

The Trust noted that correspondence has been forwarded to D. & G. Weston dated 4th April, 2012 advising that the Trust will investigate funding and decide on a possible solution.

(Crs. Lynch and Gianotti - Carried)

- Bruce Valinoti – Lot 58 on CWL1209 – 1073 Halifax Road, Cordelia – Trust inspected a large slump behind Mr. Valinoti’s chook-house and just downstream of a section of bank rocking.

Resolved – That the Trust Engineer investigate Urgent Timely Preventative Works (UTPW) as a possible source of repair funds.

The Trust noted that correspondence has been forwarded to Mr. Bruce Valinoti dated 4th April, 2012 advising that the Trust will investigate funding and decide on a possible solution.

(Crs. Lynch and Gianotti - Carried)

Chairman Bill took the opportunity to express his thanks to the Trust Members and to the Trust Secretary, Trust Engineer and Trust Works Manager for their efforts and support since 2008. Trust Members responded similarly.

I. CONCLUSION – The meeting concluded at 1.10 p.m.

(Sgd) Cr. W.H. Pickering,
TRUST CHAIRPERSON.