

HERBERT RIVER IMPROVEMENT TRUST

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY 13TH OCTOBER, 2011
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 8th September, 2011.

Resolved – That the minutes of the General Meeting held on the 8th September, 2011 be approved.
(Crs. Gianotti and Lynch - Carried)

- C. WORKS REPORT –

Consideration of Trust Engineer's September, 2011 report of works performed to date and activities in progress.

Resolved – That the Report be received and noted.

That the Trust proceed with NDRRA and timely preventative projects that we believe will qualify prior to receiving Qld Reconstruction Authority approval on the basis that cash flow issues will be addressed.

(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 13th October, 2011:-

<u>General Fund</u> -	Cheque	\$Nil
	EFT	<u>\$33,542.80</u>
		<u>\$33,542.80</u>

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

E. AECOM PRESENTATION.

Consideration of presentation by AECOM representatives Mr. Dyrick Hobbs and Mr. Brogan Addison in relation to review of new works.

Resolved – That AECOM will provide details of the revised Annual Works Program to the Trust at the 3rd November, 2011 General Meeting.

That the submission of projects for the additional new work funding and any opportunities for Operation Clean Up projects be based on the priorities submitted by AECOM.
(Crs. Gianotti and Lynch - Carried)

F. 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

Resolved – That the Report from the Team Leader be accepted.
(Crs. Lynch and Gianotti - Carried)

G. CORRESPONDENCE –

1. QUEENSLAND AUDIT OFFICE, Brisbane, 6th September, 2011, advising the Trust's 2010/2011 special purpose financial statements have been certified and returning same. (101/0001)

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

2. ANDREW CRIPPS, Ingham, 12th September, 2011, making representation on behalf of Mr. Stephen Collins of 1986 Abergowrie Road, Abergowrie regarding serious river bank erosion in front of and along the side of his property at Abergowrie. Advising that Mr. Collins contacted the Trust in March, 2011 regarding this issue and requesting assistance to rectify the damage prior to further erosion and damage occurring and endangering his home and family. The Trust wrote on the 11th March, 2011 acknowledging receipt of his request and advised that the Trust would make contact in due course, however after 6 months Mr. Collins has not heard back from the Trust. With the next annual wet season just a few months away and the forecasted likelihood of another big wet season, Mr. Collins in understandably concerned over the safety of his home and family should further erosion take place. Requesting the Trust to investigate this erosion problem urgently and take the necessary action to prevent further erosion and possible damage to Mr. Collins' home and property. (103/0025)

Resolved – That advice be given that the Trust is assessing this site and endeavouring to source funding for these new works.
(Crs. Lynch and Gianotti - Carried)

3. STATE COUNCIL OF RIVER TRUSTS ASSOCIATION, 12th September, 2011, advising that the Annual General Meeting and Conference of the State Council of River Trusts will be held in Cairns from 27th to 29th October, 2011. A welcome bbq will be held on Thursday 27th October and conference including inspections and Official Dinner will be held on Friday 28th October.
(104/0004)

CAIRNS RIVER TRUST, 13th September, 2011, advising that the Trust Conference will be held at The Hotel Cairns, Corner Abbott and Florence Street, Cairns on Friday 28th October and forwarding registration form. Suggesting that the Trust make arrangements to stay at The Hotel Cairns and forwarding accommodation details and costs. Registrations close 14th October, 2011.
(104/0004)

STATE COUNCIL OF RIVER TRUSTS ASSOCIATION, 5th October, 2011, forwarding details of alternative accommodation hotels in Cairns as not all Members will be able to stay at The Hotel Cairns.

Resolved – That the Trust be represented at the State Council of River Trusts Annual General Meeting and Conference by Cr. Geoffrey Gianotti, Trust Secretary Mr. Robert Clark, and Trust Engineer Mr. Bruce Leach.
(Crs. Gianotti and Lynch - Carried)

4. HON. RACHEL NOLAN MP, MINISTER FOR FINANCE, NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ARTS, Brisbane, 20th September, 2011, thanking the Trust for its recent correspondence regarding Frances and Cattle Creek areas. Acknowledging the work of the Trust in particular the assistance provided by the Trust with waterway recovery efforts after the impact of Cyclone Yasi. In response to the Trust's request for funding, the Department of Environment & Resource Management will consider any proposed works to be carried out at these sites which in accordance with NDRRA and Operation Clean Up Queensland guidelines. Drawing the Trust's attention to the Cattle Creek Wetlands Rehabilitation Project report – Stage 1: Broad-scale environmental appraisal study, commissioned by the Herbert River Catchment Group and the Hinchinbrook Shire Council completed in May, 2011 (enclosed). While it is note the Department's role or responsibility to endorse the study, it does provide further information and understanding of the wetland area and concludes that a suite of actions and input from several agencies and organisations would be required to maintain the integrity of the stream and support the sustainable management of the wetland area. Encouraging the Trust to work closely with the Catchment Group and Council with regard to any proposed work in the catchment. In relation to weed management, advising that the Department invests in weed management by playing an active role in the control of weeds on State land, and by supporting organisations such as Terrain Natural Resource Management (NRM). During the past three years, advising that Terrain NRM has expended considerable effort to control hymenachne weed and Biosecurity Queensland has also provide advice on weed management and declared hymenachne weed as a Class 2 pest plant of Queensland. For further information regarding coordination and management of programs to eradicate hymenachne, requesting the Trust to contact the Council.
(103/0025)

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

5. ROATI & FIRTH LAWYERS, Ingham, 22nd September, 2011, advising they act on behalf of Mr. Peter Sam Mammino whose property is located on Pomona Road which has been adversely affected by waters laying on it over a period of at least the last ten years. Further advising that they believe their client has made numerous complaints to Council about the drainage issues in the area and some cleaning up of the drainage was recently undertaken under the control of Council, however Council is apparently not taking any action to remove the "levee bank" that has accumulated adjacent to the drain, which is part of the problem that is causing inundation to their client's property. Their client estimates that the damage sustained by water not being able to have free passage through the drainage system and through the natural lay of the land, has caused damage to him each year in order of ten's of thousand's of dollars. This year alone significant plant cane and first ratoon cane has been completely destroyed and the farm has been inundated with noxious weeds such as pannikin grass and hymenachne. Also advising that there is a further levee bank constructed on the adjoining property which blocks water from travelling across its normal course to Cattle Creek. Requesting the advice of Council as to whether this levee bank has been constructed with Council's approval and / or the Trust as their client must now seriously consider claiming damages against the parties responsible for adversely affecting his property. As part of the drainage clearance, the grass in the drain has now been burnt which has revealed that the drain has not in the past been blocked by grass but in fact has been filled in by some source. Pipes under the road are completely blocked and the levee bank system created causes water to lie on his property for periods of time that have never been seen before. The damage this year alone is significant and the costs involved in eradicating the grass and weeds that have taken hold in the remaining cane that was not killed by the laying water is yet to be quantified. Inviting Council and the Trust to arrange an onsite inspection with the writer and their client to explain what actions will be taken to alleviate the problems that have been ongoing for the past decade at least. (103/0003)

Resolved – That the Trust inspect the area with the landowners on Friday 14th October, 2011 at 2.00 p.m.

(Crs. Lynch and Gianotti - Carried)

6. AUDITOR-GENERAL OF QUEENSLAND, Brisbane, 28th September, 2011, advising they will conduct a client survey during October, 2011 as part of their ongoing efforts to improve their audit process and services provided to their financial and assurance audit clients. Inviting the Trust to participate in the survey which will collect feedback on their performance for the 2010/2011 financial and assurance audit. Advising they have commissioned an independent research company, ORIMA Research to conduct the survey to ensure the validity of the results. (101/0001)

Resolved – That the advice be received and noted.

(Crs. Gianotti and Lynch - Carried)

7. COLIN BIGWOOD, Halifax, 4th October, 2011, advising that in June, 2011 he received a letter advising that the Trust would maintain pumps and levees for residents at 15, 17, 18 River Avenue, Halifax to ensure they are protected from flooding. Since then Mr. Bruce Mahony has built a levee along the riverbank behind his sugar field. When the engineers planned the levees, he was advised that the road behind the BP Service Station and the Mahony paddock was to be lower as a safety level and their levee was remodelled and a seep pump put in place to compensate for having the main levee build in front of him placing him in the middle of the Herbert River. There is currently no overflow safety relief upstream and he has very little chance of saving his home as he has never had water problems in his house until the main levee was building of front of him and along the back of Macrossan Street. Since the levee was built, his home has been flooded up to 200mm inside five times. Requesting the Trust to advise what happens now that Mr. Mahony has blocked off the overflow escape relief path and who is the contact person to call when he has problems. His property has never been in danger over the last 60 odd years and he used to control the water with outboard motors used as pumps, but now because of the levees building around Halifax, he has very fast flowing water rushing past the front of his home as well as the river behind. Requesting the Trust to advise when the petrol pumps and electric seepage pumps will be serviced as the wet season is fast approaching. (103/0014)

Resolved – That the Trust inspect the Halifax riverbank and Mr. Bigwood be advised that the pumps will be serviced and maintained as per the normal arrangements prior to the wet season.

(Mr. Pickering and Cr. Gianotti - Carried)

8. HELEN PALMAS, Hawkins Creek, 1st October, 2011, referring to the Trust's letter dated 12th August, 2011 advising her that a decision would be made in early September regarding whether or not the Trust could assist with damage on her son Marks' farm at Hawkins Creek. Seeking further advice from the Trust as to its decision. (103/0025)

Resolved – That advice be given that the Trust is still assessing new work and sourcing funds for such work but due to the scope and size of this project, it is unlikely that this project will be funded.

(Crs. Gianotti and Lynch - Carried)

9. STATE COUNCIL OF RIVER TRUSTS' QLD INC.
Consideration of State Council of River Trusts' Qld Inc. Minutes of State Council Executive Meeting held on Thursday 18th August, 2011.

Resolved – That the Minutes be received and noted.

(Crs. Lynch and Gianotti - Carried)

10. QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY, Innisfail, 10th October, 2011, forwarding minutes from the stakeholders meeting jointly facilitated by the Department of Environment & Resource Management and the Queensland Reconstruction Authority held on Wednesday 5th October, 2011 which discussed the priorities and criteria for North Queensland's \$2 million funding allocation for Critical Water Course, Riparian and Beach Recovery. Advising that one of the key outcomes agreed by the group was the establishment of an Independent Assessment Panel to assess and prioritise the proposed projects for North Queensland's funding allocation, and forwarding submission form developed to standardise the submission process due by COB Wednesday 26th October, 2011. The Independent Assessment Panel is anticipated to sit in the first week of November, 2011 to assess and priorities these proposed project submissions.

Resolved – That it be noted that Mr. Michael Nash is the Herbert representative on the selection panel and the Trust submit potentially eligible projects to a total value of \$1 million.

(Mr. Pickering and Cr. Gianotti - Carried)

11. PAULINE GILBEY, Ingham, 10th October, 2011, referring to the Trust letter dated 11th May, 2011 advising that the Trust would contact her in July, 2011 in response to her request regarding trees from the riverbank which are on her shed at 71 Hawkins Creek Road, Hawkins Creek. Advising that to date she has not yet received a response from the Trust and as 2011 is drawing to a close, she would appreciate an early decision on this matter. (120/0022)

Resolved – That advice be given that the trees are not the responsibility of the Trust and the landowner should contact the Department of Environment & Resource Management for permission to remove the trees.

(Mr. Pickering and Cr. Gianotti - Carried)

12. UNAUTHORISED LEVEE CONSTRUCTION – LOT 8 on RP713068 – ZAMMIT'S ROAD.
Consideration of correspondence dated 12th September, 2011 forwarded by the Trust to Mr. Pino Lenzo advising of the Trust's concerns in relation to fresh earthworks comprising construction of an earth levee about Waterfall Creek adjacent to his property at Lot 8 on RP713068 and seeking advice as to whether approval has been secured from the Department of Environment & Resource Management for the stream side works.

Consideration was also given to Trust correspondence dated 12th September, 2011 to Department of Environment & Resource Management advising of the unauthorised levee construction and stream side vegetation damage at Zammit's Road, and seeking the Department's advice as to their requirements and / or interest in this matter. (103/0001)

Resolved – That the location be inspected following the meeting.
(Crs. Lynch and Gianotti - Carried)

13. ALLIGATOR PONDS DRAIN.

Consideration of correspondence dated 12th September, 2011 forwarded to Alligator Ponds Drain landowners advising of the Trust's investigations into the possibility of establishing some vegetation cover along the Alligator Ponds Drain and seeking to have an onsite meeting with property owners to discuss the proposal.

Resolved – That this area be inspected at the 3rd November, 2011 General Meeting.
(Crs. Gianotti and Lynch - Carried)

H. INSPECTIONS –

Inspections were carried out at the following locations:-

- Lenzo Property – Lot 8 on RP713068, Zammit's Road;
- Mahoney Property – Lot 1 on CWL36517 and Lot 2 on RP740542, Mulgrave Street, Halifax; and
- Unauthorised Levee Construction / Vegetation Removal, Macknade Creek – Lots 22 on RP705315 & 26 on RP705357.

See attached Record of Inspection dated 24th October, 2011.

I. CONCLUSION – The meeting concluded at 4.30 p.m.

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

HERBERT RIVER IMPROVEMENT TRUST

25 Lannercost Street, INGHAM
PO Box 366, INGHAM QLD 4850



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All Correspondence to be addressed to the Trust Secretary

REPORT TO:

- R** Herbert River Improvement Trust Meeting
- R** Trust Secretary

SUBJECT: Record of Inspection – Thursday, 13th October 2011

ATTENDANCE: Mr Bill Pickering, Cr Geoff Gianotti, Cr Pat Lynch,
Mr Steve Hall and Mr Bruce Leach

INSPECTION: Departed Ingham at 2:00 pm

Lenzo Property, Lot 8 on RP713068, Zammits Road

Trust Members inspected the levee structure about Waterview Creek adjacent the Lenzo house and sheds. Mr Lenzo was not able to attend the inspection.

Members noted fresh workings including both additions to the levee and the black soil stockpiled adjacent the levee.

The Trust Engineer is to provide details of HRIT assets at this location to enable further consideration by the Trust.

Mahoney Property, Lot 1 CWL3651 7 & Lot 2 RP740542, Musgrave St, Halifax

Members spoke with Mr Mahoney regards works undertaken by him to the Herbert River bank along the river frontage of these two lots.

The works undertaken comprise intermittent sections of rock levee and a small section of earth levee towards the southern boundary of the property.

Mr Mahoney claimed that the new section of levee match the existing bank height including sections of rocking constructed and owned by the Trust. Mr Mahoney advised that he had installed the works so as to act as a level spreader in order to prevent concentrated outflows to his cane lands resulting in scouring.

The sections of work on to the northern extent by eye did appear to roughly match existing levels; however the new work to the southern extent to the eye seemed higher.

Members advised Mr Mahoney that they would arrange a survey to confirm respective heights in relation to both the pre-existing levels and the respective river flood gradients. Mr Mahoney indicated he did not object to this measure.

Unauthorised Levee Construction/Vegetation Removal, Macknade Creek, Lots 22 RP705315 & 26 RP705357

Members inspected recent works this location (drive by only).

Members noted that to the eye further works had been undertaken here since earlier discussion and referral to DERM.

The Trust Engineer to check status with DERM.

Conclusion: The inspection concluded back at Ingham at 4.30pm.

REPORTING OFFICER: Bruce E Leach
TRUST ENGINEER

SIGNATURE:

DATE: 24th October 2011

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REPORT TO:

R Trust Meeting

SUBJECT: Record of Discussions – On Site Meeting Pomona Road, Friday 14th October

ATTENDANCE: Trust Engineer –Bruce Leach, HRIT Chair, Bill Pickering, Peter Sheedy [Canegrowers], Peter Mammino, Ken Barnes (Land owners), Darren Firth (solicitor for Mr Peter Mammino), John Mammino (harvest group operator)

BACKGROUND

Meeting had been arranged by Peter Mammino in response to drainage concerns about his Pomona Rd property. John Mammino also raised concerns regarding the suitability of the road geometry for haul out use.

DISCUSSION POINTS

Drainage Concerns

It was noted that the drainage concerns experienced by Peter are long standing and pre-existing to the recently undertaken NDRRA works. Bruce advised that the drainage concerns could not be addressed with NDRRA funding. It was agreed that there is a drainage problem on the Mammino property; however solutions to the problem are not readily apparent. Also, Bruce advised that Council did not have a responsibility to provide drainage for agricultural purposes; however it is prepared to consider farm drainage issues, where it can be readily accommodated into roadside drainage.

Bruce noted that an earlier check of levels indicated inundation problems in this vicinity were linked to high flow levels in Cattle and Francis Creeks and in particular, ponding behind the sand deposits at the junction of those two streams.

Specific Points

- Levee on southern side of Pomona Rd (Barnes' Property): Bruce advised that his understanding from earlier investigations was that Council had approved the existence of this levee at an earlier stage.
- Levee near Cattle Creek : Mr Pickering advised that this structure had DERM approval
- Access Culvert to Barnes' property Cr Bruce Highway and Pomona Rd: Noted Mr Barnes had agreed to install headwalls to this structure, also to remove temporary structure adjacent. The presence of a "gate" was noted on the upstream side of this culvert. Mr Barnes advised that this had been installed to prevent flows from Cattle Creek flowing back up into Pomona Rd. The "gate" is to be removed.
- Sand deposit junction of Cattle and Francis Creek.: Discussion on relative levels top of deposit and Pomona Rd. Bruce advised earlier survey confirmed that this feature was a key component of elevated water levels in times of high flows in Cattle/Francis creeks. Mr Pickering provided an update on attempts to remove the deposit and confirmed that no easy remedy was apparent.
- Table Drain northern side of Pomona Rd.: Mr Mammino asked if Council would lower the culvert invert towards the start of Pomona Rd, so that he could upgrade drainage on the northern side as an alternative to the existing

HERBERT RIVER IMPROVEMENT TRUST



Record of Inspection –Friday 14th October –Pomona Road

Enquiries: Mr Bruce Leach (4776 4605

14th October 2011

on the southern side. Bruce advised that this move would be unlikely to have any impact as the drain control appears to be the limited cross-section downstream.

- Drain bed width towards Highway: Mr Mammino requested that the drain bed be widened so that a more stable section could result. It was noted that there appeared to be limited width to the property boundary to allow any amount of work to proceed.
- Drain Invert Ch 800 to 100m: Mr Mammino requested that Council shape this section of drain to an even grade and consistent profile. It was noted that, while the drain had been recently cleaned, it had been done by an excavator to approximate level control only.

Road Carriageway concerns

The matter of the apparent narrow carriage way and considerable level difference crown drain invert and steep drain batters on the eastern extent of Pomona Rd was raised. Mr John Mammino's concern was in relation to this section of road being used for cane haulage operations. As established at an earlier meeting on Wednesday 12th October, the road was originally constructed to a 6m formation standard. Inspection of road geometry at culvert locations suggest the crown has migrated upwards to an approximate maximum of around 300mm on the eastern road extent over the years. The raised crown has been accommodated by steepening road batters so the 6m carriage way width has been maintained.

Bruce noted that Council's current standards would allow a 7 or 8m formation for this class of road. However, the issue was one of road upgrading rather than maintenance works. Bruce agreed to pass the concerns on to Council for their consideration.

REPORTING OFFICER:

Bruce Leach
TRUST ENGINEER

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

19th October 2011