

HERBERT RIVER IMPROVEMENT TRUST

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY 3RD MARCH, 2011
AT 9.00 A.M.



- A. ATTENDANCE – Present were Cr. G.P. Gianotti (Acting Chairperson), Cr. P.D. Lynch (Member), Mr. R.W. Clark (Trust Secretary), Mr. B.E. Leach (Trust Engineer) and Mr. S. Hall (Trust Special Projects Officer).
- B. APOLOGY – An apology was received from Mr. W.H. Pickering and Members noted and extended best wishes to him for a speedy recovery from his treatment.
- C. MINUTES -
Confirmation of Minutes of the General Meeting held on 2nd December, 2010 and Special Meeting held on 17th February, 2011.

Resolved – That the minutes of the General Meeting held on 2nd December, 2010 and Special Meeting held on 17th February, 2011 be approved.
(Crs. Lynch and Gianotti - Carried)
- D. WORKS REPORT –
Consideration of Trust Engineer's January to February, 2011 report of works performed to date and activities in progress.

Resolved – That the Report be received and noted.

That the Trust write to the existing Annual Works Program projects and advise that we will need to reinspect those properties but they are still on the program.
(Crs. Gianotti and Lynch - Carried)
- E. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT -
1. The Secretary submitted accounts for payment as hereunder and statements of receipts and disbursements for the period up to 3rd March, 2011:-

<u>General Fund -</u>	Cheque	\$Nil
	EFT	<u>\$65,240.12</u>
		<u>\$65,240.12</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)

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

Discussions were held with the Catchment Coordinator, Mr. Michael Nash and the following matters were identified:-

- HRIT Minutes and Agenda to be forwarded to the Catchment Coordinator following each meeting.
- The Trust Annual Works Program details to be supplied to the Catchment Coordinator.

The discussions noted that there may be good opportunities for the Catchment Group to partner with the Trust in carrying out stream improvement works by securing other Government funds e.g. Reef Rescue to fund elements such as revegetation works which will increase overall funds available for these works.

G. CORRESPONDENCE –

1. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, Townsville, 11th January, 2011, seeking the Trust's views and / or requirements in relation to an application received for Conversion of Special Lease 203317 over Lot 13 on Crown Plan I22466. The proposed use of the land is for retail shopping. (101/00041)

Resolved – That the Trust reiterate its earlier advice that it objects on the grounds that any change in tenure may lead to interference with a watercourse which could adversely affect adjoining lands and the proper function of the creek in the future.

(Crs. Lynch and Gianotti - Carried)

2. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, Brisbane, 18th January, 2011, forwarding Summary of Annual Reports and Financial Statements of Queensland's River Improvement Trusts 2009 / 2010 which is a summarised compilation of the individual annual reports and audited financial statements of the 15 river improvement trusts, constituted under the *River Improvement Act 1940*, operating during the 2009 / 2010 financial year. (102/0001)

Resolved – That the advice be received and noted.

(Crs. Lynch and Gianotti - Carried)

3. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT QUEENSLAND, Kedron, 25th January, 2011, forwarding *Variation to Funding Agreement* form between State of Queensland and Herbert River Improvement Trust for Natural Disaster Mitigation Program Further Modelling – Lower Herbert varied with effect as and from the 23rd December, 2010. (103/0021)

Resolved – That the advice be received and noted.

(Crs. Lynch and Gianotti - Carried)

4. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT QUEENSLAND, Kedron, 25th January, 2011, forwarding *Variation to Funding Agreement* form between State of Queensland and Hinchinbrook Shire Council for Natural Disaster Mitigation Program Kingsbury Creek Floodgate (2007-08) varied with effect as and from the 23rd December, 2010. (103/0022)

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

5. B. MAHONY, Halifax, 31st January, 2011, requesting the Trust to re-investigate the removal of sand islands in the Herbert River near Halifax.

Resolved – That Mr. Mahony be advised of previous correspondence and that this matter will be discussed at the next Trust meeting and he will be invited to attend that meeting.
(Crs. Lynch and Gianotti - Carried)

6. CATHERINA CREEK FLOODGATE.

Consideration of discussions with Mr. David Carr and Mr. Charles Girgenti in relation to the manual operation of the Catherina Creek floodgates and Alligator Ponds overflow channel and issues arising therefrom.

During the discussions the following issues were identified:-

- Concerned about flood debris interference with the sensor and would a flap gate be an added protection with the existing gates.
- Site gauges upstream and downstream of the gate to determine the water levels or a flow meter installation.
- Need for a structure over the computer box.
- Alternative outlet for the drainage of the sump area and questioning the Lower Herbert Water Management Authorities proposal for lift pumps into Catherina Creek and suggest Lilypond Creek might be a better option.
- Erosion on the banks of the Alligator Ponds drain and vegetation in the drain.

Resolved – That the Trust will investigate establishment of site gauges or flow meters to indicate water levels and that the Trust and growers inspect the Alligator Pond drain including the area beyond Barbagallo's when ground conditions permit.

That the consultant completing the Ingham urban stormwater drainage assessments be instructed to discuss the work with Mr. David Carr and Mr. Charles Girgenti.
(Crs. Lynch and Gianotti - Carried)

7. RIVER BANK DAMAGE – HERBERT RIVER AND STONEY CREEK FALLS.

Consideration of proposed remedial works being undertaken on Mario Porta's property at 192 Capra's Road, Abergowrie along the Herbert River and Stoney Creek Falls following advice from DERM regarding whether or not the Department would be agreeable to these proposed remedial works becoming a Trust asset.

Resolved – That it be noted that the Trust is still awaiting advice from the Department of Environment & Resource Management.
(Crs. Lynch and Gianotti - Carried)

8. LOWER HERBERT FLOOD MODELLING PROJECT STUDY COMMITTEE.

Consideration of proposed date for Study Committee to meet with Study Consultant, Dr. Mark Jempson of WBM to consider the new survey information on existing levees following some preliminary modelling being completed.

Resolved – That the proposed date for the Special Meeting be Wednesday the 23rd March, 2011.
(Crs. Lynch and Gianotti - Carried)

9. OVERALL PLAN OF REVEGETATION WORKS.

Consideration of overall plan of revegetation works from a number of sites to be selected and inspected by the Trust with landholders with a view to commencing these works in early 2011.

Resolved – That selected sites be inspected at the Trust Meeting on the 31st March, 2011.
(Crs. Lynch and Gianotti - Carried)

10. 2011 HRIT MEETING DATES.

Consideration of proposed HRIT Meeting dates for 2011.

Resolved – That the schedule of meeting dates for 2011 as proposed be adopted
(Crs. Lynch and Gianotti - Carried)

11. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, Brisbane, 21st February, 2011, advising that any proposed borrowing requirements under the 2011 / 2012 State Borrowing Program are due to be submitted to the Department by Friday 25th March, 2011.

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

12. VINCE VITALE, Ripple Creek, 22nd February, 2011, reporting that the Ripple Creek Floodgate was manually closed prior to recent flood, and as the opening was delayed a couple of days, this resulted in fish being unable to migrate up creek and a minor fish kill (in his view). He was also unhappy with the response from the Trust regarding his request to carry out works on his access and requests a meeting with the Trust on site to further discuss this matter.

Resolved – That the advice be received and noted and the Trust will meet Mr. Vitale onsite at the next Trust Meeting on the 31st March, 2011.
(Crs. Lynch and Gianotti - Carried)

13. CYCLONE YASI AND SUBSEQUENT FLOODING – RIVERBANK / CREEK DAMAGE REQUESTS.

Consideration of the following requests received from local residents regarding riverbank / creek damage as a result of Cyclone Yasi and subsequent flooding.

- Carmel Coco – Bruce Highway Ripple Creek north from John Row Bridge on left side along river. Focus area between Girgenti's through to Schiappadori properties – many trees have fallen from Herbert River riverbank onto headlands and cane.
- Lucia Bunce – 7 Rupp Street, Halifax – Tree has fallen into gully leaving a large hole in levee bank. Tree needs to be cleared and bank repaired – Completed.
- Charles Girgenti – Catherina Creek and Alligator Ponds – Natural Disasters (TC Tasha and TC Yasi) have stopped areas working to their intended capacity.
- Elio Tua – Sheahan's Road, Long Pocket where bamboo and Mr. Tua's windmill is – riverbank damage along flats.
- Charles Girgenti – Forest Home Drain – Inspection required due to damage.
- Lino Cervellin – Riverbank at Suthers Road, Coolbie at Insulator Creek – new damage at riverbank.
- Reno Zatta – Waterview Creek (downstream) – Washout has occurred from recent flood event at Waterview Creek downstream of repairs carried out in 2010.
- Peter Elortegui – 12 Meyer Street, Trebonne – Severe erosion at property. Cr. Gianotti inspected property and discussed with Bruce Leach. Urgent Works – Letter to be sent.
- Jenny Condon – River at top of Stone River – Concern river may be changing its course.

- Brian Butler – Riverbank behind property at 100 Eddleston Drive, Cordelia – Trees have fallen from riverbank onto windmill and caravan. Requests tree to be removed. Also can any claim be made for damage to property? Insurance.
- Arthur Bosworth – Damage on riverbank at southern end of Bosworth's farm – Washout has occurred on headland. Cannot drive on headland. Requires gravel.
- Bob Cairns – 47 Macrossan Street, Halifax – levee collapsed behind residence. Completed.
- George Scriven – 112 Eddleston Drive, Cordelia – Trees cut down and stacked on riverbank. Would like them removed. Trust is unable to assist.
- Pauline Gilbey – 71 Hawkins Creek Road, Hawkins Creek (behind back shed backing onto river) – trees have fallen into riverbank.
- Stephen Collins – 1986 Abergowrie Road, Abergowrie - Trees have fallen from riverbank into river. There is also serious erosion along riverbank, in front of and alongside the side of Mr. Collins' property.
- Carol Mackee – Ufer's Road, Bemerside (on riverbank) – A washout has occurred causing significant erosion along bank towards headland.
- Terry Pedruzzi – Along New Cemetery Road approximately 30m downstream of Des Jardine Crossing – Serious erosion along riverbank. Erosion has now increased and exposed phone lines.
- Calvin Knuth – Mona Road, Halifax (South Peak Pastoral Co. cane farm) – Trees along riverbank have fallen into headland and obstructing potential cropping land. Mr. Knuth says land should be dry enough to work. To be inspected by the Trust.
- Steve Collins / Maria Musumeci – 1986 Abergowrie Road, Lannercost – Riverbank erosion – trees fallen and taken bank.
- Steve Hammond – 74 Eddleston Drive, Cordelia – Serious riverbank erosion from fallen trees taking bank.
- Tony Pettinger – 3 Mona Road, Halifax (along levee behind property) – Levee has area broken and water entering through property.
- Andrew Lancini for N. & C. Mombelli – 14 Victoria Terrace, Halifax (rear of property) – Floodgate has been damaged during floods and cyclone. Property owner is pumping water and has sandbagged in the vicinity but requesting a more permanent measure be taken to replace missing gate.
- Helen Palmas – 1141 and 1219 Hawkins Creek Road (on riverbank behind Mark Palmas' residence – access available between Tony Palmas and Mark Palmas' property) – Riverbank damage (inspected last year) has now increased with recent event approximately fivefold.
- Joe Elortegui – Portion 121 (Special Lease – through to Timrith Stud at 1510 Abergowrie Road, Lannercost) – Extensive riverbank erosion.
- Mario Porta – 192 Capra's Road, Abergowrie – Riverbank damage.
- Len Girgenti – 10 Fulton Drive, Bemerside (at rear of property / farm) – serious erosion on banks.

- Alan Robino – Braemeadows - Loder Creek – Tree fallen from riverbank into river causing erosion. Tree to be cut up, stump pushed back into eroded bank?
- B & J Mahony – riverbank near their farm in Halifax – remedial action required to prevent a possible break through.

Resolved – That the various locations be inspected for further Trust consideration.
(Crs. Lynch and Gianotti - Carried)

G. CONCLUSION – The meeting concluded at 1.40 p.m.

(Sgd) Cr. G.P. Gianotti,
ACTING TRUST CHAIRPERSON.