

Northern Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Association

Wednesday 18th April 2007 – 10.00 am – 1.00 pm
NRM North, Launceston

DRAFT MINUTES

Attendees:	
Richard Ireland	Chairman
Alex Schaap	
Graeme Gardner Lawrence Archer Janet Wallace Leigh Sparrow Ashley Bastock	
Apologies: Paul Rosevear Geoff McLennan Maureen Bennett Stan Matuszek John Caswell Joanna Ellison	
Observers James McKee NRM North Jane Jones NRM North Catherine Murdoch Imogen Birley NRM North	

Meeting opened at 10.00 am with a quorum present.

2. Minutes

The draft minutes from the 7th February meeting were tabled.

MOVED by L Archer seconded by L Sparrow that the minutes of the meeting of the NRM North Management Committee held on 7th of February be adopted as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED

3. Declaration of Interest

Ashley Bastock declared an interest in Item 13.

4. Correspondence

The Management Committee considered the correspondence log.

The Management Committee agreed that the new format of a relevance column was a practical and suitable addition to the correspondence logs.

The Management committee inquired to whom the Forest Conservation Fund brochures were being mailed to. The Executive Officer explained the sub-regional facilitators compiled a list of relevant landowners who should be informed about the fund and these lists formed the basis of the mail out.

MOVED by L Sparrow seconded by J Wallace that the Incoming and Outgoing correspondence be received and accepted

CARRIED

5. Chairman Report

The Chairman discussed his report with the Management Committee. In response to the report the question was raised what value to the region would be gained from holding the next National NRM national workshop in March 2008. It was agreed that the event is an ideal opportunity to showcase the regions natural assets including and demonstrate the positive impact that NRM North's activities are having within the region. This approach should provide an ideal platform for future investment opportunities for the region.

The Management Committee also raised the question of whether the other two regions had been approached to be involved in the event. The Executive Officer confirmed that the regions had been asked previously but another invitation to collaborate on the event would be extended.

6. Executive Officer's Report

The Executive Officer spoke to her report highlighting operational matters and potential risks and opportunities for NRM North over the coming months.

The Management Committee requested that an agenda item in relation to outcomes from the JSC meetings be added for future Management Committee meetings.

Ashley Bastock asked whether there are any management policies in place for cross

regional and statewide projects in place. The Executive Officer confirmed that a cross regional policy for managing state-wide projects was developed over 12 months ago. The Executive Officer stated that there is probably scope to re-examine these.

The Management Committee asked how the 1080 project was to be delivered. The Executive Officer outlined that the project aims to develop a sub-regional game management module that will compliment the Statewide Property Management System framework. A task within the project will also determine a cost sharing ratio for NRM investment in game management.

As a recently appointed new member, Ashley Bastock asked the Chair what is the procedure for discussing and determining new investment opportunities for the region? The Chair responded that the Governance and Policy Sub Committee should consider the level of delegation given to the CEO and what information is required to go to the Management Committee for information and decisions.

7. Program Report

The program report was discussed. The Executive Officer informed the Management Committee that within the next two weeks she and Scott Gadd the Secretary of the Department of Tourism, Arts and Environment would be meeting with the General Managers of the four local governments to discuss the structure of the Tamar Estuary Programme.

The Management Committee has requested that the life span of projects including their budget amount allocation be included in the Program Report for the next Management Committee meeting.

8. Financial Report

The Executive Officer tabled the financial report. The management committee agreed that surplus funds such as bank interest should be carried over to the next financial year to be considered in the up coming years budget allocations.

MOVED by L Archer seconded by A Schaap that NRM North financial reports and associated expenditure as tabled are accepted as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED

9. Audit and Finance Sub-Committee Report

The acting chair of the audit and finance sub-committee tabled the audit and finance sub-committee report.

Moved by L Archer and seconded by A Schaap to accept the Audit and Finance Sub-committee Report.

CARRIED

10. Governance and Policy Sub-committee Report

The Chair of the Governance and Policy sub-committee tabled the Governance and Policy Sub-committee report. The Management Committee was informed that Richard Ireland had been co-opted onto the sub-committee as it was felt that the Chairman on NRM North should be present on the Governance and Policy sub-committee.

The Management Committee was informed that Ross Hart from Rae and Partners had been engaged to review the constitution. Ross provided a report on his initial review which states that the constitution does comply with the NRM Act however he felt that improvements could be made. The Governance and Policy sub-committee will provide a comprehensive scoping paper for the next Management Committee meeting.

The Management Committee was also informed that Ross strongly felt that a small Executive Committee should be formalised to deal with administrative functions. The Executive Committee should consist of the Chairman and Deputy Chair. This matter was discussed at length by the Management Committee.

The Management Committee then discussed the policy role of the sub-committee. This is a change from the original intent of the subcommittee and would add an extra work load on the sub-committee and the Executive Officer. After much discussion it was agreed that the sub-committee should provide a forum to assist the Executive Officer to identify future risks and opportunities for the purpose of informing board discussions and decision making processes. The Terms of Reference for the sub-committee will be reviewed accordingly.

11. Corporate Plan

The Management Committee agreed to accept the corporate plan and congratulated the Executive Officer and staff for their efforts in producing a document of such high quality.

MOVED by L Archer and seconded by L Sparrow that NRM North accept the corporate plan.

CARRIED

12. Expenditure of Australian Government Investment

An outline of the Australian Government Investment to June 2008 was presented to the Management Committee.

The Management Committee was satisfied that there was currently minimal organizational risk in relation to the June 2008 deadline.

The Management Committee inquired to why only half the allocated investment had been spent on Property Management Planning to date. The Executive Officer advised that this investment is allocated for the implementation of the property management plans currently being undertaken by landowners. The Isis Landcare Group is being used as the pilot to determine the process for investing in the implementation of Natural Resource Management Action Plans that accompany the property management plans.

13. TFGA MOU and Property Management Systems

The Executive officer updated the management committee about the TFGA MOU and property management systems framework. The Executive Officer has organised a meeting this month with the Chairs and Executive Officers from the three regions, TFGA and the State Government to discuss the process for furthering the Statewide Property Management System.

Janet Wallace will be attending this meeting in place of NRM North's Chair.

Tamar Estuary Management Plan

The Executive Officer tabled the final report for the Tamar Estuary Management plan project for the Management Committee to accept and endorse.

The Management committee notes that they receive and accept the report but will not endorse the report until the next Management Committee Meeting in June once all committee members have had time to read and respond to their findings.

15. Strategy Review Update

The Management Committee was presented with a briefing paper outlining potential consultation processes for the regional NRM strategy target review. The Management Committee endorsed that both targeted consultation and Association consultation as the preferred process.

16. Other Business

No other business was tabled for discussion.

17. NEXT MEETING

Next Committee meeting: June 6th at the NRM North Offices – 49-51 Elizabeth Street, Launceston.

Meeting closed at 1.00 pm.

