
MINUTES
WTMA BOARD MEETING No. 83: 8 & 9 NOVEMBER 2010

Directors	Assoc. Professor Peter Valentine	Chair
	Ms Allison Halliday	Director (Tuesday only)
	Dr Alastair Birtles	Director
	Cr Julia Leu	Director
	Dr Elaine Harding	Director
	Mr Andrew Maclean	Executive Director
Departmental Observers	Ms Veronica Blazely	DSEWPaC
	Mr Peter Ogilvie	QPWS/DERM
	Mr Brett Stallbaum	QPWS/DERM
Committee Chairs	Ms Bryony Barnett	Chair CCC (Monday only)
	Professor Paul Gadek	Chair SAC (Monday am only)
	Mr Troy Wyles Whelan	Chair RAAC (Monday pm, Tuesday)
WTMA staff	Dr Paul Chantrill	
	Mr Max Chappell	
	Mr Nigel Hedgcock	
	Mr Bruce Jennison	
	Dr Steve Goosem	
	Mr Nev Reis	
	Ms Ellen Weber	

Agenda Item 1.1 Chairperson's Welcome and Introduction

The Chair Peter Valentine opened the meeting at 9.40am and welcomed Veronica Blazely (DSEWPaC), Peter Ogilvie and Brett Stallbaum (QPWS/DERM), Bryony Barnett (Chair CCC) and Prof. Paul Gadek (Chair SAC).

Agenda Item 1.2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Russell Butler Snr, Wolf Sievers, Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM); Karen Jacobsen, Department of Resource Energy and Tourism (DRET); and Jeff Gillies, Tourism Queensland (TQ).

The Board extended their deepest sympathies to Russell Butler Snr on the recent loss of his brother.

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated:

Agenda Item 1.3 Previous Minutes Meeting No. 82: 9 & 10 August 2010

The Chair referred to the minutes of the previous meeting and the following amendments were made:

- Agenda item 2.2 (p.4) dot point two insert at beginning of sentence 'Prior to being elected as a councillor for CRC in 2008, Julia Leu had 14 years'
- Agenda item 2.2 (p.5) - delete additional 'and WHA' from Peter Ogilvie's report
- Agenda item 3.3 (p.9) note that SOUV required by 1 February 2011
- Agenda item 3.4 (p.10) paragraph 2, remove 'that' from first sentence after dot point; and
- Agenda item 6.1 (p.12) change date of WTMA Cassowary Awards to 6 November 2010.

Directors accepted the minutes to be an accurate record of the meeting.

RESOLUTION:

The Board confirmed the minutes from Meeting No. 82 as amended.

Agenda Item 1.4 Actions Arising

The Chair referred to the Actions Arising from the previous meeting and the following updates and comments were made:

- 76/5.3 Change names of Commonwealth Ministers to Burke and Combet; and
- 77/5.5 The Authority has been invited to participate in a CSIRO workshop with Terrain, DSEWPaC and DERM to discuss the development and application of offsets.

RESOLUTION:

The Board noted the status of Actions Arising from previous Board Resolutions, as updated.

Agenda Item 2.1 Chair's Report

Professor Valentine gave a verbal report to the Board on the following matters:

- Chair extended his warm thanks and congratulations to all WTMA staff involved with organising the very successful Cassowary Awards at Rainforest Habitat on Saturday 6 November 2010; and
- Chair thanked WTMA staff for organising the Board field trip to the Daintree lowlands and surrounds on Sunday 7 November 2010. The Board were particularly appreciative of the contributions from Jabalbina representatives, Tina Alderson (QPWS) and Pam and Ron Birkett (Daintree Discovery Centre).

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated:

RESOLUTION:

The Board noted the Chair's report.

Agenda Item 2.2 Directors' issues – verbal reports

The Chair invited Board Directors to provide comments or advice.

Alastair Birtles

- attended the AWHAC meeting 11-13 August 2011 at O'Reilly's Lamington National Park; and
- was invited to attend the AWHIN meeting in Broken Hill between 30 Oct – 1 Nov 2010 and subsequently was very pleased to see a strong delegation represent the Wet Tropics at the recent National Land and Sea Management Conference (2-5 November 2010) in Broken Hill. It was particularly pleasing to hear Katrina Beattie present a paper on 'Using Protected Areas for Economic Development'.

Elaine Harding

- participated in a number of expert workshops facilitated by WTMA to progress the Community Engagement Strategy.

Julia Leu

- Cairns Regional Council has recently prepared a State of Environment Report that can be downloaded at <http://www.cairns.qld.gov.au/environment/sustainability-and-climate-change/SOE> ; and
- Cairns Regional Council has commenced development of a new planning scheme that will take several years to complete including extensive community consultation prior to commencement.

The Chair invited Board Observers to provide comments or advice.

Veronica Blazely

- at its meeting on the 29th of April 2010, the Australian Heritage Council found that the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area might have Indigenous national heritage values. The Council will publish a notice in the local press in early December seeking comments from owners and occupiers and Aboriginal people with rights and interests on whether the place should be included in the national Heritage List. The Council will also send letters to relevant Queensland Government agencies, Shire Councils and the relevant Aboriginal organisations. Information about the assessment will be located at this web address www.environment.gov.au/heritage/ahc/national-assessments/wettropics/index.html once the notice is published. The period for public comment will close towards the end of January 2011.

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated:

Mr Peter Ogilvie

- working with DSEWPaC to implement a number of DERM Caring for Our Country Projects; and
- preparing SOUV reports for the Riversleigh, Fraser Island and Gondwana World Heritage Properties.

RESOLUTION:

The Board noted the Directors' and Observers' reports.

Agenda Item 2.3 Executive Director's report

The Authority's Executive Director, Andrew Maclean presented his report and made the following comments:

- the Authority was extremely pleased that the proposal for CFOC funding for a habitat restoration project on the Atherton Tablelands in support of World Heritage conservation was successful
- continues to pursue WTMA involvement in the National Environment Research Program (NERP) to influence research investment priorities to ensure they are consistent with the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area Research Strategy; and
- is preparing a discussion paper on the potential arrangements that could be implemented to reinstate a levy on visitors using the Daintree ferry to support environmental and tourism infrastructure.

RESOLUTION:

That the Board

- *requested the Executive Director to prepare a letter to the Commonwealth Government highlighting the Authority's concerns regarding the NERP process, the rainforest research proposals submitted in the final bid and the value the Authority would be able to contribute to knowledge transfer;*
- *warmly congratulated the WTMA staff involved with the preparation of the successful CfoC proposal;*
- *thanked all the staff involved with the organisation of the successful Cassowary awards; and*
- *noted the Executive Director's report.*

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated:

Agenda Item 2.4 Community Consultative Committee

The Chair of the CCC, Bryony Barnett, presented the CCC minutes. She advised of the following points of interest and concern:

- members continued to discuss opportunities for the reinvigoration of the CCC through its Operational Guidelines and WTMA's Community Engagement Strategy; and
- CCC members were of the view that the CCC structure, representation, role and outputs needed to be reinvigorated to provide a more positive role for members and Authority.

RESOLUTION:

The Board:

- *noted the CCC minutes for the 22 October 2010;*
- *noted that the CCC continued to discuss the review of CCC operational guidelines; and*
- *noted that CCC members have been provided the opportunity to participate in the Community Engagement Strategy.*

Agenda Item 2.5 Rainforest Aboriginal Advisory Committee

Nigel Hedcock addressed the Board on the RAAC recommendations tabled at the meeting.

The Board:

- *noted that the RAAC met on 22-23 September 2010 (Attachment 2.5(1));*
- *affirmed the importance of Rainforest Aboriginal People to the management of Wet Tropics World Heritage Values and the important role the RAAC has played in representing them;*
- *thanked the RAAC and the Authority staff for the extensive work they have put in on developing these recommendations for a revised RAAC structure to assist with this;*
- *more specifically the Board Notes Recommendation 1 and considered it in the context of overall RAAC Review provided in Board paper 6.2;*
- *noted Recommendation 2 and 3; and*
- *supported Recommendation 4.*

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated:

Agenda Item 2.6 Scientific Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee Prof. Paul Gadek addressed the Board and made the following comments:

- members are keen to assist the Authority in pursuing participation in new and existing hubs with the objective of ensuring a focus on wet tropics priority research needs and an active role for WTMA in the design and delivery of research projects; and
- members provided comment on the draft revised Operational Guidelines.

RESOLUTION:

The Board noted the SAC minutes from 9 September 2010.

Agenda Item 2.7 Queensland Parks & Wildlife Partnership Agreement

Brett Stallbaum addressed the meeting and gave the updates on the following:

- unseasonal wet weather has restricted and delayed planned burns at a number of locations; and
- a number of visitor centres were assisted in scoping interest and capacity to deliver information on parks and World Heritage information to visitors.

RESOLUTION:

The Board noted the QPWS Activity Report at Attachment 2.7(1) in relation to implementation of the partnership agreement.

Agenda Item 3.1 Situation and Issues Report - Protection

Bruce Jennison addressed the meeting and gave updates on the following:

- DTMR are upgrading the Bruce Highway at Cardwell gap; and
- WTMA is developing a CMA with CSIRO, JCU and QPWS regarding the construction of a tower to support equipment to measure carbon dioxide at Robson Creek as part of the TERN supersite.

RESOLUTION:

The Board:

- *noted the situation report relating to 'protection' issues associated with the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area; and*
- *encouraged the Authority to continue to deal with the Bloomfield Road matter in accordance with existing policy on Bloomfield Road.*

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated:

Agenda Item 3.2 Implications of Wet Tropics State Forest Transfer (SFT) process – Discussion Paper

Max Chappell addressed the Board and made the following comments:

- Gazettal of Wet Tropics forest transfers as protected areas began in 2005. While many of the land use issues associated with the SFT process have been resolved, issues associated with constraints on access for horse riding and access for seed collecting remain controversial with communities in some parts of the Wet Tropics region
- concern regarding the potential impacts of the conversion to protected area tenure on Native Title also persists; and
- the SFT discussion paper will be made available to CCC members as feedback.

RESOLUTION:

That the Board noted the matters raised in this discussion paper.

Agenda Item 4.1 Situation and Issues Report – Conservation and Rehabilitation

Max Chappell addressed the Board and made the following comments:

- DERM is currently undertaking two water planning processes associated with the Wet Tropics: the Wet Tropics Water Resources Plan (WTWRP); and Healthy Waterways Management Planning; and
- the Authority has been accepted on the Agencies Reference Panel for the WTWRP exercise.

RESOLUTION:

The Board noted the situation report relating to ‘conservation and rehabilitation’ issues associated with the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Agenda Item 4.2 Conservation Sector Liaison Group

Dr Elaine Harding addressed the Board and made the following comments:

- the CSLG were provided with an update on the cassowary genetics project by Dr. David Wescott; and
- members expressed concerns about the need to secure funding to continue research into improved DNA sampling and extraction methods.

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated:

RESOLUTION:

The Board:

- *noted the CSLG minutes for the 25 October 2010 (Attachment 4.2(1)); and*
- *that the CSLG congratulated WTMA in securing funding through Caring for our Country.*

Agenda Item 4.3 Statement of Outstanding Universal Vale and UNESCO Periodic Report

Steve Goosem addressed the Board and made the following comments:

- the WHA is listed for its natural values and these are broadly described in the SOUV; and
- the WHC has adopted a web-based (electronic) questionnaire for use to describe the most serious current negative 'factors affecting the property'. Initial reporting indicates that currently includes ground transport infrastructure, temperature changes, invasive/alien terrestrial species and invasive/alien freshwater species.

The Board provided comment and advice on the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV) suggesting the values described to be written in an 'inspiring plain English version'.

RESOLUTION:

The Board:

- *endorsed the draft retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the Wet Tropics WHA for forwarding to the Commonwealth Minister for endorsement (via the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities) prior to submission to the World Heritage Centre;*
- *noted the progress in preparing a Section II Periodic Report on the state of conservation of the Wet Tropics WHA; and*
- *requested the document be tabled at the March 2011 Board meeting.*

Agenda Item 4.4 Wet Tropics Conservation Strategy – Implementation Review

Max Chappell addressed the Board and made the following comments:

- The Authority has commenced a review of the implementation of the current Conservation Strategy. The Authority is in the process of reporting on achievements against each of the priorities.

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated:

RESOLUTION:

The Board noted the status of the Wet Tropics Conservation Strategy implementation review.

Agenda Item 5.1 Situation and Issues Report – ‘World Heritage Presentation

Paul Chantrill addressed the Board and provided the following additional comments:

- WTMA is consulting with partners and industry representatives around tourism accreditation; and
- the Authority continues to promote the opportunity for the development of a National Landscapes bid for the Wet Tropics, and has received favourable feedback from the Assessment Committee on the bid presented in September 2010.

RESOLUTION:

The Board noted the situation and issues report relating to ‘presentation’ issues associated with the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Agenda Item 6.1 Situation and Issues Report – ‘Role in the Life of the Community’

Paul Chantrill addressed the Board and provided the following additional comments:

- the 12th Cassowary Awards were held on 6 November 2010. It was a very successful night with over 160 people participating at the event; and
- the Authority is engaging with the Cairns Regional Council in regard to the Daintree Gateway Master Plan by attending public meetings and has been invited to be part of a Reference Group of the project.

RESOLUTION:

The Board noted the situation and issues report relating to ‘the role in the life of the community’ issues associated with the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated:

Agenda Item 6.2 Review of the Rainforest Aboriginal Advisory Committee (RAAC)

The Board were provided with two attachments outlining possible models for RAAC (**Attachment 6.2 (1)**) and establishment of a new committee (**Attachment 6.2 (2)**). Nigel Hedgcock and Troy Wyles Whelan addressed the Board and made the following comments:

- several key regional Rainforest Aboriginal have been formulating ideas and discussing ways to create an independent regional Aboriginal voice to address cultural and NRM management issues across the Wet Tropic. This has resulted in the development of the Rainforest Aboriginal People's Alliance (RAPA). The RAPA are broadly representative of the Wet Tropics bioregion, however there are some tribal group and other aboriginal organisations as yet unaffiliated with RAPA, and therefore unrepresented on the forum; and
- Terrain NRM are supportive of the establishment of and Indigenous engagement forum that meets the needs of both WTMA and Terrain in addition to the needs of Aboriginal communities.

RESOLUTION:

The Board:

- *was delighted to see the progress made in developing the new structure to represent Rainforest Aboriginal People;*
- *approved the new RAAC model based on Option 3 of Attachment 6.2 (1) combining the previous roles of both RAAC and TOAC but incorporating the details of Option 2 Recommended Model in attachment 6.2(2); and*
- *endorsed the 'Proposal for Establishing a New Committee' and recommended processes (as outlined in Attachment 6.2(2)) with a modification to the membership to read 'membership will be a total of 9 members including at least two male and two female Elders'.*

Agenda Item 6.3 Native Title in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area

As requested at Board meeting No. 82 (August 2010) Nigel Hedgcock prepared a discussion paper on Native Title in the Wet Tropics. He addressed the Board and made the following comments:

- Traditional Owner groups negotiate Native Title claims individually with specific priorities and aspirations. However, there are inconsistent outcomes across different claims due to TO capacity (skills and resources) to participate equitably in negotiation offered by the State; and
- At times there may be little or no quantifiable benefits arising to NT holders and although some opportunities arise, the capacity to realise them in a timely manner is limited by lack of coordination between governments and NRM and socio-economic agencies in relation to policy, planning and program development and implementation.

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated:

RESOLUTION:

The Board:

- *thanked the staff for developing this informative paper;*
- *Noted the current issues in this discussion paper on native title in the World Heritage Area*
- *will continue to actively deliberate on future directions and actions to guide the Authority's involvement in Native Title policy and claim negotiations; and*
- *requested that the Authority to bring forward specific recommendations based on the principles and issues identified in this paper at the next Board meeting.*

Agenda Item 6.4 Community Engagement Strategy

Neville Reis addressed the Board and made the following comments:

- The Community Engagement Strategy is to reposition and reinvigorate WTMA with a more effective community engagement system. The document will complement other WTMA strategic documents such as the Research Strategy and Nature Based Tourism Strategy. It has been developed in close consultation with WTMA committees and stakeholders; and
- Implementation of the strategy will require new resource inputs which will be addressed in the development of the annual WTMA workplan.

The Board provided a number of additional comments on the strategy and requested a final draft is forwarded to Directors by 26 November 2010.

RESOLUTION:

The Board approved the Wet Tropics Community Engagement Strategy.

Agenda Item 7.1 Initial Planning Priorities 2011/12 Workplan

Andrew Maclean addressed the Board and made the following comments:

- the Board approved the triennial business plan (2010-2013) at the August 2010 meeting; and
- attachment 7.1(1) is designed to stimulate and facilitate Board discussion.

The Board provided comment and advice on the draft work plan. They reiterated their support for developing strategic projects (including with our partners) that provided opportunities for growth within the organisation.

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated:

RESOLUTION:

The Board provided direction on Authority priorities as a basis for development of the 2011/12 annual workplan.

Agenda Item 7.2 Budget and Workplan 2010/11

Andrew Maclean addressed the Board and made the following comments on the budget and workplan 2010/11:

- there were some difficulties in progressing community development plans under the EKY implementation project
- there are continued delays in the appointment of Indigenous Directors; and
- the Authority budget remains slightly underspent as at 30 September 2010.

RESOLUTION:

The Board:

- *noted the year to date budget and expenditure report; and*
- *noted the progress report on workplan implementation.*

Agenda Item 7.3 Community Consultative Committee Operational Guidelines

Paul Chantrill addressed the Board and made the following comments:

- The revised Operational Guidelines have been developed in consultation with CCC; and
- members were keen to see a role for CCC members as ambassadors for the Wet Tropics Area, as well as reporting back to their own contacts, networks and representative organisations.

RESOLUTION:

The Board:

- *Noted changes to the Community Consultative Committee operational guidelines; and*
- *Approved the Community Consultative Committee Operational Guidelines.*

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated:

Agenda Item 7.4 Scientific Advisory Committee

Max Chappell addressed the Board and made the following comments:

- many of the proposed amendments to the Operating Guidelines are for clarification purposes or to improve administrative efficiencies; and
- the Authority was keen for the new SAC to provide advice and channel information and opinion between the science community and the Authority, particularly to facilitate and support implementation of the Wet Tropics Research Strategy.

RESOLUTION:

The Board

- *reaffirmed the great value of the SAC to the Authority and Board; and*
- *endorsed the revised Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) procedures: Internal Operational Guideline 5 as amended.*

Agenda Item 7.5 Future Meeting Dates

Andrew Maclean addressed the Board and made the following comment:

- the Board field trip will be held in Malanda on 8 & 9 August 2011.

RESOLUTION:

The Board approved the proposed dates and locations, as amended for the meetings to be held in 2011.

Agenda Item 7.7 Other business

The Chair thanked Directors Allison Halliday and Russell Butler Senior for their contributions to the Board and in particular for their guidance and leadership in relation to Rainforest Aboriginal cultural issues.

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated: