

Minutes
WTMA Board Meeting No. 85: 9 May 2011

Directors:	Assoc. Professor Peter Valentine	Chair
	Dr Alastair Birtles	Director
	Cr Julia Leu	Director
	Mr Andrew Maclean	Executive Director
Departmental Observers	Ms Veronica Blazeley	DSEWPaC
	Mr Peter Ogilvie	QPWS/DERM
	Mr Wolf Sievers	QPWS/DERM
	Ms Helen Cox	DRET
Committee Chairs	Ms Moni Carlisle	Chair CCC (Monday morning only)
	Professor Steve Williams	Chair SAC
Guests	Mr Phil Rist	Indigenous observer
	Ms Leah Talbot	Indigenous observer
WTMA staff	Ms Ellen Weber	Secretariat
	Mr Max Chappell	Manager, Planning and Conservation
	Dr Paul Chantrill	Manager, Communities and Partnerships

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Chairperson's Welcome and Introduction (9.00 - 9.10am)

The Chair Peter Valentine opened the meeting at 9.00am and welcomed Directors Dr Alastair Birtles and Cr Julia Leu.

The Chair expressed great pleasure in welcoming the Chairs of the newly appointed Advisory Committees, Ms Moni Carlisle (Chair CCC) and Prof Steve Williams (Chair SAC) to their first WTMA Board meeting.

The Chair welcomed Helen Cox from DRET to the meeting. He noted that the Authority is developing a number of tourism initiatives at present and is keen to align these projects with Commonwealth priorities.

The Chair welcomed Veronica Blazely to the meeting. He advised that the Board is grateful for the continued support from SEWPAC.

The Chair welcomed Phil Rist and Leah Talbot who were invited to participate at the meeting as observers representing Rainforest Aboriginal peoples' interests.

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated:

The Chair noted that Australian Heritage Week was recently celebrated from 14 April to 20 April and that it was a fine opportunity for the Wet Tropics community to celebrate our shared and special heritage.

1.2 Apologies (9.10 to 9.15am)

Apologies were received from Jeff Gillies, Tourism Queensland.

1.3 Previous Minutes Meeting No. 84: March 2011 (9.50am to 9.52am)

Resolution

The Board confirmed the Ordinary minutes from Meeting No. 84.

1.4 Actions Arising (9.50am to 10.28am)

The Chair referred to the Actions Arising from the previous meeting, as updated.

- **81/2.5 Indigenous Board Directors.** A report is being prepared for SEWPAC consideration.
- **83/2.3 NERP funding.** The Rainforest Working Group meets 12 May 2011 in advance of a Steering Committee meeting. Indigenous engagement in research projects as well as the NERP process remains a matter of concern.
- **84/5.2 Tropical Cyclone Yasi.** Environmental impact and recovery has been well implemented. The Authority is considering submitting a Biosecurity focused CFOC project proposal.
- **84/5.5 Cassowary Red List evaluation.** The status has been re-evaluated by the expert panel and it appears likely that the proposal to change status to “least concern” will not proceed.

Resolution

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

1.5 Additional nominations for the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) a 2011-2014 IN CAMERA – Directors and Departmental Observers only (4pm to 4.15pm)

Andrew Maclean addressed the Board.

Resolution

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated:

The Board invited the people listed at Attachment 1.5(1) to be appointed to the Scientific Advisory Committee for a three year term to 8 March 2014.

REPORTS

2.1 Chair's Report (10.30am – 10.45am)

The Chair gave a verbal report to the Board on the following matters:

- Chair attended a steering committee meeting for World Protected Areas in Switzerland (April 2011). At that meeting members confirmed World Heritage Areas as demonstration sites of best practice for protected areas.
- Chair attended an ACIUCN meeting in Sydney (April 2011) and is pleased that the ACIUCN is undergoing a process of reinvigoration with the appointment of Penny Figgis AO as Executive Officer.
- Chair travelled to the Daintree (22 April) with the Executive Director to meet with Minister the Hon Tony Bourke MP. Themes for the day focussed on tourism and research.
- Chair attended the CCC meeting on 29 April and also met with Prof Steve Williams and Dr Sue Laurence (SAC Chair and Deputy Chair) the same day. He is keen for the Board to maintain close links with both of these committees in the future.

Resolution

The Board noted the Chair's report.

2.2 Directors' issues – verbal reports (11.15am -11.45am)

The Chair invited Board Directors to provide comments or advice.

Alastair Birtles reported that:

- there had been very limited communications between SEWPAC and AWHAC members over the last six months and a new Chair had not been appointed, and
- 2011 marks 30 years of declaration of a number of Australian World Heritage Areas including Kakadu, GBRMP and Willandra Lakes.

The Chair invited observers to provide reports and advice.

Peter Ogilvie advised that

- the advisory committees for a number of Queensland WH properties, including Gondwana, Riversleigh and Fraser Island were waiting to be appointed, following the review of committees initiated by the Commonwealth Minister,
- DERM is preparing a submission for the CFOC review which is due 20 May 2011,
- DERM is currently working on CFOC project proposals, including three in the Wet Tropics bioregion, and

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated:

- UNESCO Periodic reports have now all been completed for all Queensland properties.

Veronica Blazely advised that

- National Heritage Week was extremely successful this year.

Helen Cox advised that

- The program for the Australia - China Tourism Summit 2011 in Cairns (7-10 June 2011) presented by the DRET and Tourism Australia, is now available at <http://www.ret.gov.au/tourism/policy/china-summit-2011/Pages/invitation.aspx> . The theme of the Summit is 'unlimited possibilities', and seeks to ensure long-term sustainable growth in two way tourism trade and people-to-people links.

Resolution

The Board noted the Directors' and Observers' reports.

2.3 Executive Director's report (11.45am – 12.10pm)

The Authority's Executive Director, Andrew Maclean addressed the Board.

Resolution:

The Board noted the Executive Director's report

2.4 QPWS Wet Tropics Quarterly Activity Update (12.10pm – 12.20pm)

Wolf Sievers presented the Wet Tropics QPWS Activity Report (March-April 2011) to the Board (refer to **Attachment 2.4(1)**) and advised that:

- Wildlife feeding programs for cassowary and mahogany glider continue. Cassowary feeding stations will be in place for up to 18 months,
- the Wet Tropics Engagement Unit received \$16, 000 from SEWPAC for National Heritage Week and is progressing an audio visual project on management of the WTWHA, and
- QPWS/DERM have recruited two new Senior Rangers in the Wet Tropics Region (in the Mossman and Innisfail offices).

Resolution

The Board

- *noted the QPWS Wet Tropics Regional Manager's verbal report, and*
- *requested the SAC provide advice to the Board regarding impacts of cyclones on wildlife as a basis for prioritisation of recovery effort.*

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated:

2.5 Community Consultative Committee (9.10 – 9.45am)

The Chair of the CCC, Moni Carlisle provided a report to the Board and advised of the following points of interest:

- she was honoured to be invited to be Chair of the CCC,
- members were keen to progress ideas on behalf of their areas of interest (local government, tourism, education), and
- members discussed the role of proxies at meetings, and agreed that proxies are acceptable and should be approved by the CCC Chair.

Resolution

The Board:

- *noted that the newly appointed CCC met on 29 April 2011,*
- *noted that CCC members have provided the opportunity to participate in ‘Vision Planning’ for the CCC,*
- *reaffirmed the importance of QPWS as an active contributor to the CCC,*
- *encouraged the Authority to continue to contribute to Community Development Plans, and*
- *requested that the final CCC minutes be forwarded to Board members and Observers.*

2.6 Scientific Advisory Committee (12.30pm – 12. 45pm).

The Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee Prof Steve Williams addressed the Board and made the following comments:

- noted that the WTMA Board would be appointing additional members to the SAC representing social sciences and indigenous interests,
- tabled a MTSRF funded report ‘Gap analysis of environmental research needs in the Australian Wet Tropics’ **Attachment 2.6 (1)**
http://www.rrrc.org.au/mtsrp/transition_funding.html and
- discussed the potential role and membership of a network of Wet Tropics Research Associates.

Resolution

The Board:

- *thanked Professor Williams for his verbal report, and*
- *noted the newly appointed SAC is meeting for the first time on the 15 July 2011.*

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

3.1 WTMA/QPWS Partnership Agreement for 2011-12 (1.30 – 2.00pm)

Andrew Maclean addressed the Board.

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated:

Resolution

The Board:

- *endorsed the statement of priorities at Attachment 3.1(1) as a basis for the 2011/12 WTMA/QPWS Partnership Agreement, and*
- *requested that the final partnership agreement be presented to the Board for noting at the August 2011 meeting.*

3.2 2010- 11 budget and Workplan quarterly report (2.00pm-2.25pm)

Andrew Maclean updated the Board on the 2010-11 workplan.

Resolution

The Board:

- *noted the financial status report current as at 31 March 2011 (Attachment 3.2(1)), and*
- *noted the work plan progress report (Attachment 3.2(1)).*

3.3 Draft 2011/12 Work Plan update (2.25pm- 2.40pm)

Andrew Maclean addressed the Board and advised that the 2011-12 plan being developed and that financial analysis (including operating funds) and workforce planning (staff allocations) would be completed in the next two months.

Resolution

The Board:

- *noted the progress in development of the 2011-12 WTMA workplan, and*
- *Noted a draft 2011-12 workplan would be forwarded to Directors for comment mid June 2011.*

WORLD HERITAGE PROTECTION

4.1 Situation and Issues Report – Protection (2.40pm – 2.50pm)

Max Chappell addressed the meeting and provided updates on relevant issues.

Resolution

The Board:

- *Noted the situation report relating to ‘protection’ issues associated with the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, and*
- *Requested the draft (DERM) Queensland Biodiversity Offset Policy (May 2011) is forwarded to Board members.*

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated:

WORLD HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND REHABILITATION

5.1 Situation and Issues Report – Conservation and Rehabilitation (2.50pm – 3.00pm)

Max Chappell addressed the meeting and gave the following updates:

- the Authority was well represented at the Greenhouse 2011 conference, and
- the Board may wish to consider launching the WTMA CFOC project (Improving Connectivity) at its August meeting.

Resolution

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

5.2 Conservation Sector Liaison Group Report (3.00pm- 3.20pm)

Max Chappell addressed the meeting.

Resolution

The Board:

- *noted the CSLG minutes for 28 April 2011 (Attachment 5.2(1))*
- *noted this is the final meeting for this term of the CSLG, and*
- *conveyed a warm message of appreciation to members of the CSLG for their valuable contribution during this term of the CSLG, their input into the conservation of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, and their support provided to the Wet Tropics Management Authority.*

5.3 Conservation Sector Liaison Group Review

Max Chappell addressed the meeting.

Resolution

The Board:

- *noted the attached workshop discussion paper; and*
- *noted a verbal report on the CSLG meeting will be provided at the Board meeting.*

5.4 CSLG and Conservation Network

Max Chappell briefed the Board on the CLSG and conservation network.

Resolution

The Board:

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated:

- *approved the operational guidelines for the Wet Tropics Conservation Sector Liaison Group, and*
- *noted the Conservation Sector Liaison Group is a liaison forum and not a statutory advisory committee established under s40 Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993.*

6.1 Situation and Issues Report – World Heritage Presentation (3.20pm - 3.35pm)

Paul Chantrill addressed the meeting and provided updates on relevant issues.

Resolution

The Board

- *noted the situation report relating to 'presentation' issues associated with the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, and*
- *Requested the draft road map for progressing the Wet Tropics tourism accreditation scheme be forwarded to Board members for their information out of session.*

The Board encouraged the consultation with and regard for Rainforest Aboriginal Interests in developing the accreditation road map.

6.2 Nature based Tourism Strategy Amendments (3.40pm - 4.10pm)

Andrew Maclean addressed the meeting.

Resolution

The Board

- *noted the concern of the Daintree region tourism industry about aspects of the Wet Tropics Nature Based Tourism Strategy,*
- *recognised that while the statements in the NBTS about the need for redirecting future tourism growth to more southerly areas of the WTWHA were appropriate in the context of the years leading up to publication in 2000, the circumstances pertaining in 2011 are now markedly different,*
- *approved deletion of Strategy references referring to redirection of industry growth away from the Daintree/Cape Tribulation precinct,*
- *approved deletion of Strategy references to promotion of the Wooroonooran precinct as an alternative to the Daintree/Cape Tribulation precinct, and*
- *reasserted a policy position that WTMA encourages development of ecologically sustainable tourism in all parts of*

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated:

the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area where this is consistent with maintenance of World Heritage values and the objectives of the various precincts identified in the Nature Based Tourism Strategy.

ROLE IN THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

7.1 Situation and Issues Report – Role in the Life of the Community (4.15pm - 4.40pm)

Paul Chantrill and Nigel Hedgcock addressed the meeting.

Resolution

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

7.2 Community Consultative Committee 2007-10 - exit survey (4.40pm-4.45pm)

Paul Chantrill addressed the Board on the CCC exit survey. He advised that the results of the survey provided useful guidance and direction for induction of the new committee.

Resolution

The Board noted the results from the CCC 2007-2011 Exit Survey.

Meeting closed at 4.45pm

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated:

Attachment 1.5 (1)

Additional SAC members 2011-2014	
1	Dr Henrietta Marrie , Program Officer, Northern Australia, The Christensen Fund, Cairns.
2	Mr Gerry Turpin, Botanist, Australian Tropical Herbarium, Cairns.
3	Professor Jeffrey Sayer, James Cook University, Cairns 4870
4	Assoc. Prof Lea Scherl, James Cook University Townsville, 4810

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated: