

Minutes
WTMA Board Meeting
No. 86: 8 & 9 August 2011

Directors:	Assoc. Professor Peter Valentine Dr Alastair Birtles Cr Julia Leu Mr Andrew Maclean	Chair Director Director Executive Director
Departmental Observers	Ms Jane Ambrose Mr Peter Ogilvie Mr Wolf Sievers Ms Helen Cox	SEWPAC QPWS/DERM QPWS/DERM DRET
Committee Chairs	Ms Moni Carlisle Professor Steve Williams	Chair CCC Chair SAC
Guests	Mr Ernie Grant Ms Leah Talbot	Board Observer Board Observer
WTMA staff	Ms Ellen Weber Mr Max Chappell Dr Paul Chantrill	Secretariat Manager, Planning and Conservation Manager, Communities and Partnerships

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Chairperson's Welcome and Introduction

The Chair Peter Valentine opened the meeting at 11.15am and welcomed Directors Dr Alastair Birtles and Cr Julia Leu.

The Chair welcomed Ms Jane Ambrose to the meeting. He advised that the Board was grateful for the continued support from SEWPAC and acknowledged Ms Veronica Blazely significant contributions over the recent years.

The Chair welcomed the Chairs of the Authority's Advisory Committees, Ms Moni Carlisle (Chair CCC) and Prof Steve Williams (Chair SAC) to the Board meeting.

The Chair welcomed Dr Ernie Grant and Ms 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 Tourism QLD were not represented at the meeting.

1.2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr Jeff Gillies (TQ), Dr Ro Hill (Board Observer) and Mr Ian Mason (SEWPAC).

1.3 Previous Minutes Meeting No. 85: May 2011

Resolution

The Board confirmed the Ordinary minutes from Meeting No. 85.

1.4 Actions Arising

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

Resolution

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

1.5 Additional nominations for the Conservation Sector Liaison Group (CSLG) IN CAMERA – Directors and Departmental Observers only

Andrew Maclean addressed the Board.

Resolution

The Board:

- *noted the expressions of interest received for membership of the Conservation Sector Liaison Group (CSLG), and*
- *approved the appointment of a Chair and Deputy Chair as listed at Attachment 1.5 (1).*

1.6 Additional nominations for the Community Consultative Committee (CCC) Aboriginal Representative Appointment IN CAMERA – Directors and Departmental Observers only

Andrew Maclean addressed the Board.

Resolution

The Board appointed Ms Joann Schmider (MaMu Traditional Owner) to the Community Consultative Committee for a three year term to 7 March 2014.

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated:

REPORTS

2.1 Chair's Report

The Chair gave a verbal report to the Board on a number of issues including:

- that he was very pleased to be attending a Wet Tropics Ministerial Council meeting in Brisbane on the 12th August 2011, and
- that he was keen to for the Authority to be prepared for any announcement from the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, the Hon. Tony Burke MP regarding National Heritage Listing of the World Heritage Area for its Indigenous values.

Resolution

The Board noted the Chair's report.

2.2 Directors' issues – verbal reports

The Chair invited Board Directors to provide comments or advice.

Alastair Birtles

- reported that there had been limited communications between AWHAC members in the past couple of months.

Peter Ogilvie

- provided a verbal update and report on a number of Queensland World Heritage Properties (refer to **Attachment 2.2 (1)**).

Jane Ambrose

- advised that National Heritage Week was extremely successful this year.

Resolution

The Board noted the Directors' and Observers' reports.

2.3 Executive Director's report

The Authority's Executive Director, Andrew Maclean addressed the Board and provided the following updates:

- the Authority had contracted Bryony Barnett to prepare a Knowledge Brokering and Communication proposal for NERP
- he had an opportunity to meet the Hon. Minister Vicki Darling in Cairns to discuss regional cassowary issues, and
- he was working on the appointments of new Directors and was aware of the Board's concerns regarding the lack of (formal) Indigenous representation at meetings.

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated:

Resolution:

The Board noted the Executive Director's report.

2.4 QPWS Wet Tropics Quarterly Activity Update

Wolf Sievers presented the Wet Tropics QPWS Activity Report (May to June 2011) to the Board and advised that:

- QPWS had commenced their burning program for the season
- The Eastern Kuku Yalanji land transfer ceremony was planned for October 2011, and
- There have been 12 cassowary deaths since Cyclone Yasi including seven from cars and three from dog attacks.

Resolution

The Board:

- *noted the QPWS Wet Tropics Regional Manager's report,*
- *commended QPWS in post cyclone clearing up activities, particularly their continued efforts in running the cassowary feeding program, and*
- *welcomed the name change from Tam O'Shanter NP to Djiru NP to acknowledge Traditional Ownership of the region.*

2.5 Community Consultative Committee

The Chair of the CCC, Moni Carlisle provided a report to the Board and advised that the School for Field Studies, with support from Tablelands Regional Council and Terrain NRM were putting together a 30min film on community restoration activities on the Tablelands.

Resolution

That the Board:

- *noted the CCC minutes for 15 July 2011, and*
- *noted that CCC members participated in identifying how they can support WTMA in education, communication and information, legislation and regulations, and partnerships.*

2.6 Scientific Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee Prof Steve Williams addressed the Board.

Resolution

The Board noted that the inaugural 2011-2014 SAC meeting is scheduled for 26 August 2011.

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated:

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

3.1 WTMA/QPWS Partnership Agreement for 2011-12

This item will be carried over to the November meeting.

3.2 2010- 11 budget and Workplan quarterly report

Andrew Maclean updated the Board on the 2010-11 end of year work plan and budget report.

Resolution

The Board noted the 2010-2011 work plan and budget.

3.3 2011/12 Work Plan and budget

Andrew Maclean briefed the Board on the 2011- 12 workplan including

- the Authority will deliver on it projects through three programs which will work cooperatively to deliver on 23 projects that form the basis of the work plan, and
- practical support to the development of RAPA through funding of logistical support and in-kind assistance is provided for in the workplan.

The Board indicated support for a discussion at the November 2011 meeting on planning context and directions to guide the development of the 2012-13 WTMA work program.

Resolution

The Board:

- *approved the Annual Workplan and budget for 2011-2012, and*
- *approved submission of the budget to Ministerial Council for approval.*

3.4 Annual report and State of Wet Tropics Report

Andrew Maclean advised the Board that drafts of both reports were well advanced and that there is a statutory requirement under our Acts for the reports to be provided to the Queensland Minister for Environment, the Hon Vicki Darling by 30 September 2011.

Resolution

The Board:

- *noted that the Authority is currently preparing its 2010-11 Annual Report, and*
- *noted the theme for the State of Wet Tropics Report for 2010-11 is 'Biosecurity Threats and the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area'.*

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated:

WORLD HERITAGE PROTECTION

4.1 Situation and Issues Report – Protection

Max Chappell addressed the meeting.

Resolution

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

WORLD HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND REHABILITATION

5.1 Situation and Issues Report – Conservation and Rehabilitation

Max Chappell addressed the meeting.

Resolution

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

5.2 Caring for Our Country (CFOC) – Mobilising landholders to improve landscape connectivity in the Wet Tropics

Max Chappell addressed the meeting and advised that the Board would have the opportunity to visit a number of restoration sites during the field trip and official launch.

Resolution

The Board:

- *noted that WTMA has entered into a contract to deliver a \$600,000 project under the Caring for our Country initiative*
- *noted the current progress in relation to the project, and*
- *noted that the project will be officially launched at East Evelyn on Tuesday 9 August 2011.*

6.1 Situation and Issues Report – World Heritage Presentation

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.*

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated:

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

6.2 Tourism Industry Network

Paul Chantrill addressed the meeting and briefed members on the revised *Draft Tourism Network Operational Guidelines 2011* which had been prepared in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

Resolution

The Board approved the revised Tourism Network procedures: Internal Operational Guideline Operating Guideline 8, as amended.

ROLE IN THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

7.1 Situation and Issues Report – Role in the Life of the Community

Paul Chantrill 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 Tableland Region -Situation and Issues Report.

Paul Chantrill addressed the meeting and advised Board members that they would have an opportunity to visit the Malanda Visitor Centre and meet staff and volunteers during the afternoon.

Resolution

The Board noted the situation and issues report relating to the Atherton and Evelyn Tablelands.

7.3 Native Title in the Wet Tropics

Paul Chantrill addressed the Board.

Board members discussed the role of WTMA with respect to native title issues and agreed that decisions should consider (and balance) our legislative responsibilities and strategic objectives and the rights, interests and aspirations of Rainforest Aboriginal people. The Board recognised that decisions must be made about achieving effective outcomes with available resources.

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated:

Resolution

The Board:

- *noted the paper at Attachment 7.3(1) that outlined issues and opportunities in respect of WTMA's participation in native title settlement processes,*
- *noted that, while there are opportunities for improvement in the State's administration of native title negotiations, extensive advocacy for reform of the process lies outside of WTMA's existing capacity,; and*
- *endorsed WTMA's continued participation in native title settlement processes with the objective of assisting other negotiating parties with information about management of the World Heritage Area, and ensuring World Heritage values are appropriately protected while respecting as far as possible the rights and aspirations of Rainforest Aboriginal people.*

7.4 Eastern Kuku Yalanji Indigenous Land Use Agreement Community Development Planning and Activity Guidelines

Nigel Hedgcock and Bill Carrodus updated the Board on significant issues and advised that:

- generic CDP template has been refined and reduced to improve its efficacy and Individual block CDPs have been prepared for Kaba Gada (Cow Bay), Kalkandamal (Woobadda), Mungumby and Trevethan, and
- the Jabalbina Board previously endorsed the draft Activity Guidelines but has requested that they be re-formatted to differentiate WTMA conditions from local government conditions.

Resolution

The Board:

- *congratulated the EKY Project Team for their continued hard work and commitment to the project,*
- *noted the status of agreeing the Community Development Plans and Activity Guidelines that have been formulated with Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation on behalf of Eastern Kuku Yalanji Traditional Owners prepared for the Pink Zone of the Eastern Kuku Yalanji ILUA,*
- *noted the attached draft Community Development Plans and Activity Guidelines as an example of the product emerging from the project, and*
- *delegated the Executive Director to execute CDPs and AGs on behalf of the Authority.*

7.5 Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Alliance

Nigel Hedgcock addressed the meeting and advised that

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated:

- the Giringun Aboriginal Corporation is initially hosting the RAPA continuing the work under the guidance of a Leadership Group, and
- through practical assistance from WTMA and Terrain, Giringun has recently been able to engage a part-time coordinator to work with RAPA/Leadership Group members in developing its core functions, structural arrangements and business plan, including seeking long-term operational funds.

Resolution

The Board:

- *noted progress with development of the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Alliance, and*
- *supported continuation of WTMA practical support to Giringun Aboriginal Corporation to host the process with an expectation that GAC provides a RAPA partnership proposal to WTMA by October 2011.*

Meeting closed at 12 noon Tuesday 9 August

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated:

Appointment of Conservation Sector Liaison Group (CSLG) Chair and Deputy Chair

Name	Comments	Location	Age	Gender
Sarah Blythe Hoyal	Coordinator CAFNEC, BAppSc MSc Environmental science, good oversight of issues in region, good meeting skills.	Cairns	30-50	F
Peter Smith	No additional information provided.	Ingham	60+	M

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated:

Peter Ogilvie
Queensland World Heritage Properties Report

Fraser Island

- Three new advisory committees have been established. They held a joint meeting on Fraser Island on the first weekend in July 2011.
- A person has been employed to prepare draft material for a World Heritage nomination to extend the existing Fraser Island property to include the Cooloola region, Great Sandy Strait, Platypus Bay and Breaksea Spit.
- That renomination process is being frustrated by the lack of action by the National Heritage Council to have the proposed additions assessed for listing on the National Heritage list.

Great Barrier Reef

- Considerable work is required as a result of the decision of the June meeting of the World Heritage Committee. The decision was prompted by Committee's "extreme concern (at) the approval of Liquefied Natural Gas processing and port facilities on Curtis Island within the property:
- That meeting urged the State Party "to undertake a comprehensive strategic assessment of the entire property, identifying planned and future development that could impact on the Outstanding Universal Value....".
- It also requested the State Party "to invite a reactive monitoring mission as soon as possible....".
- These responses will take at least 18 months to complete and will involve several Commonwealth and State government departments.
- The WH property involves a greater area than the GBR Marine Park as it includes all the islands as well the water and land between LWM and HWM.

Riversleigh section of Australian Fossil Mammal Sites (AFMS)

- Newly appointed community and scientific advisory committee for Riversleigh met for the first time on 3 August 2011.
- EPBC assessment of fossil extraction for research purposes has recently resulted in a 9 year authority being granted under the EPBC Act to Dr Michael Archer of the University of NSW.

Gondwana Rainforests

- The two advisory committees for Gondwana Rainforests (Community Advisory Committee and Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee) are still in the process of being appointed. Sign off by the NSW minister will complete the process and arrangements can then be made for a meeting.
- The executive officer position is shared by NSW and Qld. The present incumbent is located at Coffs Harbour and is a staff member of NSW NPWS.

AWHIN

- Queensland has offered to host the next AWHIN (Australian World Heritage Indigenous Network) on Fraser Island, subject to adequate funding being provided by the Commonwealth.
- QPWS was asked to supply indicative costs for two Indigenous representatives from each WH property, including all travel and accommodation expenses. That estimate was in the vicinity of \$65K.

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated: