

Minutes

Minutes of the Tweed River Committee Meeting held Wednesday 14 October 2009

Venue:

Canvas & Kettle Meeting Room

Time:

9.10am

Present:

Cr Kevin Skinner (Chair); Cr Katie Milne; Robert Quirk (NRCMA & NSW Cane Growers' Association); David McPherson (Land & Property Management Authority); Carl Cormack (NSW Maritime Authority); Martin Dobney (Action Sands Chinderah); Lance Tarvey (Department of Environment, Climate Change & Water); Claire Masters (Tweed Landcare Inc); Judy Robinson (Fingal Head Community Representative); Max Boyd (Community Representative); Pat Dwyer (Department of Industry & Investment - Fisheries); David Oxenham; Jane Lofthouse, Tom Alletson, Sebastien Garcia-Cuenca, Mark Kingston (Tweed Shire Council).

INFORMAL:

Cathey Philip (Minutes Secretary).

Apologies:

Bob Loring (Department of Industry & Investment - Fisheries), Kyle Slabb (Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council); Richard Hagley (Department of Environment, Climate Change & Water); Errol Wright (Tweed River Charter Operators); Rhonda James (Caldera Environment Centre); Peter Baker (Tweed Agriculture Representative).

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Moved: Robert Quirk

Seconded: Max Boyd

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Tweed River Committee meeting held Wednesday 12 August 2009 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Business Arising:

Item from Meeting held 12 August 2009

Draft Cobaki and Terranora Broadwater Management Plan

A discussion was held regarding the above plan and the best options for promoting it.

The Committee decided to launch at the Catchment Catch Up Day on Friday 23 October and request various groups to host a community evening, ensuring all stakeholder groups are made welcome.

Tom will make a presentation to the Aboriginal Advisory Committee.

Final plan will go to Council for adoption in the New Year. Feedback from TRC requested for next meeting in December 2009.

Item from Meeting held 12 August 2009
Power Boating Study

There was a lengthy discussion on possible riverbank erosion caused by power boats and other activities.

It was decided to finalise the brief, update the bank plan with input into the boating plan review.

A study on wake-boarding has been carried out in the Williams Estuary and Tom raised the possibility of using information from that study as there are similarities in the two estuaries.

There was discussion on writing to the CMA requesting support in an approach to the Minister for NSW Maritime.

David Oxenham said that after the TSC study is released, the Committee needed to determine its position and then advise CMA.

Item from Meeting held 12 August 2009
Seagrass Monitoring - Jack Evans Boat Harbour

Tom advised the meeting of the outcome of the recommendation to Council being that Council decided if the Committee believed the development of a Management Plan for Jack Evans Boat Harbour to be a priority, then the Committee needed to provide the funding.

Cr Milne asked if this could be funded as part of the infrastructure development Federal Government grants.

David Oxenham advised that such a request needs to be done through the Chamber at a Council Meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE IN:**1. Tweed Charter Boat Operators Association**

Requesting consideration of a no wash zone for non-commercial vessels over eight metres on the Tweed River.

Tom is to respond informing the Association of the Power Boating Study and that this issue will be captured by Study.

2. Eric Hammermeister of Oxley Cove Community Group

Requesting further revetment construction at Oxley Cove canal estate.

Tom advised of the continual requests from Oxley Cove Community Group regarding rock revetment and that the group had been advised several times of Council's ability to carry out revetment work.

3. Cobaki Broadwater, Groundwater Management

Regarding groundwater management at Tugun Bypass. Tom read a précis of the letter to the meeting.

4. NSW Department of Planning

Response to Council's letter to Department of Planning expressing concern about Tugun Bypass groundwater monitoring data. Tom read letter to meeting. Department of Planning's regulatory requirements for the bypass have been met.

After lengthy discussion it was decided that Tom should continue to liaise with Leigh Sullivan from Southern Cross University in relation to a study of possible impacts and bypass runoff on Cobaki Broadwater.

Dave McPherson said there were ongoing concerns with impacts and that he will forward Tom information on outstanding licences. Tom will then write to Department of Environment, Climate Change & Water requesting information on these issues.

Dan Walton attended at 10.00am

Cr Milne suggested the Committee write a thank you letter to Lindy Smith thanking her for time and effort she has devoted to this issue and advise her of the action the Tweed River Committee is taking. A copy of the letter received by Department of Planning is to be included with the letter.

5. Gold Coast Airport Environment Strategy

Tom advised availability of the Gold Coast Airport Environment Strategy. Max Boyd requested Tom to provide an analysis of the document. Tom offered to invite the Airport Environment Officer to present. This suggestion was declined in favour of Tom summarising the Airport's document.

CORRESPONDENCE OUT:

Nil.

Agenda Items:

1. Sustainability & Climate Change Program of Tweed Shire Council

Dan Walton presented the above program after which there was a general discussion and questions and answer time.

Claire commented on the under-utilisation of the catchment trailer and asked if funding could be provided to help get the trailer out on the road more regularly.

Dan Walton left the meeting at 10.55am

2. Stotts Channel Dredging

Robert declared an interest in this item.

Tom presented an Environmental Assessment & Dredging Options Report after which there was a general discussion.

Tom to liaise with NSW Cane Growers' Association and go through the report.

The Committee decided to pass the report onto Drainage Union and obtain costs for an environmental assessment and for the physical works and then discuss further.

3. Budget 2009/2010

Tom presented projects and allocations for 2009/2010 after which there was a general discussion.

Katie asked about Kerosene Bay study. Tom gave quick update. Tom will provide copy of report to members over next few weeks.

Tom asked for endorsement to provide \$40,000 to assist with funding to prepare a Sustainable Agriculture Strategy.

Moved: Max Boyd

Seconded: Claire Masters

RESOLVED that \$40,000 from the Acid Sulphate Soils allocation of the 2009/2010 Budget be used to partially fund the Sustainable Agriculture Strategy.

The committee noted the name change from Acid Sulphate Soils to Sustainable Agriculture.

Tom advised no funding available to initiate new projects.

Moved: Max Boyd

Seconded: Robert Quirk

RESOLVED that the 2009/2010 allocation from Council as per the presented budget be adopted.

4. Tweed River Festival Program

Jane gave a run through of the Tweed River Festival program which runs from 19 to 25 October with the main day being Saturday 24 October.

Tom gave a run through of the Catchment Catch Up Day to be held Friday 23 October 2009.

5. Media Release regarding Blue/Green Algae

Tom read to the Committee a media release regarding water being released from Clarrie Hall dam into the river.

General Business:

1. Appointment of Community Support Officer

Jane advised the Committee of Claire's appointment to Community Support Officer for Natural Resource Management.

2. Estuary & Coastal Program Funding

Jane advised the funding from Department of Environment, Climate Change & Water for next year (funding period changed to financial year) and is due on 10 November.

3. Draft Tweed Coast Flood Study

Jane advised that at Tweed Coastal Committee meeting she will be presenting information on the draft Tweed Coast Flood Study and welcomed members of the Tweed River Committee who are not on that committee to attend.

4. Australian Sugar Industry

Robert advised that he has recently been involved in an audit of the Australian Sugar Industry. Australia is at the top of the tree as far as sugar production is concerned, with regard to environmental, safety and quality issues.

5. Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC)

Carl advised that the first meeting was held between Tweed Shire Council and Gold Coast City Council at Tweed Heads on Tuesday 13 October. The two Councils are working together looking at emergency events and hope to put systems in place.

6. Riversymposium

Cr Milne advised of her attendance at the RiverSymposium in Brisbane recently. Commented on how informative the symposium was and that she gained a lot of insight into current issues by attending.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Tweed River Committee will be held Wednesday 9 December 2009 in the Canvas & Kettle Meeting Room.

The meeting closed at 12.45pm.

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S COMMENTS:

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S RECOMMENDATIONS: