

Gippsland Integrated Natural Resources Forum
Executive Meeting 3/03

Minutes

Tuesday 13 May, 2003.

DSE/DPI Office, Service Street, Bairnsdale

Attendees : Barry Hart (chair), John Mitchell (Gippsland Water), Neville Penrose (DPI), Duncan Malcolm (Gippsland Coastal Board), Mick Harding (Gippsland Cultural Heritage Unit), Geoff Hocking (WGCMA)

Guests: Mr Bill Aitken (East Gippsland Shire Council)

Apologies : Alan Freitag (DSE) John Lovering (Gippsland Research Coordination Group), Tony Edgar (DSE), Richard Hancock (GLGN) Graeme Dear (EGCMA)

Meeting Open 10.30 am

1. Opening comments

1.1 Welcome to Bill Aitken, representing East Gippsland Shire Council. Bill's attendance is part of a program of rotating executive meetings around the various municipal areas in Gippsland.

1.2 Some confusion over the representative on the Executive from Gippsland Local Government Network.

Action: Carol Jeffs to write a letter to SOCOM (GLGN Secretariat) requesting that GLGN nominate a representative for the GINRF Executive.

1.3 Congratulations are extended to Professor Barry Hart for the award of a Centenary Medal. The citation: "For service to the conservation of rivers and to water quality, in particular the Gippsland Lakes"

2. Business arising from minutes of last Executive meeting, 7 April 2003:

2.1 GLGN meeting on 1st May – Workshop on West Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategy.

Geoff Hocking reported that the day had been useful for both GLGN members and WGCMA, even though the agenda didn't proceed as planned. Issues regarding the relationship between local councils and CMAs were clarified, including consultation, RCIP and planning processes. The next significant step is to link Municipal Strategic Statements with the Regional Catchment Strategies.

Carol Jeffs made a short presentation at the workshop on the role of GINRF in general and its relationship to the RCS development process.

2.2 Meeting between East Gippsland, West Gippsland and Port Phillip and Westernport CMA re: RCS alignment and INRM Report Card.

This meeting did not go ahead, although Geoff Hocking did attend a meeting with Barry Hart, Carol Jeffs and David Lane (contracted) to discuss the Report Card development.

Geoff Hocking reported that he had attended a recent one day workshop organised by the Victorian Catchment Management Council (VCMC) and the Coastal Council, where useful discussion took place between the Coastal Board and Coastal CMAs.

It is suggested that a meeting between the East and West Gippsland CMAs and the Gippsland Coastal Board would be a good follow up to this workshop. The GINRF Memorandum of Understanding and the disbursement of NHT(2) foundation funding (\$60,000 from each CMA) need to be discussed.

Action: Carol Jeffs to liaise with Geoff Hocking, Graeme Dear, Duncan Malcolm and Barry Hart to schedule a meeting re: funding.

3. Report Card

A draft of the report card contents and methodology was distributed prior to the meeting.

Discussion around the following:

- Whether or not an F should form part of the rating system
- How water and air monitoring fits in to the report card development
- Using RCS assets instead of iconic assets
- How to position this first report card with reporting ideals over the longer term
- Indication of a confidence factor for data reliability
- Wording Icon vs Asset
- How do we measure quality of stewardship?
- How do we reflect the difference in stewardship between different assets the may have different complexity of threats and pressures? For example: Wilson's Prom vs. Gippsland Lakes
- How do we measure the change in community stewardship in the broad? How does the community think? Some type of annual survey may be needed in future.
- Should there be one single rating system for condition and stewardship or two separate ratings.

Meeting decided:

- Report Card to reflect iconic approach, but icons to be renamed 'key natural assets'
- Two separate rating systems to be used; one for condition and one for stewardship

Action: Carol Jeffs to incorporate agreed changes to the report card and liaise with Barry Hart to decide final report card condition and stewardship ratings.

4. Gippsland Biotechnology Strategy

The development of a Gippsland Biotechnology Strategy is at the stage of gathering expressions of interest, financial and in kind commitments from prospective partners. Decided to keep a watching brief on the development process.

5. Gippsland Research Coordination Group

Relationship with GINRF, links, roles, structure, communication
Discussion held over until next meeting.

Some indication that a commercial research consulting business was in the process of being developed to act in a brokering role and provide service to identify research priorities and providers where synergies exist. Contact name: Cullen Gunn

Action: Carol Jeffs to provide discussion paper prior to next meeting

6. Longer term funding models

Discussion postponed until next meeting. Urgency reduced by the securing of NHT(2) Foundation funding for 2002/2003 via the West and East Gippsland CMAs (\$60,000 each)

Action: Geoff Hocking and Carol Jeffs to discuss funding arrangements – see action item under 2.2

7. Cross agency group relationships

Carol Jeffs would like to start mapping the various committees and groups that the executive members are on for the purposes of identifying any possible efficiency to be gained. Suggested to start with the audit that was completed in late 2001.

8. Other Business

John Mitchell requested that the Green Paper on Water be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

9. **Next meeting** - Tuesday 24th June 2003, GREEN inc. building Churchill

Meeting Closed