

# Minutes

**Executive Meeting 1/04**  
**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2004**



**Time/Venue:** 2.00pm to 4.30pm.  
EPA Office, Traralgon

**Attendees :** Barry Hart (Chair), Duncan Malcolm (Gippsland Coastal Board), Tony Edgar (DSE), , Geoff Hocking (WGCMA), , John Lovering (Gippsland Research Coordination Group), John Mitchell (Gippsland Water)

**Apologies :** Mick Harding (Gippsland Cultural Heritage Unit), Richard Hancock (GLGN), Graeme Dear (EGCMA), Neville Penrose (DPI)

## **1. Business arising from last Executive meeting, 28th November 2003**

### 1.1 Communication

Action to send letter from Barry Hart to reference group re: Green Paper success (cc to Lyndsay Neilson) yet to be completed. Still time to do this, perhaps including some comments about the conference.

**Action: Barry Hart send letter to reference group re: Green Paper success and conference outcomes**

## **2. Executive Officer's Report**

2.1 Concern expressed about local government's level of involvement at the executive level and lack of awareness amongst local government of GINRF in general. Executive acknowledges the good work of Richard Hancock but appreciates the range of tasks required of him and request that GLGN nominate an alternate for Richard. Wider awareness and communication would be assisted by expanding the newsletter list to include Mayors and CEOs of councils.

**Action: Barry Hart to write to GLGN, requesting an alternate for the GINRF Executive in the event that Richard Hancock cannot attend**

**Action: Carol Jeffs to expand the newsletter list to include Mayors and CEOs of councils.**

### **3. Reference Group meeting planning**

Water Quality Plans – see John Bush  
Visioning – land stewardship, land use change  
MER  
Local Government  
Climate change, catchment modelling, water yield, fires  
Scenario planning – possible could set scenarios at one meeting and then have scenarios as next year's conference theme.

**Action: Barry Hart and Carol Jeffs to put together a Reference Group meeting program for 2004**

### **4. GINRF Executive composition, relationship to other regional groups/bodies**

#### 4.1 Water for Growth committee

State Government has wound up the Gippsland Water For Growth committee. All funds have been expended and projects are in the process of being completed. Geoff Hocking suggests that GINRF Executive be used as a residual decision making body for WFG, to implement and distil outcomes, and share the learnings.

The Water for Growth Projects are:  
RM1 – Surface/groundwater interactions  
RM4 - Blue Rock water  
RM2 - Take RM1 and model inputs and outputs

Agree that a cautious approach be taken to the transition between WFG and GINRF Executive from a stakeholder perspective. To facilitate transition, a letter be written to WFG committee members informing them of the proposal.

**Action: Geoff Hocking to write to Water for Growth partners informing them of the transition**

**Action: Carol Jeffs to distribute report from RM2 to GINRF Executive**

#### 4.2 Catchments Co-ordination Forum

CCF developed as an informal gathering between natural resource managers in the Gippsland region to brief each other on relevant issues. Membership very similar to GINRF Executive except for EPA and Southern Rural Water. Could possibly be discontinued if GINRF meets needs, but this needs to be decided by the CCF group.

**Action: Tony Edgar to raise the issue at the next Catchments Coordination Forum meeting**

#### 4.3 GINRF Executive Composition

It is possibly time to explore the composition of the GINRF Executive group. Potential to include EPA and more industry (tourism, power, paper, timber, dairy, ag). This decision would need to be made by the Reference Group as a change to the terms of reference.

**Action: Plan for Reference Group to revisit the Terms of Reference, including the composition of the Executive**

### 5. Funding models

Ref: Item 6 in EO report.

General preference is for Option 4: Reference Group members pay a flat fee. Some doubt about whether this is achievable and administratively feasible. Reference Group to be presented with two options, based on the amount needed to operate the Forum. As an interim measure, some mixture of Executive member and Reference Group member funding to be collected according to benefit

**Action: Put funding options before Reference Group for direction/decision**

**Action: For 2004, collect underpinning amount from the main beneficiaries, then collect a smaller amount from the remainder of the Reference Group if needed.**

### 6. National Carbon Accounting System Pilot

Query about the status of the pilot. Needs clarification before conference on 6th February.

**Action: Carol Jeffs to ring Gary Edwards to establish status of the pilot with a view to making an announcement at the conference on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2004**

## **7. Planning for Natural Resources Report Card 2004**

The Report Card launch event:

- Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability and Minister Thwaites be invited to launch the 2004 Report Card
- Audience to be Forum members plus local politicians and perhaps a group of young people (school group).

Co-ordinated school visits during the week leading up to World Environment Day including a Report Card package for schools, teachers and NRM personnel (Waterwatch Co-ordinators, Landcare etc)

**Action: Barry Hart to invite Dr Ian McPhail, Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability and Minister Thwaites to launch Report Card on Friday 6th June**

**Action: Carol Jeffs to facilitate a network of regional staff involved in school engagement activities to coordinate activities during the week of World Environment Day**

## **8. GRCG**

GINRF Executive ratifies changes to the structure and membership of Gippsland Research Coordination Group as articulated in the GRCG General meeting minutes 28 November 2003.

The next task of the 'new' GRCG is to plan workshops for co-ordination of research activity for the Gippsland Lakes Taskforce.

## **9. Parks Victoria Marine National Parks Draft Plans**

Question raised about GINRF's role in the development of the Marine National Park Management Plans. Planning processes already have advisory committees. Agree that GINRF can be used as a communication conduit for obtaining feedback on draft plans (as was done for the Corner Inlet/Wilson's Prom plan)

## **10. Other Business**

Wind Atlas – identifies where wind is and maps overlaid with power grid. Copy available at DSE and Coastal Board offices.

Anderson Inlet recreational fisheries plan being developed. It is the first estuarine recreational fishing reserve in Victoria.

RCIP process continues. West Gippsland CMA has received Expressions of Interest that have been tested with community groups, priorities set with Regional Catchment Strategy and investor preferences.

Coastal planning – scope for this group to place environmental overlay on development activities.

## 11. Next Executive Meeting

Thursday 25th March in Maffra – 10.00am – 12.30pm

### Action summary

1	Send letter to reference group re: Green Paper success and conference outcomes	Barry Hart
2	Write to GLGN, requesting an alternate for the GINRF Executive in the event that Richard Hancock cannot attend	Barry Hart
3	Expand the newsletter list to include Mayors and CEOs of councils.	Carol Jeffs
4	Develop a Reference Group meeting program for 2004	Barry Hart and Carol Jeffs
5	Geoff Hocking to write to Water for Growth partners informing them of the transition to GINRF Executive	Geoff Hocking
6	Distribute report from Water for Growth RM2 to GINRF Executive	Carol Jeffs
7	Raise the suggestion of merging CCF with GINRF Executive at the next Catchments Coordination Forum meeting	Tony Edgar
8	Plan for Reference Group to revisit the Terms of Reference, including the composition of the Executive	Barry Hart, Carol Jeffs
9	Put funding options before Reference Group for direction/decision	Barry Hart, Carol Jeffs
10	For 2004, collect underpinning amount from the main beneficiaries, then collect a smaller amount from the remainder of the Reference Group if needed.	Carol Jeffs, Geoff Hocking
11	Phone Gary Edwards to establish status of the pilot with a view to making an announcement at the conference on 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2004	Carol Jeffs
12	Invite Dr Ian McPhail, Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability and Minister Thwaites to launch Report Card on Friday 6th	Barry Hart

	<b>June</b>	
13	<b>Facilitate a network of regional staff involved in school engagement activities to coordinate activities during the week of World Environment Day</b>	<b>Carol Jeffs</b>