

Minutes

Executive Meeting 2/04
Thursday 29th April, 2004



Time/Venue: 9.30am to 12.00pm.
WGCMA Office, Traralgon

Attendees : Barry Hart (Chair), Duncan Malcolm (Gippsland Coastal Board), Carol McMillan (DSE), , Geoff Hocking (WGCMA), John Mitchell (Gippsland Water) Graeme Dear (EGCMA) Mick Harding (Gippsland Cultural Heritage Unit), Neville Penrose (DPI)

Apologies : Richard Hancock (GLGN), John Lovering (Gippsland Research Coordination Group)

1. Presentation – Australian Sustainable Industries Research Centre (ASIRC)

Kirsten Schliephake, Business Development - ASIRC presented to the Executive Group on the history, membership, services and strategic direction of ASIRC

2. Business arising from last Executive meeting, 5th February 2004

Catchment Co-ordination Forum – Carol McMillan reported (for Tony Edgar) that the last meeting of the Catchment Co-ordination Forum decided to continue these meetings, rather than combine them with GINRF.

3. Executive Officer's Report

GINRF Conference gave a great indication of what is happening in information management in NRM, but did not advance the region towards co-ordinated data storage, standards and needs. MERGe will provide assistance in deciding what it is that we want to know from data and how we can use existing data more effectively. Executive agreed to assist with driving MERGe project where possible to achieve these aims.

4. Gippsland Sustainable Development Framework & Strategy

The West Gippsland CMA Sustainable Development Portfolio Group has developed the Gippsland Sustainable Development Framework and Strategy and

makes it available to GINRF to take further or combine with other processes as required.

Some discussion about what sustainable development means and the involvement of Gippsland Area Consultative Committee and municipal councils. Also some discussion around the appropriate tool(s) to implement a sustainable development strategy in Gippsland, possible links to scenario planning.

Concluded that the framework as presented is a useful reference document to inform future activity in this area and the GINRF Reference Group meeting on 18th May 2004. In addition, any future work in this area needs to have local government involved.

5. Commissioner for Sustainability

An observation that there has been insufficient publicity around the new role of Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability. This presents an opportunity for GINRF to become involved very early in information exchange and collaboration with the Commissioner's office. We may be able to use the Report Card as a tool to facilitate this process and perhaps secure some funding for the Report Card.

Action: Barry Hart and Carol Jeffs to speak with Ian McPhail at the launch of the 2004 Report Card, inviting opportunities to work together in the future.

6. Scenario Planning

Barry Hart gave a brief introduction to scenario planning, the benefits and where it has been used successfully. Discussion was supported by some papers from CSIRO and Land Stewardship sectors that describe how scenario planning has been used.

7. Reference Group meeting - May

Proposal to begin exploring the 30 year plan/vision for Gippsland accepted. Will tie in discussion about Sustainable Development Plan, Scenario Planning and other aspects.

8. Natural Resources Report Card 2004

Draft Report Card accepted. Agreed that no changes be made to the stewardship definitions for this year. Also agreed that changes in ratings between report card years should be indicated.

9. GINRF Funding

Both CMA Boards have indicated that they may be willing to contribute funding for the GINRF for the coming financial year. Report at next Executive meeting.

Action: Geoff Hocking and Graeme Dear to report to next Executive meeting on CMA decision of GINRF funding

10. Indigenous Partnerships

Mick Harding reported on several activities that are happening in the Indigenous Partnerships area:

- DSE is working on a whole-of-government framework for Indigenous Partnerships and is taking a six week tour around the state. May be possible to have a presentation. Trish Terry is the DSE contact for this.
- The winter session of federal parliament is looking to remove section 2A from the ATSIC Heritage Protection Act. In Victoria, this would remove the role of Co-ops as the core institutions for aboriginal affairs in the regions, leaving indigenous groups no formal structure within which to pursue native title claims. In Gippsland, this means that there may be a change from Co-ops to traditional owners such as Gunai Kurnai.
- Partnership activity is developing between Latrobe City and indigenous community in the form of protocol agreement. An example of where this is being done well strategically is in the South West of Victoria (Geelong). Would like to encourage this type of formalised relationship. We have made a start by including Bataluk Cultural Trail on the Report Card.

Action: Mick Harding to keep Executive informed of events and progress on indigenous cultural heritage issues. Mick Harding and Carol Jeffs to develop a proposal to further develop indigenous partnerships in the Gippsland region, as it relates to GINRF activity.

11. National Carbon Accounting System and Regional Information System

Recognition that we need to take advantage of the opportunity to have the National Carbon Accounting System piloted in the Gippsland region. There have been discussions with Gary Richards from the Australian Greenhouse Office since August 2003. Need to formalise these arrangements and agree on next steps of action to implement pilot. May involve some discussions with DSE (Melbourne) to clarify next steps.

Action: Tony Edgar and Carol Jeffs to contact Australian Greenhouse Office and appropriate people in DSE Melbourne to decide on next steps to action Gippsland Pilot of NCAS.

12. Other Business

- Latrobe City Innovation Festival happening at the moment. Encourage GINRF members to support activities.
- Dossiers being launched on Friday 30th April – a change of date to that organised.

13. Meeting Dates

Request that GINRF Executive meetings be co-ordinated with the Gippsland Lakes co-ordination group so that they can be on the same day. Suggest (for example) that GINRF Executive be in the morning and Gippsland Lakes meetings afternoon, to make efficient use of everyone's travel and meeting times.

Change next GINRF Executive from Thursday 3rd June to Friday 4th June after the Report Card launch. Following executive meeting is Thursday 15th July 2004.

Action: Carol Jeffs to liaise with Chris Barry to organise to bring the two meeting dates together

Action summary

1	Speak with Ian McPhail at the launch of the 2004 Report Card, inviting opportunities to work together in the future	Barry Hart Carol Jeffs
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2	Report to next Executive meeting on CMA decision of GINRF funding	Geoff Hocking Graeme Dear
3	Keep Executive informed of events and progress on indigenous cultural heritage issues. Develop a proposal to further develop indigenous partnerships in the Gippsland region, as it relates to GINRF activity	Mick Harding Carol Jeffs
4	Contact Australian Greenhouse Office and appropriate people in DSE Melbourne to decide on next steps to action Gippsland Pilot of NCAS.	Tony Edgar Carol Jeffs
5	Liase with Chris Barry to organise to bring the two meeting dates together	Carol Jeffs