

Gippsland Integrated Natural Resource Management Executive

Minutes

12.00 noon to 2.00 pm Monday 7 April 2003.

Attendees : Barry Hart (chair), John Mitchell (Gippsland Water), Peter McHugh (DPI/DSE), Duncan Malcolm (Gippsland Coastal Board), John Lovering (Gippsland Research Coordination Group), Geoff Hocking (WGCMA)

Guests: Mr John Dyer (CEO Baw Baw Shire Council), Mr Syd Deam (Strategic Planner Baw Baw Shire Council and INRM Reference Group representative)

Apologies : Graeme Dear ECGMA, Alan Freitag DSE, Richard Hancock GLGN, Mick Harding (Gippsland Cultural Heritage Unit)

1. Actions arising from last Executive meeting, 28 February 2003:

1.1	Edit SP	CJ	Done
1.2	Report Card – discussion paper	CJ & BTH	See agenda
1.3	Copy ministerial briefing to exec – information only	CJ	Done
1.4	Thankyou letter for Frankie MacLennan	CJ & BTH	Transfer to next actions
1.5	RCS update	CJ/BTH with Geoff Hocking and Graeme Dear	Report Geoff Hocking – see agenda
1.6	Speak with Brumby taskforce and/or Secretaries of DPI/DSE re: role of INRM in fire recovery	BTH	Report BTH
1.7	Comment on Communications Strategy	All	Agenda at next meeting
1.8	Logo mock-up for next exec meeting	CJ	Done
1.9	Briefing note to DPI and DSE secretaries Chloe Munroe and Lindsay Neilson	CJ	Draft completed
1.10	Establish greater links/networks with local council representatives	All	See agenda
1.11	Set Exec meeting locations	CJ & BTH	Done
1.12	Reply to communication re: Prof Michael Batty	CJ	Done

Discussion:

1.1 Strategic Plan

- new Department names inserted.
- Table has been placed at the back of the Strategic Plan with tasks and timelines, to be updated with action plans from the last Reference Group meeting

1.2 Report Card – see item 8 below

1.4 Informal thank you completed at reference group meeting. Letter to be sent ASAP.

1.5 RCS Update – see item 3 below

1.6 Fire recovery – see item 7 below

1.7 Communications strategy – some comments received, agenda item for next executive meeting. John Mitchell has taken on role of champion of the communications strategy as an action plan resulting from the last reference group meeting.

1.8 Logo/Web design – see item 10 below

1.9 All executive members have been copied with a draft. Briefing note to now be approved/edited by DSE management before forwarding to DPI/DSE Secretaries

1.10 Local Council – see item 2 below

1.11 Meeting locations and dates as follows:

April 7	Warragul
May 13	Leongatha – some question about GCB clash on this day
June 24	Churchill 9.30 am–11.30 am (to coincide with the next GRCG meeting 1.00pm – 2.00pm)
August 12	Wonthaggi?
September 23	Bairnsdale 12.00 noon – 2.00pm EG Shire Council (new date)
November 11	Sale? (new date)

1.12 Professor Batty will be visiting Victoria in September from UK, specialising in GIS and Spatial Modelling. Carol has requested one or two days in his diary to deliver keynote address and/or workshop, particularly linked to the establishment of the Gippsland regional information system.

2. Engagement of Local Councils

Mr John Dyer and Mr Syd Deam from Baw Baw Shire Council welcomed to the meeting and thanked for providing council chamber for the Executive meeting.

In the absence of Richard Hancock, John Dyer provided some brief feedback from Gippsland Local Government Network about local government engagement with INRM, and suggested the following two approaches:

- A presentation to each individual council
- Participation of INRM in the 2 day GLGN meeting on 1st & 2nd May 2003, of which the West Gippsland CMA will be conducting a workshop on 1st May

Action: Carol Jeffs to arrange a program of individual Council presentations and report on progress at next executive meeting.

Action: John Dyer to liaise with Richard Hancock re: having INRM placed on the GLGN agenda for the 1st/2nd May meeting. Carol Jeffs to follow up meeting arrangements and co-ordinate presentation with West Gippsland CMA.

3. Regional Catchment Strategy Update

An attempt by Carol Jeffs to meet with West and East Gippsland CMAs prior to this meeting was unsuccessful, due to East Gippsland's pressured timelines and short staffing. The purpose of that meeting was to discuss alignment of the two RCSs in order to brief the INRM Executive.

Geoff Hocking reported on progress of the West Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategy:

- Exposure draft released 1st April, 80% complete document requiring stakeholder feedback
- Presentation of exposure draft to the accreditation team on Wednesday 3rd April
- INRM Reference Group will be called together on Thursday 8th May 2003 to give feedback on the Exposure Draft
- Feedback on the Exposure Draft closes on the 16th May
- Sign off public draft at WGCMA's June board meeting

East Gippsland has completed some of community consultation and has just released notes from the technical workshop (agency level consultation) held in March.

Port Phillip and Westerport has apparently completed and distributed a discussion paper requiring some feedback. John Dyer pointed out that approximately half of Baw Baw Shire is covered by the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority, so should be included in any of INRM's efforts to work together and align.

Non NAP regions are not required to have RCSs ready until December 2003.

Regional Catchment Investment Plans (RCIP) will be the key process for channelling funding from both Federal and State sources.

- Aim of RCIPs good, ie linked to the RCS, action plans. If not in action plans, not funded.
- Timing of RCIPs is difficult because they are due in before the required completion of the RCS process.

Alignment between the three CMAs in the Gippsland region is important for a variety of reasons:

- Border issues between CMA jurisdictions
- Municipal Strategic Statements
- Gippsland Lakes issues
- Efficiencies to be gained in stakeholder consultation via INRM
- Ease of monitoring and reporting

East Gippsland CMA should be encouraged to use the INRM reference group for its agency level stakeholder consultation at the feedback stage.

Action: Barry Hart and Carol Jeffs to organise a meeting between East Gippsland, West Gippsland and Port Phillip and Westernport CMA CEOs and RCS Project officers to discuss the development of a process to incorporate alignment issues into the current RCS renewal

Action: Carol Jeffs to communicate in person with East Gippsland CMA about use of INRM Reference Group, followed up by written communication to the EGCMA Board if necessary.

4. Gippsland Research Co-ordination Group

4.1 Gippsland Research Audit

- a letter has been sent to all GRCG members requesting information about what research they are doing now and what they are planning to do/commission.

4.2 ARC Linkage Grants

- opportunities exist for grants up to \$500000 to be drawn into the Gippsland region via the ARC Linkage Grant Scheme. Industry partners join with university participants to work on issues of national research priority. The first round closes on May 9, a second round in October/November. A letter to this effect has been sent to all possible GRCG industry stakeholders.

4.3 Relationship with INRM, links, roles, structure, communication

- John Lovering reported that achieving effective outcomes in GRCG was very difficult without consistent administrative support.
- Duncan Malcom reported that the Gippsland Lakes Taskforce may be willing to fund a position for half or full day per week to support GRCG. A formal request needs to be sent to Gippsland Lakes Taskforce on GRCG's behalf.
- Mike Timpano (DPI) was allocated the task of drafting amendments to the GRCG Terms of Reference at the last GRCG meeting, to reflect a more integrated relationship with INRM. Carol Jeffs has been working with Mike to produce a document that addresses structure, communication, roles and links with INRM. A sub-committee role was one suggestion.
- It is suggested that both the restructure of GRCG and the administrative assistance could be solved at the same time in a strategic manner. However, the opportunity to take Gippsland Lakes Taskforce up on a funding offer should not be overlooked for the sake of strategy.

Action: Barry T. Hart to liaise with Duncan Malcolm and John Lovering to write a formal request to Gippsland Lakes Taskforce

Action: Carol Jeffs work with Mike Timpano on a discussion paper for the next INRM Executive Meeting

5. Funding Strategy

The sustainable regions funding applications have been recommended by GACC and have gone forward to DOTARS. Success or otherwise of the INRM bid may not be known for up to two months. The NHT(2) funding via the CMAs (which has an INRM component) has no certain delivery date.

Some thought needs to be given to a longer term funding strategy as either a contingency or continuation of the above two sources of funding.

Suggested that an RCIP proposal needs to be submitted via the RCS process for funding through 2003/2004 (check with the DSE team working on RCS to see whether INRM has been covered in their bids).

Action: All to consider possible longer term funding models for discussion at next meeting

Action: Carol Jeffs to follow up RCIP proposal with DSE and WGCMA

6. Reference Group

Carol asked for some clarity about the Reference Group membership, its formation and criteria for new members.

General consensus that an inclusive approach be taken and that a set of membership criteria may be developed along with a process to deal with membership applications/changes. The executive group to be used as support for Carol on these issues if such decisions are unclear.

Action: Carol Jeffs to develop draft Reference Group criteria and application process

7. Fire Recovery

Three levels of activity:

1. Meeting with Barry Hart and Lyndsay Neilson re role of INRM in fire recovery process. (Alan Freitag in the process of organising)
2. Briefing note to Lyndsay Neilson and Chloe Munroe re INRM update and role in fire recovery.(draft completed)
3. Liaison with local DHS - the secretariat for the Ministerial Taskforce on Bushfire Recovery. Geoff Houlihan from Department of Human Services is the Corporate Services Manager and Emergency Recovery Co-ordinator. Geoff has been made aware of INRM's willingness to participate and will keep Carol posted re: Bushfire Recovery Taskforce progress.

The fire recovery has progressed past the operational stage and is entering a more strategic phase. The 'short term' recovery committee has been recast with more senior people who will meet for the first time when the full report of the Ministerial taskforce is released in the next week or so.

8. Report Card

Discussion paper and an example of the Moreton Bay report card circulated at the meeting by Barry Hart. The State of the Catchment documents are a primary resource for the report card development.

A short time frame gives this some urgency, with the Gippsland Report Card having a target release date of World Environment Day, 5 June 2003. Suggested that perhaps some intensive contract work may be necessary to achieve this goal.

A small working party comprising representatives from the three CMAs, Carol Jeffs, Barry Hart and any other volunteers should be drawn together very quickly.

A draft Report Card needs to be ready by the next executive meeting on May 13 2003.

Action: Hart and Jeffs to establish small working party to develop a draft process for preparing the first report card for next Exec meeting
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Action: Carol Jeffs to add Report Card to the above CMA meeting

9. INRM Name

Executive was asked to consider a change of name.

A short version "Gippsland Natural Resource Forum" was considered

Decided the word "Integrated" should remain.

Further discussion expressed concern about loss of identity/following if the name was changed.

Decided that the name should remain unchanged for the time being.

10. Logo Design / Web Development

Carol revealed the logo design completed by Smith Design Works, along with rationale. Logo approved by executive, subject to the inclusion of the correct name.

Executive also requested that the designers consider how the slogan "Catchment Health, Gippsland's Wealth" could be incorporated more strongly into the design.

Summary of Actions

1	Update SP with action plans from Ref Group meeting	CJ
2	Thankyou letter for Frankie MacLennan	CJ & BTH
3	Program of individual Council presentations	CJ
4	INRM placed on the GLGN agenda for the 1 st /2 nd May meeting	Richard Hancock, CJ and Geoff Hocking
5	Meeting between East Gippsland, West Gippsland and Port Phillip and Westernport CMA re: RCS alignment and INRM Report Card	CJ/BTH with Geoff Hocking, Graeme Dear and David Buntine
6	Encourage East Gippsland CMA to use INRM Reference Group	CJ
7	Formal request to Gippsland Lakes Taskforce for financial support for GRCG	BTH, John Lovering and Duncan Malcolm
8	Discussion paper re: relationship of GRCG for the next INRM Executive Meeting	CJ, Mike Timpano (DPI)
9	Consider possible longer term funding models for INRM	All
11	Develop draft Reference Group criteria and application process	CJ
10	Submit RCIP funding proposal through WGCMA	CJ