

Minutes

Executive Meeting 3/04
Thursday 15th July, 2004



Time/Venue: 9.30am to 12.00pm.
West Gippsland CMA Office
16 Hotham Street
Traralgon

Attendees : Barry Hart (Chair), Tony Edgar (DSE), Graeme Dear (EGCMA), John Mitchell (Gippsland Water), Kevin Roberts (GLGN),

Apologies : Neville Penrose (DPI), Geoff Hocking (WGCMA), Duncan Malcolm (Gippsland Coastal Board), Mick Harding (Gippsland Cultural Heritage Unit) John Lovering (Gippsland Research Coordination Group)

Guests: Steb Fisher (Pathfinder Network), Celia Donnellan (WGCMA)

1. Presentation by Steb Fisher, Director - Pathfinder Network

Steb Fisher briefly outlined his background, the principles upon which he operates and the four system conditions that make up his work in the area of sustainable development. Steb presented at the last Reference Group meeting and is keen to develop the idea of sustainable development with the Forum.

Steb outlined his view of the Forum as a facilitating, co-ordinating body with an ability to keep people thinking about strategic issues beyond the daily (and even 5 yearly) business of natural resource management.

Steb also has contacts with an expert in scenario planning – Mike Waller (ex BHP)

The proposal involves taking GINRF through a process exploring Ecosphere Principles, Sustainability Principles, Sustainable Development Principles, Activities and Metrics. The proposal involves working with GINRF Executive and Reference Group to design and facilitate conversations which clarify sustainability principles and clarify roles and responsibilities of the Executive Group, Reference Group and project groups.

There was brief discussion about the merits of Steb's approach, but a reluctance to commit to further specific action. It was felt that further iterations of this conversation would be necessary before committing, particularly with more of the Executive group that were unable to be there.

Action: Barry Hart and Carol Jeffs to communicate to Steb Fisher that although the approach seems reasonable, his services are not required at this point in time

2. Water for Growth

Celia Donnellan has taken over the role of Claudia Cooke as Executive Officer for Water for Growth projects. The Water for Growth Committee is no longer in operation, the residual project management is the responsibility of Geoff Hocking, West Gippsland CMA. Geoff Hocking has arranged for the GINRF Executive to act as an advisory committee for the Water for Growth residual projects in the Gippsland region.

Agreed that it is appropriate for GINRF Executive to:

- act in an advisory capacity for residual Water for Growth projects, assisting Geoff Hocking with his executive role.
- perform a stewardship/ governance role in the region in the implementation of the Water for Growth projects to help guide those agencies responsible for finalising projects.
- Develop a process to disseminate the results of projects and incorporate outcomes into other natural resource management processes in the region.

Brief discussion around information required for GINRF Executive to assist with the advice on projects.

A report was provided with a paragraph on each of the 14 Water for Growth projects, most of which are nearing completion. There are three projects requiring further advice:

- Merriman's Creek Piping – project not going ahead. \$18500 needs to be reallocated. New proposal required.
- Water allocation model (RM-2) – project scoping completed. David Evans (Gippsland Water) to present project brief to GINRF Executive for input on direction of model.
- Impacts of changed land and water use in the MID – project brief needs to be varied in light of other work that is happening in the region.

Southern Rural Water is responsible for this project – present to GINRF Executive with proposed changes.

Action: Celia Donnellan to provide GINRF Executive with a two page summary of those projects that require advice (decision by Geoff Hocking).

Action: Celia Donnellan to invite David Evans and SRW representative to present to next GINRF Executive meeting.

Action: Geoff Hocking to seek agreement from Ross Davies that the GINRF Executive will act in an advisory capacity for Water for Growth projects.

Action: Carol Jeffs and Celia Donnellan to provide draft process for next meeting to disseminate/integrate outcomes from Water for Growth projects.

Action: Celia Donnellan to provide next GINRF Executive meeting with a spreadsheet that outlines all Water for Growth projects, total budgets, % complete, products/outcomes, next steps.

3. Business arising from last Executive meeting, 29th April 2004

Discussion about May Reference Group meeting. Agreement that Executive needs to be taking a more strategic approach to the Reference Group discussions to plan the context, participants and topics for discussions.

Action: Graeme Dear and Geoff Hocking to prepare a discussion paper for next Executive meeting regarding the way forward with the GINRF Reference Group.

4. Report Card debrief and planning for 2005

Barry Hart

Reactions from the 2004 Report Card have generally been good.

East Gippsland CMA are using the Report Card as a strategic tool, encouraging staff to improve stewardship ratings for the Mitchell and Snowy (for example).

EGCMA Chair Ken Norris is interested in participating in a working group to discuss the Report Card methodology further.

Agree that next Reference Group meeting could be used to discuss the Report Card including rating criteria, methodology and strategy about where we would like to be in the future.

Feedback Barry Hart has collected: Include Marine National Parks and an Indigenous perspective - whole-of-country.

Action: Carol Jeffs to plan next Reference Group meeting on 28th October to discuss Report Card.

Some general concern expressed about the engagement of local government. Kevin Roberts has observed some difference of cultures that may be prohibiting effective involvement of local government in GINRF and suggests putting the issue to GLGN to come up with a proposal.

Action: Kevin Roberts to draft and put a discussion paper to GLGN, originating a discussion about the relationship of local government to the Forum, requesting that GLGN come up with a general policy proposal that will provide a way forward.

5. GINRF Funding

Barry Hart/Graeme Dear

GINRF has secured funding for the 2004/2005 year, comprised of the following:

NHT	\$60 000
WGCMA	\$60 000
EGCMA	\$40 000

The Executive expresses thanks to the Boards of the West and East Gippsland CMAs for their support of the Forum during the 04/05 year.

Action: Carol Jeffs to write letter to both East and West Gippsland CMA Boards.

6. Commissioner for Sustainability

John Mitchell

Would like to foster the relationship with the Commissioner for Sustainability, potentially in view of the Report Card. Suggest that Barry Hart and Carol Jeffs meet with the Commissioner in person to formalise an arrangement.

Action: Barry Hart and Carol Jeffs to organise a meeting with Dr McPhail regarding formalised arrangements between his office and the Forum

7. Reference Group meetings – August and October **Carol Jeffs**

The August Reference Group meeting has been planned to discuss the White Paper. See items 3 and 4 above for future meetings.

8. 2005 GINRF Conference **Carol Jeffs**

Need to start planning now. Need a broad theme to begin recruiting guest speakers. Executive agree that ESSO BHP Billiton Entertainment Centre in Sale is a good venue. Suggestions for themes include:

- impact of climate change
- water (following on from White Paper)
- Showcase of what we are doing – celebrate success

9. National Carbon Accounting System **Carol Jeffs**

Carol Jeffs has been in contact with Gary Richards and Tricia Kaye (Australian Greenhouse Office) to discuss a way forward. Agreed that we need to send a small delegation to Canberra to understand the capability of the NCAS before deciding exactly what the Gippsland Pilot will look like.

Some progress has been made, but this needs to be made a project to significantly progress the regional pilot of NCAS. Suggest a brief scoping exercise to articulate the size, shape, project management and dollars required.

Executive agree to a week's consulting work to scope NCAS Pilot, including the trip to Canberra. MER budget can cover up to \$5000 for the scoping exercise.

Action: Carol Jeffs to commission John Fascio, WBM to complete scoping study.

10. Communication Strategy **Carol Jeffs**

Following a presentation by Barry Hart, West Gippsland CMA Board recommended that GINRF develop a communications strategy.

Executive agree to spend up to \$5000 on the development of a communications strategy that complements strategies of member organisations and that facilitates GINRF strategic goals.

Action: Carol Jeffs to recruit and engage consultant to complete communications strategy for GINRF

11. Other Business

GINRF success stories: Graeme Dear notes some positive actions that have arisen due to the relationships developed within GINRF. East and West Gippsland CMAs are working collaboratively on a number of fronts to achieve scale and efficiency across the region. Examples include funding and hosting joint positions (Water Quality Officer), financial and other systems, Project MERGe, and other opportunities for staff to work together. Regional DSE and DPI also support this collaborative approach. More success stories to come. Appropriate that GINRF be recognised for these collaborative relationships.

12. Next Executive meeting – 26th August 2004

Action summary from GINRF Executive meeting 3/04 15th July 2004

	Action	Responsible
1	Communicate to Steb Fisher that although his approach seems reasonable, his services are not required at this point in time.	Barry Hart and Carol Jeffs
2	Provide GINRF Executive with a two page summary of those W4G projects that require advice (decision by Geoff Hocking)	Celia Donnellan
3	Invite David Evans and SRW representative to present to next GINRF Executive meeting re: W4G projects	Celia Donnellan
4	Seek agreement from Ross Davies that the GINRF Executive will act in an advisory capacity for Water for Growth projects	Geoff Hocking
5	Provide draft process for next meeting to disseminate/integrate outcomes from Water for Growth projects.	Carol Jeffs and Celia Donnellan
6	Provide next GINRF Executive meeting with a spreadsheet that outlines all Water for Growth projects, total budgets, % complete, products/outcomes, next steps	Celia Donnellan
7	Prepare a discussion paper for next Executive meeting regarding the way forward with the GINRF Reference Group.	Graeme Dear and Geoff Hocking
8	Plan next Reference Group meeting on 28th October to discuss Report Card	Carol Jeffs
9	Draft and put a discussion paper to GLGN, originating a discussion about the relationship of	Kevin Roberts & Carol Jeffs

	local government to the Forum, requesting that GLGN come up with a general policy proposal that will provide a way forward	
10	Write letter to both East and West Gippsland CMA Boards	Carol Jeffs
11	Organise a meeting with Dr McPhail regarding formalised arrangements between his office and the Forum	Barry Hart and Carol Jeffs
12	Commission John Fascio, WBM to complete scoping study for Gippsland Pilot of NCAS	Carol Jeffs
13	Recruit and engage consultant to complete communications strategy for GINRF	Carol Jeffs