

# Minutes



## Executive Meeting 6/03

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2003  
12.00pm to 2.00pm

**Meeting open:** 12.05pm

**Attendees :** Neville Penrose (DPI, acting chair), John Mitchell (Gippsland Water), Geoff Hocking (WGCMA), Graeme Dear (ECGMA)(phone link 12.00pm – 12.50pm), Tony Edgar (DSE), Carol Jeffs (GINRF)

**Apologies :** Barry Hart (Chair), Richard Hancock (GLGN), Mick Harding (Gippsland Cultural Heritage Unit), Duncan Malcolm (Gippsland Coastal Board), John Lovering (Gippsland Research Coordination Group),

### 1. Forum's role in the Green Paper "Securing our water future" discussions/submissions.

There are two functions that the Forum can perform in relation to the Green paper discussions/submissions:

1. Facilitate the sharing of information across the Gippsland region to enable individual organisations to make informed submissions.

**Action: Carol Jeffs to prepare a draft discussion paper by Thursday October 2 for Executive group to comment. Final discussion paper to be distributed to Reference Group on the 13th October, to meet information sharing objective in time for individual submissions.**

2. Prepare a Gippsland-wide submission that reflects strategic issues based on the principles developed by the Reference Group, plus some more detailed aspects upon which all agree.

**Action: Carol Jeffs to plan Reference Group meeting on 30th October to formulate a Forum Green Paper submission.**

Some other discussion about the Green Paper included:

- Forum can advocate the concept of integrated natural resource management and report on the approach that GINRF is taking to integrate management in the Gippsland region.
- Forum can use this as an opportunity to explore potential for further integration in natural resource management across the region.
- This is an opportunity to demonstrate that, in Gippsland, we recognise the need to discuss these issues and are willing to work together for the benefit of our water future.
- Forum can focus at the principles/conceptual level. Issues of detail can be progressed if we all strongly agree.
- The region-wide, natural catchments approach of the Forum is consistent with parts of the Green paper and Wentworth Group.
- Given Gippsland's good state of environmental health relative to many other parts of Victoria, it is worth emphasising the need to invest in preservation rather than just focussing on fixing problems.

EGCMA Board meeting:

A discussion was held at the East Gippsland CMA Board meeting on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, including various invited stakeholders. The purpose of the discussion was to provide an opportunity to share information and views to assist individual participants to prepare their own submissions. Issues were discussed under the headings: Environmental Reserve, Caps, Pricing, Efficiencies of Structures, and Shifting water allocations away from land ownership/use. Some of the broadly agreed upon issues were the benefits of working closely together across the region and the importance of emphasising the preservation of our natural resources, rather than repairing/restoration.

Notes from this meeting were tabled at the Forum Executive and used as the basis for a brief discussion.

Water Industry:

There will be a meeting between all Chairs and CEOs of water authorities to discuss the Green Paper.

(Graeme Dear phone link finished 12.35pm)

## **2. Business arising from Executive meeting 5/03, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2003**

### **2.1 Dr Gary Richards – Regional Pilot of National Carbon Accounting System**

Letters written to both Gary Richards and Lyndsay Neilson regarding the Forum's willingness to participate in a regional pilot of NCAS. Carol Jeffs subsequently received a phone call from Rod Anderson at the Victorian Greenhouse Office seeking clarification. Rod will speak with both Lyndsay Neilson and Gary Richards to determine the way forward.

2.2 Circulate propose ToR and MoU for comment by the Executive prior to next meeting.

Carol Jeffs reported that no more work had been done on the ToR and MoU. Carol is in the process of having Reference Group members sign the MoU and feels it would be confusing to change the documents at this point in time. Meeting agreed that a lot of work was invested in the original documents and that there is no need to change them at this point.

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

3.1 Meeting endorsed Item 2, Forum move to West Gippsland CMA, Item 3, MER and Item 4, Hosting model for region wide projects as presented in EO Report

3.2 A revised budget requested for next meeting including proposal for Executive Assistant

**Action: Carol Jeffs to prepare a revised budget including proposal for Executive Assistant and future funding for next meeting.**

### **4. Planning for Forum Event 28<sup>th</sup> November 2003**

In response to calls by some Reference Group members for another Forum event, Carol Jeffs suggested a bus tour to get Forum members out of the office and demonstrate integrated management of an integrated catchment. The 28<sup>th</sup> November date is from Barry Hart's diary.

Meeting decided that such events are better conducted by individual agencies, so planning for the 28<sup>th</sup> November should be discontinued.

An appropriate Forum activity is an annual regional conference with a discussion/planning component, having a different theme each year. Timing could be late February to allow for agencies to prepare corporate plans leading up to the new financial year.

A second Forum activity would be the Annual Report Card release on World Environment Day each year. Suggested that the 2004 release could be a less formal event with school children on location at one of the natural assets. Celebrity/VIP to be sought/secured now for the 2004 event.

**Action: Carol Jeffs to begin planning the 2004 Annual Forum Conference and Report Card Release**

### **5. Forest Industry Reform**

John Mitchell requested a report from Tony Edgar on Forest Industry Reform, following the DSE 2003/2006 priorities list in the Corporate Plan.

Tony reported that the exiting of wood has already happened and the associated payouts and sawmill closures. The fire event of 2002/2003 has

caused a lot of short term wood to become available, hence the contracting back of operators for the log salvage operation. Details about other parts of the reform process are still being worked through.

The possible increase in plantation forestry in the Gippsland region and the water implications, and the role of the Victorian Regional Development Board were discussed as associated issues.

No action to be taken by GINRF on Forest Industry Reform at this stage – watching brief.

## **6. GINRF/GRCG/GREEN Inc. relationship**

Carol Jeffs reported the relationship including the executive support for GRCG was still being discussed, but had experienced some delay.

**Action: Carol Jeffs to speak with Glen Waterhouse at GREEN Inc. to expedite new GINRF/GRCG/GREEN Inc. arrangements.**

## **7. Other Business**

- Dates and frequency of Executive meetings for 2004 – check Barry Hart's diary first and set at next meeting.
- Review membership of Executive – may be opportune time during Green Paper discussion to review the membership of the Executive to include some other representatives.

## **8. Next meeting**

November 28th Traralgon 9.30 am – 11.30am Traralgon DSE/DPI office

**Meeting Closed 2.10pm**

**Summary of Actions: GINRF Executive Meeting 25-09-03**

|   |  |                    |
|---|--|--------------------|
| 1 | <b>Prepare a draft discussion paper by Thursday October 2 for Executive group to comment. Final discussion paper to be distributed to Reference Group on the 13th October, to meet information sharing objective in time for individual submissions.</b> | <b>Carol Jeffs</b> |
| 2 | <b>Plan Reference Group meeting on 30th October to formulate a Forum Green Paper submission.</b>   | <b>Carol Jeffs</b> |
| 3 | <b>Prepare a revised budget including proposal for Executive Assistant and future funding for next meeting.</b>  | <b>Carol Jeffs</b> |
| 4 | <b>Begin planning the 2004 Annual Forum Conference and Report Card Release</b>   | <b>Carol Jeffs</b> |
| 5 | <b>Speak with Glen Waterhouse at GREEN Inc. to expedite new GINRF/GRCG/GREEN Inc. arrangements.</b>  | <b>Carol Jeffs</b> |