

# Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee

## MINUTES FOR MEETING 2

6 September 2004

9.15am – 10.30am

5<sup>th</sup> floor conference room, Energy House, Darwin

### Present

John Bailey (Chair)  
Annie Andrews  
Rose Calland  
Brendan Dowd  
John Harrison

Adele Pedder  
Liza Schenkel  
Kira Schlusser  
Robert Wasson  
Chris Young

### 1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed committee members and introduced the newly appointed Project Coordinator, Ms Kira Schlusser.

### 2. APOLOGIES

Alastair Black  
Donna Jackson

### 3. ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Moved: John Harrison

Seconded: Annie Andrews

### 4. ACTION SHEET

Members noted those items that could be dealt with between the first and second meetings had been completed.

### 5. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was circulated to members.

### 6. UPDATED MEMBERSHIP LIST

The chairman explained that the Darwin Regional Development Board was still in its establishment phase with expressions of interest for board members being called only recently. Given these circumstances, he noted a representative for the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee was unlikely to be available for some time.

<p><b>Action:</b> Provide the full phone number for the Darwin Regional Development Board contacts in the list of contact.</p>
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## **7. COMMITTEE POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND PROTOCOLS**

### **7.1. Voting**

The committee agreed the chairman would not vote unless a casting vote was required.

### **7.2. Proxies**

The committee agreed that members could send an alternate delegate to meetings with the right to vote, but there would be no proxy voting.

### **7.3. Section 1.2 Functions**

Members sought clarification about Section 1.2 Functions and the committee's role of facilitating the development of a research program for the Darwin Harbour region. Members agreed that their role would be to encourage formal and non-formal research community efforts, for example, Waterwatch. The Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee was well placed to encourage their work, with representatives from a large cross-section of the Darwin Harbour region, with members belonging to formal research and non-formal research networks.

### **7.4. Section 1.4 Reporting**

The wording will be changed to: "the committee is required to report annually".

**Action:** the Policies, Procedures and Protocols document will be edited to reflect the above comments.

## **8. WORKING GROUP MEMBERSHIPS**

### **8.1. Ecosystem Research Group**

Professor Wasson agreed to chair the Ecosystem Research Group (ERG) and indicated that he would work with the Project Coordinator to schedule a meeting within the next few weeks. A potential list of members had been prepared and would be formally contacted shortly.

The nominees are:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Institute</b>	<b>Expertise</b>
Professor Robert Wasson - Chairperson	Charles Darwin University	Catchment dynamics
Dr Michael Douglas	Charles Darwin University	Freshwater aquatic ecology
Dr Andria Marshall	Biodiversity Unit of DIPE	Marine
Dr Keith McGuinness	Charles Darwin University	Mangrove ecology
Dr Mark Meekhan	Australian Institute of	Fish

	Marine Science	
Dr David Parry	Charles Darwin University	Marine and freshwater chemistry
Dr Owen Price	Biodiversity Unit of DIPE	Terrestrial ecology
Dr Barry Russell	NT Museum	Marine biology and ecology
Dr Samantha Setterfield	Charles Darwin University	Terrestrial weeds and vegetation
Mr Neil Smit	Biodiversity Unit of DIPE	Habitat mapping of the harbour
Dr Simon Townsend	Water Monitoring Branch, DIPE	Member of the EMG
Dr Rick Van Dam	Environmental Research Institute of the Supervising Scientist	Environmental risk assessment
Mr David Williams	DIPE	Expertise in DIPE's hydrodynamic and sediment transport model

Professor Wasson also indicated that since the previous meeting he and Dr Simon Townsend had agreed that the initial reasons for having two scientific working groups were still valid. Consequently, they had decided to reinstate two working groups rather than creating one combined group, as had been suggested at the previous meeting.

Two members of the EMG would also be members of the Ecosystem Research Group: Dr Townsend (as chairperson) and Dr Andria Marshall (marine expertise).

**Action:** The Project Coordinator will contact Professor Wasson regarding membership of the Ecosystem Research Group.

### 8.2. Ecosystem Monitoring Group

Mr Bailey reported that letters of invitation had been sent out with a response from the Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development and the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment. Dr Townsend would chair the working group.

Mr Brendan Dowd, representing the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT), said that a fax had been sent nominating Angelika Hesse, Environment Manager with Darwin City Council as an interim representative on the working group, until LGANT formally made a nomination.

**Action:** the Project Coordinator will find out how community groups, such as Coastcare and Waterwatch, will be represented on the Ecosystem Monitoring Group.

### **8.3. Indigenous Working Group**

The chairman explained that Ms Donna Jackson, who was to suggest nominations for the Indigenous Working Group, no longer worked for Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation. Consequently, Mr Bailey and Ms Stanger had met with Mr Kelvin Costello, Coordinator, Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation, who had said that he would work with Ms Jackson to come up with a list of nominees.

**Action:** Project Coordinator to follow up with Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation's Coordinator, Mr Costello, for nominations to the Indigenous Working Group.

## **9. WORK PROGRAM FOR 2004-05**

Mr Bailey requested updated reports be prepared on the status of each of the projects the committee is overseeing. He said the projects that are running behind schedule need to be flagged and strategies put in place to ensure they are completed on time, or actions taken to seek extensions where necessary.

The items that need to be progressed in order to meet the government budget process for funding and should be flagged and made a priority.

Mr Dowd said that he needed timelines so that LGANT had the opportunity to provide input and made special reference to the Stormwater Strategy project, where local government input would be crucial.

### **Actions:**

1. Project Coordinator to prepare status reports of all projects and provide a copy to members of the committee for approval prior to the next meeting.
2. Insert column titled "Responsibility" in table at Attachment E: *Timeline of Priority Actions*.
3. Spell check on Attachment G: *Draft Action Plan Work Program*

## **10. FRAMEWORK FOR EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGY**

The committee expressed concerns that the Developmental Marketing and Communications brief did not specify preparing a communication strategy and focused only on research. The committee agreed that the brief would only proceed if it included the development of a communication and education strategy. Members agreed to pursue the tender process, with the inclusion of a communication strategy, a three month turnaround period, and a budget of \$15 000. If consultants were unable to do the work for that amount then members would reassess the situation.

Previous communication actions, databases and information from the development phase of the Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management

would be made available to the consultants as a starting point for the current brief.

Ms Pedder raised the issue of communication between different government departments and suggested that Dr Peter Jacklyn's (Cooperative Research Centre for Tropical Savannas) model of communication may be applicable to government departments for information exchange on issues relating to the Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management.

**Actions:**

1. Include development of a communication and education strategy in the Developmental Marketing and Communications brief
2. The Project Coordinator will pursue expressions of interest for the Developmental Marketing and Communications brief (including a strategy) with a budget of \$15 000 and a three month turnaround.
3. The Project Coordinator will liaise with Ms Pedder about the communication method developed by Dr Jacklyn and report to the committee at the next meeting.

**11. SITE VISITS**

Members agreed they preferred two half day trips by bus and boat. Suggestions for site visits included:

- Wickham Point
- Greg Phelps prawn farm on the Blackmore River
- Darwin port
- Key indigenous and non-indigenous cultural sites

A couple of experts would be asked to explain issues during the site visits.

**Action:** The Project Coordinator will put an itinerary together and email members.

**12. OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms Pedder asked if the agenda papers could be emailed so members could consult their stakeholder base before meetings.

**Actions:**

1. Project Coordinator to email agenda papers and provide a hard copy prior to meetings.
2. Minutes of meetings to be posted on the web site.

**13. NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting will be Monday 4 October 2004 and the following meeting will be Monday 8 November 2004.