



MINUTES

Meeting No	15
Meeting	FN Qld Water Alliance
Date	2 December 2016
Time	9:30 am
Venue	Kingsford meeting room, level three, Cairns Regional Council

The meeting opened at 9:30 am.

1. Attendance

Name	Organisation
Graham O'Byrne	Cairns Regional Council
Steven Cosatto	FNQROC
Mark Wuth	Cairns Regional Council
Morris Hamil	Mareeba Shire Council
Jane Nicholls	Tablelands Regional Council
Garry Pickering	Croydon Shire Council
Dawn Lake	Yarrabah ASC
Steven Porter	Cairns Regional Council
Peter White	Douglas Shire Council
Geoffrey Smart	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Marnie Dugmore	Tablelands Regional Council
Simon Page	Cairns Regional Council
Robert Fearon	Qld Water
Mark Sexton	Torres Strait Islands Regional Council
Melanie Mildner	Torres Strait Islands Regional Council

2. Apologies

Name	Organisation
Arron Hieatt	LGAQ
Brad Bakker	Tablelands Regional Council
Shaun Nancarrow	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Gene Brookes	Hopevale ASC
Nick Wellwod	Douglas Shire Council
Rob Fenn	Cook Shire Council
Darlene Irvine	FNQROC
Kevin Hall	Etheridge Shire Council

1. Welcome and meeting objectives – Chair Graham O'Byrne

- Chair welcomed all to meeting.
- Continue development of our Work plan and associated action plans.

- Review of synergies or opportunities for collaboration/resource sharing within projects identified at the FNQ Water Alliance October meeting.

2. Understanding what Water Security means to Councils – Regional situational analysis.

Councils provided a briefing of their Water Security Strategy, priorities, gaps etc:

YASC:

- Dependent on bores,
- Concerned with Long term climate change,
- Aquifers,
- Reactive strategies to water management.

Dawn commented that it was her understanding that Hopevale ASC and Wujal Wujal ASC faced similar challenges.

TRC:

- Starting development of a Water Security Strategy,
- Reactive strategies to water management,
- Reviewing “Levels of Service” - determining them and understanding TRCs resources. - Includes monitoring of bores to identify capacity
- Speaking to DEWS about a water security review.

DSC:

- Almost finalised their Water Security and reliability report –
 - Identified that Daintree township has limited supply in the event of flood event
 - Intended 20 mg reservoir for Port Douglas will assist but not the solution.
- Reactive strategies to water management

CCRC:

- Acknowledge that a lot of work needs to be done - they have planned theoretically but not reviewed emergent situations.
- Require additional planning for emergent scenarios.
- Pipelines have been established but not tested.
- Negotiating with DNRM for additional intakes from creek system but considered unreliable.
- Short term issue turbidity issues and pressures from DEWS
- Looking at Reservoir’s to address medium term issues.

CRC:

- Progressing Council’s Demand Strategy - considering the current water levels.
- Deferring major projects with a view to develop infrastructure at Behanna
- Reviewing levels of service ie reduced levels of service – what is acceptable, better use of existing resource (enhancement).

- Long term:
 - Nullinga Dam
 - Mulgrave and Barron Rivers
- Aim to be more flexible to address, modify or change needs dependant on climate, economy etc – (plans in drawer, planning now to provide quick response time in the future)

Croydon:

- No firm written strategy as yet.
- Concerns over long term water sources have recently developed an additional water source however (perhaps due to current dry weather situation) testing has identified greater than allowed levels of fluoride and arsenic

TSIRC:

- Responsible for 15 communities on 14 Islands
- Lack of Water Management Strategy.
- Currently enforcing strict water restrictions.
 - Review expected visitors such as tourism and construction to monitor usage
- Lagoons are main form of water storage for islands - are dependent on rain and limited in size.
- Rely on desalination plants to address potable water shortage operate - approximately 12 desalination plants
 - Lack of staff with expertise with desalination experience having to use contractors to operate. (Northern Water are utilised to service pumps)
- No real leak detection program.
- Recently implemented SCADA, at this stage have limited confidence in data

MSC:

- Water Strategy is currently reviewed for currency capability and ability to implement.
- MSC have engaged with Sun Water to develop a new LT Water Strategy. Intend to engage consultants to assist. With current support from Mayor the development of a worthwhile and suitable document is positive at this stage.
- AMRs are assisting with data collection
- Shire is currently coping with current dry conditions, however not able to focus on long term issues.

General discussion:

- Members acknowledged that across the region they were all at different stages in the development and understanding of their Water Security Strategies.
- As an alliance how can we best support/address Water Security issues within the region?

- What is a starting point ie what base level assessment is required for example should DEWS be utilised to develop a base level water security assessment – considered that a base level assessment should perhaps follow a situational analysis combined with a prioritisation of objectives.
- Is there an option for multiple partnerships or multiple alliances within FNQ? Would this assist advocacy efforts to the State for assistance?
- Is there a mentoring capacity within the region - with neighbouring councils

Group acknowledged to:

- Further develop the Regional Skills Matrix
- Conduct high level gap analysis.
- Develop an understanding of members needs - consolidating/identifying member's level of interest and viability.
 - Workshop Collaboration Strategies ie
 - Regional and/or sub-regional alliances
 - Partnerships with one or more councils,
 - Bi-lateral council arrangements with neighbouring councils
 - Mentoring programs.
- Review and explore funding opportunities available to councils within FN QWRAP.

3. DWQMPs –

Background: This item had been raised by TRC during the development of the Alliance's annual work plan. Since de-amalgamation TRCs Plan had not been updated for relevancy and currency as a result TRC and MSC had limited confidence in their plans.

General discussion:

- Regionally there were differing levels of confidence in members plans
- Need for strengthened plans to:
 - Assist with funding applications
 - "Push" back to State Agencies
- Upcoming 2017 audits will raise issues and how councils manage and respond to those risks.
- Regional audit may identify common issues and actions for alliance to review and develop an action plan.

ACTION 15.1: CRC to present, at next meeting - Levels of service - health based targets.

4. Water and Waste Water Communication – document sharing/referencing (resource library), internally, externally, forum, up to date contact list, etc).

Background: Management of Council's water and wastewater data services is requiring additional resourcing each year sometimes requiring resourcing from other areas. Alliance members commented that, amongst other things, the use of a common portal would:

- Develop regional consistency in meeting legislative requirements,
- Reduce duplication and overlapping of resources,
- Assist with employee handover,
- Reduce risks and improve the way that risks are managed.

Mark Wuth provided comment on Wiki – low cost, contains document management, forums, confidential areas (membership), easy to adapt, develop a brand

ACTION 15.2: Mark Wuth to distribute you tube link and summary of Wiki.

5. Skills Matrix gap analysis councils to populate prior to meeting.

General discussion:

- Discussion of sharing of operational staff amongst the region on a cost recovery basis. Development of a mentoring program (staff to come to upskill) , professional development, increasing sustainability within the region.
- Development and increasing of a skills base within the region
- Increase members capacity to retain of skills and staff.
- Manage the succession gaps when staff leave.

ACTION 15.3: All councils to populate Skills Matrix, where needed provide comment regarding required capacity to flag where there are gaps. Completed document, to be sent Steve Cosatto.

ACTION 15.4: CRC to review completed skills matrix, identify areas where they are able to provide assistance to members and to draft proposal for member's consideration at next meeting.

6. General Business

6.1. Update – Licencing sub-committee (Appendix B Minutes – 11 November meeting)

Action from minutes:

“The fee for a major assessment under the EP Act should be put on the Agenda for the next FNQ Water Alliance meeting and give strong support to Qldwater and LGAQ to progress this as a matter of urgency with EHP. Other QLD Water Alliances should be notified of this outcome”.

General discussion:

- Members acknowledged that whilst there had been a strengthening of the relationship, between EHP and councils there was still significant area's of improvement, notably the area of fees for major assessment.
- Rob Fearon advised that Qld Water was attempting to meet with EHP policy to discuss matter. Rob to provide updates when available.

- 6.2. Drinking Water Quality Management Plan, Regional Audit, RFQ

Acknowledged to insert additional information into the RFQ.

ACTION 15.5: Councils to provide additional information for inclusion into the RFQ specifications that being:

- A copy of Plan's Table of Contents,
- No of pages included in Plan and in attachments
- No. of Water Treatment plants within each scheme.

- 6.3. CCRC raised the matter of a regional advertising (TV) campaign regarding water usage and restriction levels

ACTION 15.6: Mark Wuth to distribute CRC current TV campaign regarding level 2 water restrictions ie times, days costings etc.

ACTION 15.7: Members to consider current TV campaign regarding level 2 water restrictions ie times, days costings etc. - If they wish leverage to contact Mark Wuth.

7. Meeting closed 2.10pm.

8. Next meeting

To be advised.

ACTION ITEM(S) –

No.	ACTION	ORG RESPONSIBLE	COMPLETED
15.1	CRC to present, at next meeting - Levels of service - health based targets.	CRC	
15.2	Mark Wuth to distribute you tube link and summary of Wiki.	CRC	
15.3	All councils to populate Skills Matrix, where needed provide comment regarding required capacity to flag where there are gaps. Completed document, to be sent Steve Cosatto.	All	
15.4	CRC to review completed skills matrix, identify areas where they are able to provide assistance to members and to draft proposal for member's consideration at next meeting.	CRC	
15.5	Councils to provide additional information for inclusion into the RFQ specifications that being: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A copy of Plan's Table of Contents, • No of pages included in Plan and in attachments No. of Water Treatment plants within each scheme.		
15.6	Mark Wuth to distribute CRC current TV campaign	CRC	

No.	ACTION	ORG RESPONSIBLE	COMPLETED
	regarding level 2 water restrictions ie times, days costings etc.		
15.7	Members to consider current TV campaign regarding level 2 water restrictions ie times, days costings etc. - If they wish leverage to contact Mark Wuth.	All	

Minutes prepared by Steven Cosatto FNQROC Regional Infrastructure Projects Coordinator.