

Northern Australia Irrigation Futures	Charles Darwin University
Tropical Rivers Inventory & Assessment Project	NT Department of Natural Resources, Environment & the Arts

Teleconference

Friday 4 May 2006

10:30-11:30pm CST

Present:

Chair: Jeff Camkin, Northern Australia Irrigation Futures (NAIF) , Ian Smith NT Department of Natural Resources, Environment & the Arts (NRETA) , Rick VanDam and Renee Bartolo, Tropical Rivers Inventory & Assessment Project (TRIAP)

Apologies:

Keith Bristow (NAIF), Michael Douglas (CDU)

Agenda:

1. TRIAP Update
2. NRETA Update
3. CDU Update
4. NAIF Update
5. Collaborative arrangements/opportunities
6. Other business
7. Next Meeting

Minutes

1. TRIAP Update (Rick VanDam and Renee Bartolo)

Sub-project 2:

- The Flinders catchment workshop scheduled for 9 May is postponed until early June due to issues around engaging stakeholders which have now been resolved.
- Renee has had some dialogue with Bart Kellett regarding stakeholder engagement in the Daly River.
- Feedback on the interim Derby workshop report has been received from stakeholders in the Fitzroy catchment (WA) and is being distributed to stakeholders.

General discussion:

There was an indigenous cultural values workshop held in Darwin last week which was run by Sue Jackson and Marc Wohling. The value of indigenous rights and water was discussed with some focus on the Daly region where Sue and Marc are working.

2. NRETA Update (Ian Smith)

- Ian will be on leave for 9 weeks so John Gilmour and Brent Williams will probably be the key contacts for the Daly River..
- The three NAP priority projects are near completion (estuarine modeling, sources of nutrients, groundwater water balance)

General discussion:

The Northern Australia Water Summit proposed by CDU has been postponed to a more suitable date later in the year. CDU is taking the lead in organising the summit.

3. CDU Update

Nil

4. NAIF Update (Jeff Camkin)

- Keith Bristow and Jeff Camkin met with the RiverSymposium program convener. There will be a Northern Australia session at the symposium which LWA's Tropical Rivers Program is likely to sponsor. The format will be two sets of 4-5 presentations with two 30-40 minute audience participation/discussion sessions.
- ANCID is in Darwin in October. Abstracts closed 1 May. Meeting participants were not notified of abstracts closing. Jeff Camkin is having a phone link with ANCID organisers tomorrow and is discussing the possibility of running a North Australian workshop or session at ANCID.
- As follow up from the Water Smart Australia Program workshop held in Canberra in March, a subgroup of the NAIF Steering Committee is planning to meet with the National Water Commission the week beginning 8th May to share thoughts on how the developing "northern Australia Alliance*" can best help the various jurisdictions and the NWC implement the NWI.

* The northern Australia Alliance refers to the northern state governments (WA, NT, QLD), Australian government, and other project partners

5. Collaborative arrangements / Opportunities

Nil

6. Other Business

Nil

7. Next meeting

Thursday 01 June 2006