

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

Teleconference

Thursday 1 June 2006

10:30-11:30pm CST

Present:

Chair: Jeff Camkin, Northern Australia Irrigation Futures (NAIF) , Michael Douglas, Charles Darwin University (CDU), David Harvey, NT Department of Natural Resources, Environment & the Arts (NRETA) , and Renee Bartolo, Tropical Rivers Inventory & Assessment Project (TRIAP)

Apologies:

Keith Bristow (NAIF), Rick VanDam (TRIAP), Ian Lancaster (NRETA)

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 (Renee Bartolo)

Sub-project 2:

- The Flinders catchment workshop scheduled for 9 May is postponed until 6 June due to issues around engaging stakeholders which have now been resolved.
- An abstract titled 'Ecological Risk Assessment for Australia's Tropical Rivers' has been submitted to the ANCID conference
- Bayesian model approaches are being examined as a decision support tool.

General discussion:

Bart Kellet has been doing some work on nitrogen leaching in the lower Burdekin using a Bayesian network model

2. NRETA Update (David Harvey)

- Ian Lancaster will be representing NRETA at future meetings.
- Daly Management Advisory Committee
 - committee members have been nominated and now awaiting ministerial approval
- Responsibility for water issues within NRETA
 - A Water Management Branch has been formed and will be overseen by Ian Lancaster
 - Anyone working on water-related issues is in the branch (re-organisation of policy and planning)
 - Natural Systems have moved into a group called Water Resources

3. CDU Update

- NHT projects
- NAP projects are due at the end of June
- TRACK: waiting on the outcomes of CERF proposal (mid-June)
- North Australia Water Use Summit
 - Contact is Merrilyn Wasson (School of Environmental Research)
 - Two day meeting (one day open to the public, one day closed workshop) 30 Sept-1 Oct
- Riparian Vegetation workshop supported by DEH has been held.

4. NAIF Update (Jeff Camkin)

- RiverSymposium
 - A North Australia workshop/session is confirmed for 4 September
 - Committed to funding Dr Henrique Chaves to come to Australia. Further funding was obtained from CRC-IF. He has worked on the UNESCO sustainability indices at the catchment scale and on water use in Brazil. He will visit Darwin. Need to decide whether to have a workshop or public presentation
- ANCID Conference
 - No need to pull together a session on northern Australia because the whole conference has a northern Australia focus.
 - Perhaps a report on the North Australia Water Use Summit could be presented. Michael will send Jeff Merrilyn's contact details.
- CSIRO Student Research Scheme
 - Mini project on changing perspectives and visions of the role of irrigation in northern Australia
- Bart Kellett is conducting interviews in Daly in July.

5. Collaborative arrangements / Opportunities

- Renee to exchange information with Bart on Bayesian networks
- Renee to send a project summary of Bayesian risk approach to meeting members
- Michael and Jeff will examine working on the presentation of the research that has and is being conducted in the Daly region. This has been collated by CDU. There may be the possibility of conducting a gap analysis.

6. Other Business

Nil

7. Next meeting

Thursday 06 July 2006