

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

Teleconference

Tuesday 18 July 2006

10:30-11:30pm CST

Present:

Chair: Jeff Camkin and Keith Bristow, 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:

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:

- A meeting was held with NRETA representatives on 10 July at ERISS to discuss the draft conceptual model for the Daly River catchment. This draft conceptual model is focussed on land clearing and associated land use and will provide the basis for a Bayesian network.

General discussion:

Mark Kennard from the Centre for Riverine Landscapes at Griffith University and Michael Douglas visited ERISS on 22 June and spoke with Renee, Rick and Peter Bayliss. Mark Kennard is working on the Daly Fish Project. Discussed Bayesian network approach in the TRIAP and potential collaboration.

2. NRETA Update (David Harvey)

- Metering Projects
 - Two projects: one in Katherine-Daly and one in Darwin Rural area.
 - NRETA are anticipating that the tender for consultancy for these projects will be released at the end of the month.
 - Predicting public perception of releasing a tender for the consultancy.
- First meeting of DRMAC (Daly River Management Advisory Committee) is on 19 July.
 - David Harvey or Ian Lancaster will inform the meeting group who the members of DRMAC are.

3. CDU Update (Michael Douglas)

- CERF TRACK proposal was successful and received \$10.88 M (cash contribution)
 - Substantial in-kind from NTG
 - Total application was about \$22 M over 4 years (including in-kind contributions)
 - The contract and negotiations will take place with DEH and LWA. LWA is administering the contract.
- North Australia Water Use Summit
 - Confirmed it will be a two day meeting (one day open to the public, one day closed workshop) 30 Sept-1 Oct and is proceeding.
- Environmental Flows in the Daly
 - LWA funded project
 - Linked with the Flows in the Katherine region NHT funded project
 - Sampling is being undertaken and the cultural component will also commence
 - Linkage with the TRIAP Bayesian network
- Water Commission
 - Meeting 1 August where TRACK Consortium will discuss the \$30 M call
 - The various groups need to communicate with each other regarding the call.
 - Water Commission will have a look at the TRACK prospectus and CERF grant.
 - Will avoid duplication within the TRACK consortium and avoid lots of small disconnected projects.

General discussion:

- CSIRO have a particular interest in the Raising National Water Standards call.
 - There are links between NAIF and major government departments and organisations across northern Australia.
 - It is important that everyone compliments rather than duplicates submissions.
 - CSIRO are also involved in groundwater systems: groundwater geochemistry; and the fate of nutrients and the linkage with ecological ecology response.
 - NAIF is continuing to develop sustainable framework concept and work with governments in doing this.
 - Northern Australia is a priority for the Water Commission.
 - There is a Water Commission workshop planned for August or October. If it takes place in October, it may be aligned with the ANCID conference.
- Compilation of research projects in the Daly Catchment database
 - Peter Whitehead (NRETA) has made a summary table from the information compiled at CDU.
 - It is appropriate that NTG maintain and update the database as they will use this to inform DRMAC.
 - It is unlikely they will undertake a gap analysis on the database.
 - Jeff Camkin will ask Peter Whitehead about the need/possibility in undertaking a gap analysis.

4. NAIF Update (Keith Bristow and Jeff Camkin)

- Bart is undertaking interviews currently in the Daly and will continue to do so over the next 2 months.
- NAIF reports
 - Three major reports near completion:

- Hydrology of northern Australia
 - Inventory of irrigation across northern Australia
 - Systems and learning
 - Have good information for QLD and the Daly; still lacking information about the Darwin and the Ti Tree areas
 - Little input from WA to date.
 - Detailed comparison between the Lower Burdekin, Daly and Ord catchments.
- Reports will be subject to formal review within CSIRO and externally.
- Lower Burdekin: Currently facilitating establishment of a senior managers forum to address priority water related issues in the lower Burdekin.
- RiverSymposium
 - Details of the northern rivers session is on the web site.
 - Dr Henrique Chaves will be attending with funding support 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
 - Abstracts are being reviewed.
 - Program outline is completed.
 - Jeff to inform Renee when notification of acceptance of abstracts will be sent out.
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- Dr Henrique Chaves visit to Australia
 - The Australian Water Association are organising a presentation for 22 August.
 - There is a possibility of a round table workshop
 - Michael Douglas would like to host a public session/presentation at CDU. Jeff will inform the AWA of CDU wanting to host a presentation.

5. Collaborative arrangements / Opportunities

- Water Commission
 - Michael Douglas will contact Jeff Camkin and Keith Bristow regarding the direction TRACK will pursue to ensure a complimentary and coordinated bid is submitted (and vice versa).
 - Jeff to find out if and when the Water Commission workshop is happening.

6. Other Business

Nil

7. Next meeting

Thursday 03 August 2006