

<b>Northern Australia Irrigation Futures</b>	<b>Charles Darwin University</b>
<b>Tropical Rivers Inventory &amp; Assessment Project</b>	<b>NT Department of Natural Resources, Environment &amp; the Arts</b>

## **Teleconference**

**Tuesday 8 August 2006**

**10:30-11:30pm CST**

### **Present:**

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

### **Apologies:**

Michael Douglas, Charles Darwin University (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 van Dam and Renee Bartolo)**

- A meeting with Brendan Edgar from LWA was held at ERISS on Monday 7 August. Project timelines were discussed.
- A meeting with Bart Kellet has been scheduled for next week to exchange information on the Daly River catchment and stakeholder engagement in the projects.
- Renee is attending the Water Regime Dependence of Fish in the Wet-Dry Tropics Project Steering Committee Meeting to be held in Pine Creek next week as an observer. This is the project being headed up by Michael Douglas and Brad Pusey. This will provide the TRIAP team with an overview of what is being done in this project and highlight the linkages with the Bayesian Network modelling aspects.
- The TRIAP is looking at building a link with Greening Australia's Water for Life Program.

#### **2. NRETA Update (Ian Lancaster)**

- A National Water Commission (NWC) meeting was held on Tuesday 1 August.
  - Marilyn and Bob Wasson presented the TRACK and spoke about the National Water Summit. There were also presentations from NRETA and PAWA.
  - Issues of concern to the NWC were:
    - The lack of movement on water allocation planning.
    - Pricing policy is lagging behind
    - Indigenous participation in monitoring, planning and training.

- Recruiting for Water for Life positions.
- Rivercare: The Waterwatch concept is going to be run by NRETA and will be complimentary to Greening Australia's Water for Life program. A funding source that is being looked at is the Raising National Water Standards program.
- National Water Summit:
  - The political summit has been postponed until sometime in the New Year (2007).
  - There will be a summit of experts in the third week of September to discuss issues in the north, strategies and policies to move forward.

### **3. CDU Update (No report)**

### **4. NAIF Update (Keith Bristow and Jeff Camkin)**

- Henrique Chavez's visit has been planned. An itinerary will be sent to the group.
- The Lower Burdekin forum will be held on 24 August. Henrique Chavez will be speaking there.
- Bart Kellet is currently conducting stakeholder interview in Kununurra, the Daly River and Darwin.
- Raising National Water Standards:
  - Liaising with TRACK through Michael Douglas.
  - Meeting with each of the State/Territory governments over the next 3 weeks.
  - Targeting the 29-31 August for a Government Committee meeting.

### **5. Collaborative arrangements / Opportunities**

- Raising National Water Standards: NAIF-TRACK linkage.
- Ian Lancaster will supply the list of project proposals for Raising National Water Standards that is being compiled by Russell Willing (Rivercare Coordinator).

### **6. Other Business**

- ANCID may extend the Early Bird registration fee.

### **7. Next meeting**

Thursday 07 September 2006