

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

Teleconference

Thursday 7 September 2006

10:30-11:30pm CST

Present:

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

Apologies:

NIL

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)

- Have been working on the Relative Risk Model for the Daly Catchment. A first cut of this model is being presented at the ANCID Conference in Darwin.

2. NRETA Update (Ian Lancaster)

- There has been a ministerial request to form a Katherine Water Advisory Committee.
- Due to the concerns raised by Peter Jolly with respect to water development in the Mataranka/Roper area being at its limit, the formation of a Mataranka/Roper Water Advisory Committee is being considered.
- Ian has responsibility for the compilation of research that has taken place in the Daly region (for DRMAC). He is using the list compiled by Bob Wasson.
 - List is compiled in Endnote
 - Looking at using NTMaps for people to search. This is a GIS-based application outside the NRETA firewall.

Action: Ian to send list of field headings to meeting participants, for further suggestions.

- There is a tele-conference taking place 14 September with the National Water Commission and the three northern Australia governments. There is also a F-2-F meeting in Canberra 26 September to further discuss issues raised in the tele-conference.
- There is a public meeting in Darwin's rural area next week regarding water issues.
- Eddie Harris (NSW Water Resources) presented a talk about macro water sharing in unregulated rivers when you don't have much information.

Action: Jeff to send Ian Eddie's email address.

3. CDU Update (Michael Douglas)

- TRACK- met with DEH to discuss the contract last week.
- There was a meeting of the Daly River Fish and Flows Project Steering Committee in Pine Creek on 9 August. This process is working well and people are showing interest in the project.
- Owen Price has a landscape design in the Daly project about to commence.
- In the future, especially with TRACK coming on line, there is a need to coordinate stakeholder meetings. It would be good to collate people's stakeholder lists.

4. NAIF Update (Keith Bristow and Jeff Camkin)

- Bart has completed interviews and is undertaking analysis of the responses.
- 3 new PhDs
 - 2 focusing on policy and decision-making (one with Keith, one with Jeff)
 - 1 on groundwater-surfacewater interactions focused on the Lower Burdekin with NRMW (Brisbane)
- Henrique Chavez's visit
 - 13-14 presentations around the country
 - There was a lot of interest in the presentations and also interest in further exchanges
 - Possibility to form links between corresponding organisations in Brazil and Australia
 - Henrique is preparing a report on his visit.
- Meeting of the 3 Governments steering committee last week and then met with the NWC to discuss a proposal.

Action: Send out NWC proposal to meeting participants.

- There is a meeting on the 19 October to discuss strategic relationships in the North Australia.
- Proposal under land & Water Innovation Call
 - Visions for Irrigation in North Australia
 - 3 tiered process
 - Interviews with high level stakeholders and experts
 - exploriums-groups of individuals from the high level stakeholders and experts to identify commonality and differences in views
 - public forum to discuss outcomes
 - key outcome will be document areas of overlap in thinking between the groups

- Second round application stage
- Riversymposium
 - It would be beneficial if there was a Northern Rivers session each year
 - Could get Peter Cullen involved
 - Scheduling clashes were problematic- Stuart Bunn is on the organising committee and we should make him aware of this issue.

5. Collaborative arrangements / Opportunities

- Nil

6. Other Business

- Nil

7. Next meeting

Thursday 05 October 2006