



MACQUARIE VALLEY WEEDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE INC.

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Minutes of General Meeting 148
RSL Club, Bourke Street - Brewarrina
Tuesday 8th August 2017

Meeting commenced 9am

Present

Name	Organisation
Melissa Brennan	Secretary
Craig Bennett	Chairman
Roger Smith	Acting RPO
Michael Michelmore	Department of Primary Industries
Steve Watts	Wentworth Shire Council
Archie Harding	Junior Vice Chairman
Peter Hutchinson	Brewarrina Shire Council
Norm Townsend	Cabonne Council
Andrea Fletcher	Castlereagh Macquarie County Council
Des Mackey	Dubbo Regional Council
Matthew Croft	Dubbo Regional Council
Laurie Thompson	Lachlan Shire Council
Mick Ryan	Central West LLS
Brian Bonello	Bogan Shire Council
Chris Jackson	Upper Macquarie County Council
Russell Tiffen	Bourke Shire Council
Andrew McConnachie	NSW DPI
Kerinne Harvey	NSW DPI
Neil Boyd	Orange City Council
Andrew Cosier	Dubbo Regional Council
Guy Marchant	Narromine Shire Council

Matthew Anderton	Mid Western Council
Kim Talbot	Brewarrina Shire Council
Sean Richardson	Senior Vice Chairman

The Chairman welcomed everyone to Brewarrina especially Andrew McConnachie and Kerinne Harvey from Department Primary Industries for coming all this way. He also thanked the new weeds officers from Mid-Western Regional Council and Upper Macquarie County Council for coming and thanked those that had travelled for today's meeting.

Peter Hutchinson gave an introduction to the meeting and a brief rundown on Brewarrina, talking about the spread of Hudson Pear around the region, and the main industry within Brewarrina is grazing.

The Chairman said thankyou to Ben Brennan for coming to this meeting to support his wife Melissa.

Peter Hutchinson introduced his manager Kim Talbot who talked about the restructure within Brewarrina Council and how he used to work with Don McKenzie many years ago.

The Chairman called for apologies.

Name	Organisation
Luke Hardy	Dept of Industry – Lands & Forestry
Rob Christian	Orange City Council
Steve Pearson	Dept of Industry – Lands & Forestry
Jacky Wiblin	Dept of Industry – Lands & Forestry
George Hammond	Life member
John Ryan	Forbes Shire Council
Tim Nalder	Central Tablelands LLS
Cr James Craft	Narromine Shire Council
David Wurst	NSW National Parks and Wildlife
Melissa Gunn	Cobar Shire Council
Roy Coburn	Balranald Shire Council
David Creeper	Western LLS
Cr David Kingham	Upper Macquarie County Council

Acceptance of Apologies

Moved Mick Ryan

Seconded Brian Bonello

Carried

Confirmation of previous meeting minutes on 9th May 2017 at Warren

Moved Peter Hutchinson

Seconded Mick Ryan

Carried

Business arising from previous meeting held at Warren on 9th May 2017

There was none.

The Chairman acknowledged that it is Brian Bonello's birthday today and everyone wished him a "Happy Birthday".

Chairman's report

The chairman spoke about letters to and from LLS regarding continuing on with project co-ordination WAP 1520.

The chairman read the letter out from the 3 different LLS regions and that Western LLS have asked if they can take over now for their region.

Roger Smith mentioned that he received a phone call from David Creeper regarding the reporting side and DPI have said that they can't take it on because they have a contract with Orange City Council and Macquarie Valley regarding the reporting.

Roger Smith attended a meeting in Dubbo last week for the Central West LLS. Roger mentioned that the Central Tablelands LLS & Central West LLS are still unsure on what to do regarding the WAP reporting.

Roger Smith mentioned that LLS don't have the weed knowledge or skillset regarding the WAP reporting and recommended they shouldn't take it on and for them to take it on now would be a mistake.

The chairman mentioned that a recommendation was made for Orange City Council to continue with the reporting.

Roger Smith mentioned that the RPO role was like a help desk to all different LCA's and takes up a lot of his time and asked would the LLS be able to provide this service.

Roger Smith mentioned that the Central West & Central Tablelands LLS are going to make a decision next week in regards to the WAP reporting.

Mick Ryan asked about the different portions of funding for Western, Central West and Central Tablelands. It was suggested that we may just do project co-ordination over Central West & Central Tablelands only.

Department of Primary Industries have suggested that each region has a project officer to cover their own area.

The chairman suggested that MVWAC and Lachlan join together as one big region. There is going to be a meeting next week to discuss this.

The Chairman called for any questions.
There were none.

Correspondence

Roger Smith mentioned that they are calling for nominations for the Buerckner and Stephenson awards and that you need to vote online through the NSW Weeds Society. Neil Boyd and Don McKenzie have been past winners of this award.

Moved Guy Marchant
Seconded Neil Boyd
Carried

The Chairman called for any questions.
There were none.

Financial report

Roger Smith spoke about the financial report in relation to the incoming and outgoing of money. Roger mentioned that we are doing really well financially for a small committee.

Moved Archie Harding
Seconded Steve Watts
Carried

RPO Report

The following activities have been undertaken over the past 3 months.

Conference Paper: Following the acceptance of an earlier abstract a conference paper was submitted and accepted by the organising committee for the 19th NSW Weeds Conference to be held in Armidale from the 16 – 19 October 2017. The presentation will focus on the High Risk Weeds Study Tour. Unfortunately the presentation is scheduled on the last day and last session of the conference.

Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans: The Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans from the CT, CW and W Local Land Services have been released and adopted by the respective agencies.

Weeds Action Plans: The WAP reports from each of the 3 regions are rolling in and at the time of writing this report approximately 30% have been received. I have been answering many questions in regard to the WAP reports. Some technical issues have been encountered but most have been resolved quickly. I have been setting up systems for the influx of reports.

Weeds Trailer: Have been transporting the weeds trailer to and from Dubbo and Bathurst.

Central West LLS: Attended a Regional Weed Meeting in Dubbo to discuss the regional weed plans.

ELearning Group Training: Sessions were held in Warren on the 9th and 10th of May with 10 weeds officers attending.

Mandatory Documents: Due to the uncertainty of who will be rolling out the final 3 years of the WAP 1520 the updating of the mandatory documents has been put on hold for another 12 months.

BIS Guidelines: I have had several inquiries regarding the current BIS guidelines including how every day activities align with the ISP guidelines. There will be a session after today's meeting which will address any queries.

Help Desk: I have found with this role there are other components besides WAP coordination. I receive numerous calls regarding all things weeds and from all areas. I am concerned with the LLS taking over the role this service may be lost. Weeds officers almost use the RPO role as a help desk and I am not sure if the LLS would have the skills and knowledge to continue this function.

Training

Biosecurity Regulatory Training Bridging Course (Orange): This three-day course 20-22 February 2018 is for existing Weeds Officers authorized under the Biosecurity Act 2015. Taking into account the significant and complex changes to the regulatory framework, this training allows learners to develop a practical understanding of the Act. The training utilizes group exercises, workplace simulations and lectures. The training per weeds officer is \$1200.

The chairman spoke about MVWAC putting money in for training and asked for suggestions on how much.

It was decided that MVWAC would pay 50% of the fees in relation to the training.

*Moved Guy Marchant
Seconded Peter Hutchinson
Carried*

Roger Smith is going to find out maximum numbers for fees/training and look into other service providers.

Chris Jackson asked about MVWAC subsidizing the 5 day course for weed officers.

Guy Marchant suggested subsidising training for new weeds officers for this WAP period for 5 day training within financial year.

*Moved Guy Marchant
Seconded Laurie Thompson
Carried*

Roger Smith mentioned our next meeting scheduled for November will actually be on Thursday 26th October and will be held at the Australian National Field Days site in Orange.

Phil Cranney from Central Tablelands LLS will be giving a short presentation on Serrated Tussock at the meeting and he will be sending out a short questionnaire for weeds officers to fill out prior to the meeting so he can tailor the presentation to our needs.

Dept of Primary Industries update

Michael Michelmorespoke about the new Biosecurity Act commencing and asked about what policy and procedures did you have under the noxious weeds act that you could use for the new act by crossing out the word “noxious”. He advised that we need to tidy them up and get them reissued under the new Biosecurity Act as soon as possible.

With the WAP, in May new fresh guidelines were sent out on how to revise your weeds action program and the key thing is that the lead agency would be the LLS. This is how DPI will be implementing the NRC review of weed management.

Under the current WAP there was 2 signatories on the application form – one was Orange City Council which was the lead agency and the other was LLS which were a party from the beginning. The key thing that will be happening is that we will be crossing off Orange City Council as the lead agency and each of the LLS’s will become the lead agency.

**Meeting paused at 10.05am for Morning Tea
Meeting recommenced at 10.30am**

Delegate Reports – have been circulated

New Weed Incursions

Roger Smith found a horsetail plant in a nursery in Orange.

Roger Smith has approached DPI about introducing Traineeships for people interested in a career in weeds. He would like to see the older staff passing down their knowledge onto the younger ones for the future.

Weeds Advertising

All in attendance believe the television advertising campaign is well worth it. Ads will cost more as we need to take the word “noxious out and put “priority” in. Roger Smith to look into TV ads and what they will cost before our next meeting in October.

*Moved Archie Harding
Seconded Mick Ryan
Carried*

General Business

Roger Smith suggested that all Councils redo their own webpage and put the regional weeds on there and take off the word “noxious”.

Brian Bonello mentioned that the Central West LLS meeting last week was very good and the girls were very efficient and straight forward.

There are many staff who have questions in relation to Biosecurity training not being available until February 2018 and have questions to take back to DPI regarding the new Biosecurity Act. There have been some misgivings concerning the new Act.

Lynton Auld would also like to take any concerns or questions from the committee to LG NSW as a local government person representative.

Sean Richardson said we need to frame the amendments to the Act.

Guy Marchant mentioned that we need to start being proactive towards the legislation.

Roger Smith spoke about the NSW Bio Control Program that is being conducted through DPI. They are seeking support from councils and regional weed committees to continue their research into biocontrol programs. They would like a commitment from councils and regional weed committees to endorse or give a commitment for the shared interest and investment to the program for now and in the future so they can continue working towards the biocontrol program to introduce agents for boxthorn, nightshade and serrated tussock.

*Moved Guy Marchant
Seconded Brian Bonello
Carried*

Sean Richardson mentioned that physical on ground work and education needs to be done.

Laurie Thompson suggested that MVWAC & DPI send a letter to the councils GM about the seeking their thoughts on the funding application for bio control.

Guy Marchant said this is the future of weed control so we need to be on board and support the new Bio Control program.

Andrew Cosier mentioned that the Weed ID Booklets need updating due to the new Biosecurity Act. Macquarie Valley to look into reviewing these and what costs will be involved.

Laurie Thompson mentioned that they have been approached from a John Holland contractor about doing inspections with them along the railway line. The Central West LLS RWC have sent a letter back to John Holland asking them about training and if they will need to fund that training. Also they asked if they have access to railway lines to do inspections and in general just clarifying what they require.

Next Meeting

The next meeting which is the General Meeting will be held in Orange on 26th October 2017. It will be hosted by Orange City Council and Cabonne Council.

The meeting closed at 11.30am