



MACQUARIE VALLEY WEEDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE INC.

CHAIRMAN
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SECRETARY
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Minutes of General Meeting 150
Old Evans Shire Chamber, 7 Lee Street, Kelso
Tuesday 13th February 2018

Meeting commenced at 10.15am

Present

Name	Organisation
Melissa Brennan	Secretary
Roger Smith	Acting RPO
Brian Bonello	Bogan Shire Council
Tina Smart	Forbes Shire Council
Neil Boyd	Cabonne Shire Council
Archie Harding	Narromine Shire Council
Mick Ryan	Central West LLS
Matthew Anderton	Junior Vice Chairman
Rob McCutcheon	Narromine Shire Council
Craig Bennett	Dubbo Regional Council
Andrew Cosier	Dubbo Regional Council
Guy Marchant	Narromine Shire Council
Kelli Frost	Weddin Shire Council
Mat Savage	Castlereagh Macquarie County Council
Andrea Fletcher	Castlereagh Macquarie County Council
Carolyn Crain	Bourke Shire Council
Wendy Gibney	NSW Dept of Primary Industries
Des Mackey	Dubbo Regional Council
Chris Jackson	Upper Macquarie County Council
Andrew Gosper	Cabonne Council
Matt Croft	Dubbo Regional Council

Cr David Kingham	Upper Macquarie County Council
Tim Nalder	Central Tablelands LLS
Kerinne Harvey	NSW Dept of Primary Industries
Laurie Thompson	Lachlan Shire Council

The Junior Vice Chairman welcomed everyone to Kelso and thanked those that had travelled for today's meeting.

Cr David Kingham from Blayney Shire Council gave an introduction to the meeting and Chris Jackson spoke about the 4 different regions of Upper Macquarie.

The Chairman called for apologies.

Name	Organisation
Steve Watts	Wentworth Shire Council
Peta Holcombe	Central West LLS
Michael Michelmores	NSW Dept of Primary Industries
Phil Blackmore	NSW Dept of Primary Industries
Peter Hutchinson	Brewarrina Shire Council
Russell Tiffen	Bourke Shire Council
Andrew Cole	Orange City Council
Rob Christian	Orange City Council
Luke Hardy	Dept of Industry – Lands and Water
Melissa Gunn	Cobar Shire Council
Joshua Higgs	NSW Dept of Industry – Crown Lands
Sean Richardson	Senior Vice Chairman
Todd Saxelby	Cabonne Council
Kane Davison	Parkes Shire Council
Brendon Roffe	Parkes Shire Council
Steve Pearson	Dept of Industry – Crown Lands
Jasmine Wells	Central West LLS

Acceptance of Apologies

Moved Craig Bennett

Seconded Archie Harding

Carried

Confirmation of previous meeting minutes on 26th October 2017 at Orange

Moved Andrew Gosper

Seconded Guy Marchant

Carried

Business arising from previous meeting held at Orange on 26th October 2017

There was none

Review of the Constitution

Roger Smith spoke about reviewing the constitution and handed out a few pages in relation to the constitution and mentioned that it was reviewed back in 2015, and due to the new Biosecurity changes it needs to be updated to reflect the changes. This will be discussed more at the meeting in May.

Chairman's report

The Junior Vice Chairman read out a letter advising that The Chairman has resigned as chair of Macquarie Valley. Roger Smith thanked Craig for all his efforts.

Craig Bennett thanked Tim Nalder and Roger Smith for all their help and efforts they made in getting the Central Tablelands LLS to still manage the WAP this year. He also mentioned he spoke to Pete Turner in regards to how unhappy he was in relation to how the Central West and Western regions have been run over the last 6 months.

There was a discussion regarding the Central West and Western regions in relation to the management of the WAP. Roger Smith advised that he will mention this topic at the Regional Weed Coordination Forum in Sydney tomorrow.

*Moved Guy Marchant
Seconded Laurie Thompson
Carried*

The Junior Vice Chairman called for any questions.
There were none.

Correspondence

The Junior Vice Chairman read through the incoming and outgoing correspondence.

The Junior Vice Chairman called for any questions.
There were none.

*Moved Andrew Gosper
Seconded Mick Ryan
Carried*

Financial report

Roger Smith spoke about the financial report briefly and mentioned that he will review it more with our finance department and send it out electronically.

RPO Report

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

Environmental Trust. An interim report was sent into the Environmental Trust as an update on the High Risk Weeds Study Tour with the final payment of \$2,240 made on the 21/11/17. All grant funds have now been paid with the total amount of grant funds paid being \$22,400. A final report is due in September 2018.

Television Campaign. The 2 months campaign wound up at the end of December. The campaign ran on both Win and Prime with 670 ads screened throughout the campaign. The New England Weeds Authority, (ie Josh Biddle), had to rejig the ads including changing the word “noxious” with the word “priority”. The cost to redo the ads was \$1837.

WAP Funding. A contract between OCC and the Central Tablelands LLS was signed and finalised on the 20th December 2017. This contract allowed WAP funding of \$784,514 to be paid directly to OCC on the 18 January 2018 to then be distributed directly to local control authorities. To date the following amounts have been paid:

- Cabonne - \$144,978.34
- Mid-Western - \$156,902.96
- UMCC - \$337,498.26
- Central Tablelands - \$23,221.64
- Orange – \$51,621.07
- Cowra - \$70,292.53

TOTAL - \$784,514

This equates to an 18.17% increase on the 2016/2017 funding allocations.

Another \$100k was also paid to allow Orange City Council, (\$60k) to administer the Regional Coordinator’s position and the Central Tableland’s LLS, (\$40k) to help with the roll out of the WAP.

Reporting Templates. I have been formulating templates for the 2017/2018 reporting requirements and so far have visited Cabonne Council and Upper Macquarie County Council to go through the new templates and discuss any shortfalls with the 2016/2017 reporting. I have also asked the LCAs if they have any thoughts on the New Biosecurity Act or weed management issues in general. Once all the Central Tablelands LLS local control authorities have been visited I will collate all the comments and bring to the next meeting for discussion.

Biosecurity Act Training. The second round of training will be held next week, (20, 21 & 22 February in Orange at the Ag Institute off Forest Road. To date we have 13 weeds officers down for the training. If anyone wishes to do the training please let me know today. They will be taking names for the course up until lunch time today.

Meeting in Wentworth. The May meeting of the MVWAC will be put back one week until 15 May 2018. The reason being we hope to, with assistance of NSW DPI, make the travel down to Wentworth worthwhile. Quite a few of the DPI staff are tied up with meetings and training the previous week and because we want to combine the regional meeting in Wentworth with recognised training the meeting will need to be put back one week. At this point we are looking at an Aquatic Weed Identification workshop and a review of the Biosecurity Act to date. The plan is to hire a bus and drive down on Monday the 14th of May and return on Thursday the 17th May with the regional meeting and training in between.

Weed Forum. I am attending a Regional Weed Coordination Forum in Sydney tomorrow to discuss various topics. A report will be given at the May meeting.

Roger Smith asked if there was anything that you would like raised at the forum in Sydney tomorrow.

Tina Smart mentioned the noxious weeds certificates.

Craig Bennett brought up the subject of funding for Central Western and Western areas.

There was a discussion regarding western funding and reporting.

Training

There was a discussion about the signs course in relation who has done the course and who hasn't.

Department of Primary Industries Update

Wendy Gibney from DPI talked about the Managing Established Pest Animals and Weeds Project which is a federally funded project and the current project finishes in June 2019. It includes the updating of the Weed Information database / Weed Wise app. Wendy also talked about the community-based social marketing projects for 20 widespread weeds.

DPI are also looking to increase community capacity in using biocontrol for weeds. They are looking at Biological control projects in each of the 11 regions across NSW and their aim is to improve the capacity of landholders in using biological control through the Landcare networks.

Chris Jackson spoke about various weeds and the control agents that they are using within his area.

Kerinne Harvey mentioned that DPI are hoping to release / the best practise management for Bio Control by the end of the year so they would like to start gathering information on how to release the agents properly so if you need more information to get in touch with Kerinne.

Mick Ryan spoke about the TSR programs and Tiger Pear in his area.

Neil Boyd about Bio control for Centaury plant and how it is along the road shoulder and has not seen much within the paddocks.

Delegate Reports – have been circulated

The Junior Vice Chairman asked about the new delegate form and how it was going and if there were any issues.

There was none noted.

New Weed Incursions

Neil Boyd mentioned that there was some passion flower seen around Canowindra and also Honey Lotus, Clockweed patch which is a class 5 weed and Sticky nightshade under the bridge near the Bulubula.

Andrew Gosper talked about a patch of Golden Dodder – a 2m square patch has turned into a 50m widespread patch.

Tina Smart mentioned that they have had some Golden Dodder around Forbes.

Archie Harding had an enquiry last week about Alligator Weed.

Andrea Fletcher mentioned that there was some Madeira vine in Coonabarabran.

Laurie Thompson found a heavy infestation of blackberry along the creek in the Lachlan area.

Weeds Advertising

Roger Smith talked about the tv ad campaign and for everyone to start thinking about coming on board for the next campaign to promote weeds.

General Business

The Junior Vice Chairman spoke about the Weeds ID booklet in which the small committee consisting of Mick Ryan, Kevin Nelligan, Matt Anderton and Andrew Gosper had put their hands up to redo the weed id booklet. They are in the process of doing the booklet and are going to get 2 sizes made up for people to decide which one they would prefer. They will bring these booklets to our next meeting in May.

Neil Boyd spoke about the NSW Weeds Officer Association Facebook page and if you would like anything put on this page to advise Neil.

Craig Bennett spoke about the different issues that the Central Western and Western areas are having in regards to reporting and not having a go to person.

Roger Smith spoke about the letter from Roger Bailey who is concerned large landholders including Crown Lands, State Forests and Rail Corridors are not pulling their weight.

Craig Bennett and Brian Bonello mentioned that they had been doing some spraying of blackberries along the railway line.

MVWAC members recommended the committee write a letter to the 3 LLS regions expressing the lack of commitment by the following agencies – John Holland, State Forests and Crown Lands in regards to weed control and their obligations under the Biosecurity Act. We ask that your organisation ensures these agencies attend the regional weed committee meetings and they are reminded of their obligations under the Biosecurity Act.

MVWAC is disappointed at the lack of commitment regarding the management of priority weeds present on lands under their control.

Cr David Kingham spoke about also getting a response from the Minister.

*Moved Guy Marchant
Seconded Craig Bennett*

Archie Harding mentioned how he attended a workshop conducted by the LLS in November 2017 at Narromine. He showed them the USB that was made after the High Risk Weeds Tour in March. They mentioned how the information on the USB was very useful.

Next Meeting

The next meeting which is the May General Meeting will be held in Wentworth on 15th May 2018. It will be hosted by Wentworth Shire Council. The venue will be advised closer to the date.

The meeting closed at 12.02pm.