



MACQUARIE VALLEY WEEDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE INC.

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Minutes of General Meeting 151
The Midway Centre - Buronga
Tuesday 15th May 2018

Meeting commenced at 9.30am

Present

Name	Organisation
Kelli Frost	Weddin Shire Council
Chris Jackson	Upper Macquarie County Council
Peter Hutchinson	Brewarrina Shire Council
Andy McKinnon	Western LLS – Hillston
Mich Michelmore	DPI
Andrew Cole	Orange City Council
Kane Davison	Parkes Shire Council
Tina Smart	Forbes Shire Council
Laurie Thompson	Lachlan Shire Council
Dale Thompson	Lachlan Shire Council
Mick Ryan	Central West LLS
Archie Harding	Narromine Shire Council
Steve Watts	Wentworth Shire Council
Pete Turner	DPI
Cr Jane MacAllister	Wentworth Shire Council
Roger Smith	Orange City Council
Paul Erkelenz	Southern Rangelands

Roger Smith filled in as Chairman due to Sean Richardson and Matthew Anderton being absent.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to Wentworth and thanked everyone for attending.

Cr Jane MacAllister welcomed everyone to Wentworth and the surrounding areas and gave an introduction to the meeting and thanked those that had travelled for today's meeting.

The Chairman called for apologies.

Name	Organisation
Andrew McConnachie	NSW DPI
Joshua Higgs	Dept of Industry – Crown Land
Rob Christian	Orange City Council
Tim Nalder	CT LLS
David Wurst	NPWS
Peta Holcombe	Central West LLS
Brian Bonello	Bogan Shire Council
Andrew Gosper	Cabonne Shire Council
Norm Townsend	Cabonne Shire Council
Andrew Cosier	Dubbo Regional Council
Craig Bennett	Dubbo Regional Council
Neil Boyd	Cabonne Shire Council
Sean Richardson	Senior Vice Chairman
Matthew Anderton	Junior Vice Chairman
Melissa Gunn	Cobar Shire Council
David Creeper	Western LLS – Broken Hill
Russell Grant	Western LLS – Cobar
Nathan Cahill	Carrathool Shire Council
Peta Holcombe	Central West LLS
Guy Marchant	Narromine Shire Council
Des Mackey	Dubbo Regional Council
Matt Croft	Dubbo Regional Council
George Hammond	Life Member

*Moved Steve Watts
Seconded Mich Michelmore
Carried*

Confirmation of previous meeting minutes on 13th February 2018 at Kelso
*Moved Mick Ryan
Seconded Kelli Frost
Carried*

Business arising from previous meeting held at Kelso on 13th February 2018

There was none

Review and changes to the Constitution

Roger spoke about the changes to the constitution and taking out the word noxious and replacing with the word priority and deleting the term Noxious Weeds Act and replacing with Biosecurity Act and updating a few of the Councils name changes. He advised the changes will be completed by the AGM.

Correspondence

Roger spoke about the state of the weeds growing along the railway lines and how they are a disgrace. Roger read out the letters that were sent to the 3 Local Land Services in the Macquarie Valley region and a letter was received from Central Tablelands LLS regarding this issue.

There was a discussion about John Holland Rail in regards to what is and isn't being done regarding weeds along the railway corridors.

Roger will be discussing this issue at the Central West and Central Tablelands LLS regional meetings next week in more detail.

Financial report

Roger spoke about the financial report.

Roger would like to run training courses regarding water weeds or perhaps grass id. Emails will be sent out asking members what training they would like to do and MVWAC will pay for the training.

Moved Kane Davison

Seconded Laurie Thompson

Carried

Cover your load – Highrisk Pathways

Roger spoke about uncovered loads and fodder on semi-trailers and how he would like carriers of hay to try and stop the spread of weeds by covering their load with a tarp. There was a discussion to see if we could:

- Get a slogan made up "Cover your Load" but is that a RMS or RTA issue?
- Maybe do a weeds ad campaign on covering up your load and get the message across to landholders to monitor roadsides out the front of their properties when the drought breaks.

Roger talked about the weeds pamphlet that was made up for Orange City Council and property owners within the Orange LGA. It explains the new Biosecurity Act 2015, the inspection process and property owners/Councils obligations regarding weeds.

**Meeting paused at 1030am for Morning Tea
Meeting recommenced at 1055am**

RPO Report

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

Central Tablelands WAP Partners: Over the past 3 months I have visited all the Local Control Authorities, (LCAs) within the Central Tablelands Local Land Service, (LLS) Region to discuss the WAP and any problems they may have with the program. I would like to hand the role over to the Central Tablelands LLS at the end of the financial year with everything in order. I have also had two meetings with the Central Tablelands, (incoming) and Central West Regional Project Coordinators to go through the WAP and mentor them in the WAP process. The Central Tablelands have asked Orange City Council to complete the reporting for this financial year which makes sense. This is yet to be given the OK.

Whilst visiting the LCAs I have also sought general feedback from those LCAs in regard to weed management issues in general. Some of these comments I have included below.

Comments from Central Tablelands LCAs regarding weed management issues

- Define Asset Protection
- Cabonne would like to see serrated tussock in containment category in some sections of the LGA
- Biosecurity training didn't meet expectations
- Some high priority weeds taken off the list. Lists need to be reviewed
- Biosecurity Act training 9 out of 10
- UMCC doing their own letters. So far issued 28 directions
- Some parts of the Act a bit grey
- WeedWise app promoted when sending out correspondence
- Mapping system should have been uniform across NSW
- Developed by NSW DPI and sold back to LCAs
- Disillusioned with training
- Rail corridors have had no control work undertaken for some time
- Section 64 abolished
- No fun in the job anymore
- Stickyleaf Nightshade should be considered as a new and emerging weed in the CT LLS.

Reporting Templates. I have finalised the formulating of templates for the 2017/2018 reporting requirements and have been giving the Central West LLS some guidance on the templates and NSW DPI Journey App which is the main reporting mechanism for the WAP. Both LLS regions are the first to acknowledge they have very little idea of the process and are struggling with the whole weeds issue at this point in time.

Biosecurity Act Training. The second round of training in the central west was held on the 20, 21 & 22 February in Orange at the Ag Institute off Forest Road with further training to be undertaken in Wagga and Coffs Harbour. The training conducted was of a very high standard

Weed Forum. I attended a Regional Weed Coordination Forum in Sydney on 14 February 2018. Topics discussed at the forum included the Weeds Action Program coordination and collaboration, the development of the Mandatory Documents, engagement strategies and the BIS. What came out of the forum is NSW DPI are trying very hard to engage/communicate with all stakeholders.

Communication Tools. The NSW DPI weeds extranet is a great resource and should be used by all weeds officers in NSW. It provides regular bulletins and information regarding weed management issues across the state. NSW DPI have just published the new Weed Control Handbook which has been updated to align with the new Act. Each LLS region will be receiving 5,000 copies of the handbook. The WeedWise App is constantly being updated and is another great resource both for weed officers and landowners. The Weeds Trailer is constantly being utilised by MVWAC members and recently UMCC received a promotional award at the Bathurst Show with the trailer. Well done to the team from UMCC.

Mandatory Documents: I have been reviewing the mandatory documents which are due for completion by the 30 September. I plan to have the majority completed by the end of August.

Training

Roger spoke about looking in to courses regarding water weeds and asking members what training they would like to do? We will send out emails to see what everyone would like to do and MVWAC will pay for the training.

Pete Turner from DPI spoke about Compliance Standard for Weed Management and he gave an update on the invasive species plan. He advised that nothing has changed and all the goals are the same highlighting that the Noxious Weeds Act is now gone. Pete also spoke about the regional weed committees and how they function.

Mich Michelmore spoke about the Weed risk assessment. He explained how we should use Biosecurity information to manage correspondence to farmers, and reports to council, region, and DPI.

Delegate Reports – have been circulated

It was mentioned that Jodie Lawler from Central West LLS would like to change this report to align more with the WAP reporting in the future.

New Weed Incursion

Laurie Thompson mentioned some Blackberry infestations out at Condobolin and Roger stated Sticky leaf nightshade was found on the Mitchell highway near Lucknow.

Weeds Advertising

The TV ads campaign will be up and running again in September, October, and November this year.

There were suggestions on doing an ad for “Cover your load” and also “How to deal with conditions when the Drought is over”.

MVWAC weeds handbooks are a great resource and are ready to go.

General Business

There was a discussion on MVWAC Where to from here? asking members for name change ideas and is there a need for MVWAC and what is our current role? Roger would like the committee to keep going with 4 meetings per year and invite the 3 LLS's to each of our meetings. Everyone to have a think about everything before August meeting.

Kane Davison asked about the WAP reporting template.

There were questions asked about funding for next year but at this stage DPI was not sure whether it will be more or less?

An email is to be sent out to everyone asking for feedback on the success of the thumb drive that was given out after the Study Tour and feedback needs to be emailed back by September so Roger can do up a report for the EOH.

There was a discussion about MVWAC sending and paying for a member of the committee to the Australian Weeds Conference to be held in Manly from 9-12th September this year.

Next Meeting

The next meeting which is the August AGM/General Meeting will be held in Narromine on 7th August 2018. It will be hosted by Narromine Shire Council. The venue will be advised closer to the date.

The meeting closed at 1230pm.