



MACQUARIE VALLEY WEEDS COMMITTEE INC.

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Minutes of General Meeting 153
 ANFD - Orange
 Thursday 25th October 2018

Meeting commenced at 9.15am

Present

Name	Organisation
Melissa Brennan	Secretary
Roger Smith	Chairman
Andrew Cole	Orange City Council
Cr Rob McCutcheon	Narromine Shire Council
Guy Marchant	Narromine Shire Council
Archie Harding	Narromine Shire Council
Michael Smith	Narromine Shire Council
Andy Fletcher	Castlereagh Macquarie County Council
Mat Savage	Castlereagh Macquarie County Council
Laurie Thompson	Lachlan Shire Council
Elizabeth Burke	Crown Lands
Jacky Wiblin	Crown Lands
Kane Davison	Parkes Shire Council
Brendon Roffe	Parkes Shire Council
Matt Anderton	Mid-Western Regional Council
Tim Nalder	Central Tablelands LLS
Tina Smart	Forbes Shire Council
Neil Wright	Forbes Shire Council
Jodie Lawler	Central West LLS
Kevin Nelligan	Cowra Shire Council
Todd Saxelby	Cabonne Shire Council

Robyn Richardson	Dept of Primary Industries
Lis Arundell	Dept of Primary Industries
Andrew Cosier	Dubbo Regional Council
Rebecca Balmer	Dubbo Regional Council
Matthew Robinson	Chartis Technology
Andrew Jeffrey	Chartis Technology
Cr Paul Mullins	Cabonne Shire Council
Chris Jackson	Upper Macquarie County Council

The Chairman opened the meeting and Cr Paul Mullins from Cabonne Council welcomed everyone to Orange and thanked those that had travelled for today's meeting.

The Chairman called for apologies.

Name	Organisation
Peter Hutchinson	Brewarrina Shire Council
Craig Bennett	Associate member
Jay Stephenson	Associate member
George Hammond	Life member
Brian Bonello	Bogan Shire Council
Don Ramsland	Castlereagh Macquarie County Council
Russell Tiffen	Bourke Shire Council
Melinda Jeffreys	Lachlan Shire Council
Kelli Frost	Weddin Shire Council
Glenn Neyland	Bland Shire Council
Mick Ryan	Central West LLS
Ray Mitchell	Balranald Shire Council
Grahame McCubbin	Bland Shire Council
Arum Berry	John Holland Rail
Des Mackey	Dubbo Regional Council
Matthew Croft	Dubbo Regional Council
Mich Michelmore	Dept of Primary Industries

*Moved Guy Marchant
Seconded Andrew Cosier
Carried*

Confirmation of previous meeting minutes on 7th August 2018 at Narromine
*Moved Kane Davison
Seconded Neil Wright
Carried*

Business arising from previous meeting held at Narromine on 7th August 2018

There was none

Chairman's report

I am happy to announce that we are officially now known as the Macquarie Valley Weeds Committee. Our name change has been accepted by the Department of Fair Trading allowing the committee to move forward into the future with a name that reflects what the purpose of the committee is.

We have sent a letter off to Crown Lands apologising for the letter sent out earlier in the year referring to their management of lands under their care and control. This committee has always had a solid working relationship with Crown Lands and I would like that relationship to continue.

The committee has engaged the services of the New England Weeds Authority, Josh Biddle, to produce an ad regarding the drought. The ad basically has an awareness theme and prompts landowners to be on the lookout for new weed incursions when the drought eases. It was difficult to insert all the contributors into the ad so we have used the term "Weed managers in the Macquarie and Lachlan Valleys".

The drone has been travelling around the region with Lachlan, Narromine and now CMCC putting it to good use. I would encourage any LCA who would like to utilise the drone to talk to those who have used it. Any Lachlan members are welcome to use the drone. Give Mel a call to book it in.

The Aquatic Weeds training is happening in the New Year. It was to happen this week but with the Central West guys having other training this week it was decided to put off until 2019. There are no course costs for the training just a cost for some resources and accommodation for Charlie.

At the AGM in 2017 this committee voted to subsidise the biosecurity training by 50%. I think most current weed officers have completed the training at his stage so the committee needs to decide if this offer is to continue.

The membership fees were sent out last week.

With the easing of the drought, (and hopefully this will continue) I would like this committee to think outside the square and contemplate a study tour to central Queensland to look at high risk weeds especially parthenium weed. The tour would go for 5 days with funding coming from various sources. There have been several successful tours in the past so I can't see why this committee couldn't organise another successful tour. Various agencies would be invited to attend including Crown Lands, NSW DPI and relevant LLS.

The chairman put forward to the committee that they need to decide if they would like MVWC to keep subsidising 50% for the Biosecurity training? To be mentioned in general business.

Correspondence

The Chairman read through the incoming and outgoing correspondence.

The Chairman noted that there were many emails to go through but all of them have been circulated.

The Chairman called for any questions.

There were none.

Financial report

Roger Smith spoke about the WAP reporting and mentioned that Macquarie Valley are doing well at the moment with funds.

The Chairman called for any questions.

There were none.

Moved Guy Marchant

Seconded Chris Jackson

Carried

MVWC Constitution

The senior vice chairman spoke about the constitution in relation to section 3.2 *Composition of Membership* and looking to increase the number of delegates to attend the meetings. At the moment it is a discussion and will need to be decided if we change it at the AGM next year.

There was a discussion saying the more member's means a stronger committee but 1 needs to be a weeds officer.

The senior vice chairman will send out an email seeing what people think and will put forward at the AGM next year.

BIS Reporting

Matthew Robinson from Chartis Technology spoke about the BIS reporting and they would like some feedback on the reporting side of it and see what you think regarding the new version of the software? They were happy to chat afterwards and answer any questions.

Training

The Chairman spoke about the Aquatic Weeds training happening in the New Year. It was to happen this week but with the Central West guys having other training this week it was decided to put off until 2019. There are no course costs for the training just a cost for some resources and accommodation for Charlie.

The Chairman also spoke about Ribbon Weed being in Lake Canobolas and how they were going to try and spray the weed or excavate the weed but after talking to DPI Fisheries who classed it as Critical Fish Habitat, they were advised they would have to harvest that section of the lake. Orange City Council have enlisted the help of Hawkesbury County Council who will be coming up in about 3 weeks' time to harvest the weeds. We would like to conduct a mini Field day and have a look at the machine working and then have a look at some aquatic weeds which the Hawkesbury guys will also bring along to view and talk about control options. We would like to know who is interested so once we find out dates we will email everyone and we would like to involve NSW DPI and the Local Land Services.

DPI update

Robyn Richardson spoke about the BIS, NSW Weedwise and risk assessments that are going quite well and that DPI have created a link through the weeds extranet to make it easier. DPI are currently updating the system for the BIS reporting and Robyn mentioned that everyone is doing really well with all the data and the submission of it.

DPI are running the latest NSW Weed launch at the Field Days in the DPI stand.

They are currently waiting to hear news about the WAP funding announcement in the next couple of weeks. Robyn spoke about Councils reporting BIS data and all activity needs to be reported whether it is negative or positive.

Jacky Wiblin asked about the timeframe on BIS being rolled out to all land managers? This is on the action list to engage with stakeholders in the next year.

Delegate Reports – have been circulated

The chairman mentioned that we are struggling to get all reports in at a time. The chairman suggested giving a verbal report on delegate reports.

Kane Davison suggested still sending in our reports but also talking at the meetings if you wish to do so.

A few people mentioned that the host Council used to give a verbal report.

Guy Marchant spoke about the Drone, how it is going and how simple it is to fly.

Laurie Thompson discussed the drone and how he has been using it to monitor the spraying of Gumbend Lake at Condobolin. Photos are not as clear as the video but still a reasonable quality.

The chairman said anyone attached to the Macquarie or Lachlan Valley can use the drone but just need to book it in with Melissa.

Meeting paused at 1000am for Morning Tea
Meeting recommenced at 1025am

Weeds Advertising

The chairman played the drought video “When the drought has eased” for the new television ad campaign and asked for thoughts on the ad. Everyone was happy to run the ad.

The figures for each TV station are:

Southern Cross Stereo – 1510 ads - \$6622

Prime TV – 375 ads - \$5507

WIN TV – 458 ads - \$4400

He would like each LCA to consider contributing a little bit extra, \$150, for the campaign which would result in more ads being screened across the Macquarie and Lachlan Valleys. Feedback was positive with the campaign to commence in early November.

Matt Anderton from Mid-Western Regional Council talked about the 21st Australian Weeds Conference that he attended in September in Manly.

New Weed Incursion

Kevin Nelligan mentioned Sticky Leaf Nightshade showing up in the Belubula River flats and in Forbes and Condobolin. He would like a sub group formed to coordinate an education program via the field days to make people aware of this weed– this group being made up of Kevin Nelligan, Tina Smart and Todd Saxelby. Kevin would like posters made up about this weed and some education material.

Tina Smart suggested that we should do a weed risk assessment on this weed.

Jacky Wiblin suggested that if anyone finds a high priority weed that the drone get sent to that area to do an assessment. At this stage the drone doesn’t have the capability to identify individual weed species only overall infestations.

General Business

Guy Marchant stated that we should keep the 50% Biosecurity Training subsidy going.

Moved Guy Marchant

Seconded Neil Wright

Carried

Matt Anderton spoke about the Remote Pilots Licence for multi rotor and sub 7kg and asked if anyone would like to come to Mudgee to do the course which includes online theory and a 2 day practical and it also includes the aeronautic radio operator’s certificate. He will send out an expression of interest email and if anyone is interested he can organise a quote for a group.

Kane Davison suggested having 2 apps for the drone- "can I fly there" which shows you where you can and can't fly and "UAV forecast" which tells you whether you should be flying in that weather on that day? He urges people to have the training on the drone.

Guy Marchant mentioned that most Councils should have State Wide Insurance and they actually have a free program called AVCRM that has been custom build for drones and just sits on your desktop.

Archie Harding mentioned that a contractor rang him this week and spoke about a massive excavator with a 6 foot mulcher which mulches bushes/weeds down to grown level .All you need to do then is spray the regrowth. He said he will email the details through so that I can email to everyone if anyone is interested.

Next Meeting

The next meeting which is the February General Meeting will be held in Forbes on 12th February 2019. It will be hosted by Forbes Shire Council. The venue will be advised closer to the date.

The meeting closed at 1100am.