



Northern Inland Weed Advisory Committee Meeting
9th February 2010
Tenterfield Shire Council Chambers

Mayor of Tenterfield, Cr Toby Smith welcomed attendees to the Council Chambers and thanked NIWAC for travelling to Tenterfield for the meeting.

1.0 Meeting commenced at 10.05 am

1.1 Present: Peter Scott (LPSC), Mike Whitney (LPSC), David Nixon (GISC), Phil Blackmore (I&I), Natasha Soar (TRC), Lee Amidy (GSC), Cr Larry Cameron (ISC) Heather Apps (NIWAC), James Browning (NEWA), Les Tanner (ISC), Neil Rossington (TSC), Ian Schwartz (MPSC), Rob Munro (NE LHPA), Greg Lumber (CN LHPA), Glen Pereira (GWYSC), Jonathon Lawson (BRGCMA) Cr Tom Peters (TSC), Peter Strang (MPSC), Nikki Whale (MPSC), Scott McFarland (NSC) Geoff Lowien (I & I) Helen Smith (GBLC)

Apologies: Cr Maria Woods, David Merrikin (NRCMA), Reece Luxton (NCWAC) Ross Garsden (FNCWAC)

Motion: That the Apologies are accepted

Moved: Les Tanner **Seconded:** Lee Amidy **CARRIED: All**

1.2 Cr Larry Cameron welcomed members to the meeting.

1.3 Confirmation of the Minutes from the previous meeting

Motion: That the Minutes of the Meeting held in Armidale on 8th December 2010 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Les Tanner **Seconded:** Ian Schwartz **CARRIED: All**

1.4 Business arising and action sheet from last meeting

a) List of mining representatives.

Lee Amidy and Peter Scott are in the process of speaking with the mining companies and will invite them to the next meeting which will be held closer to the Quirindi/Gunnedah area. It appeared unlikely that the mining representatives would travel to Tenterfield for the meeting.

b) Letter to Richard Carter re Education Officer funding.

Secretary to write to Richard Carter.

c) Central Banker for Action Grant

James Browning reported that at the last NEWA Council meeting permission has been given for NEWA to be the lead organisation for the NIWAC Regional Action Grant.

1.5 Correspondence – incoming and outgoing.

Incoming

1. Stacey Winckel, Northern Rivers CMA
Caring for our Country (CfoC) Business Plan summary.

Discussion followed.

Jonathon Lawson suggested to narrow the CfoC bid right down to either Serrated Tussock or 2-3 WONS weeds maximum.

It was agreed to submit a CfoC bid for the NIWAC region with 2-3 WONS weeds. The deadline for submission is 15 April 2010.

Action:

- Heather Apps to liaise with J Lawson and NR CMA re the bid.
2. Details of meeting with Megan Tattersall, Caring for Our Country Facilitator - Environment Australian Government Land and Coasts

Heather Apps attended the meeting and was briefed on the changes to the 2010 CfoC Business Plan.

3. Stephen Johnson – DPI
Answers to WRM questions regarding Class 4 weeds.
4. Cath Kearney
Macquarie Valley Weeds Advisory Committee
Letters regarding writing to State parliament members to organise more concise guidelines for the new funding process. Please help us to achieve this goal.

Discussion followed as to whether NIWAC would support the letter written by Macquarie Valley WAC.

Motion: That NIWAC write to our local Member in support of a regional approach to Grant funding.

Moved: Natasha Soar **Seconded:** Peter Scott **CARRIED: All**

5. DPI Training Schedule for 2010.
MERI training scheduled for 4-5 March 2010 in Tamworth
6. Andrew Schweitzer
He has accepted a position with Lower Murray Darling CMA down near Mildura, thanking all for their support during his time in Tamworth

Motion: That a letter be sent to Andrew Schweitzer expressing sincere thanks for all his work for NIWAC.

Moved: David Nixon **Seconded:** Les Tanner **CARRIED: All**

7. David Aber, General Manager Moree Plains Shire Council (MPSC)
Letter was tabled at the meeting advising that MPSC has resolved that Councillor Peter Strang is the Council delegate to NIWAC.

Cr Cameron welcomed Peter to the meeting.

Outgoing

1. Letters to all LCAs / LHPAs outlining the changes to the new grants process and encouraging them to be part of the NIWAC submission.
2. Letter to Andrew Schweitzer wishing him all the best from NIWAC and thanking for his work as Secretary. (unofficial from Heather Apps)

2.0 Update on Regional Strategy

Heather Apps circulated copies of the reviewed draft of the NIWAC Regional Strategy.

The strategy has been updated to be in line with the objectives of the Invasive Species Plan.

Action:

- Members are asked to review the document and forward any comments to Heather by 2nd March 2010.

3.0 Presentation by Jeff Lowien

Jeff Lowien (I & I, Glen Innes Research Station) gave an overview of the weeds of significance in the North, and trial work they have conducted;

Chilean Needle Grass (CNG) – has the potential to cover any area – to date it is in the Tablelands but it has the potential to spread to Moree.

He has a trial based in Glen Innes on ways of controlling CNG.

African Love Grass – (ALG) – work is being done with Landcare and Evergraze looking at grazing management of ALG.

It is best controlled with Fluprofonate, but is costly (3L/ha).

Coolatai Grass – (CG) People see it as an emerging weed, grown in a wide range of climatic conditions. Jeff sees it as a larger problem than ALG.

Giant Parramatta Grass (GPG) is coming in from coastal areas.

Serrated Tussock (ST) level may be increasing - we need to keep on top of it.

Other species discussed included Matt Rush, a native but has become a weed .

Discussion followed.

4.0 Report by Jonathon Lawson – Border Rivers Gwydir (BRG) CMA

Jonathon Lawson reported that the BRG CMA has Caring for our Country (CfoC) funding available for WONS weeds in the BRG area in the vicinity of \$170,000.

Jonathon met with James Browning (NEWA) last week and they are in the process of forming a program for WONS weeds in the NIWAC area.. Serrated Tussock and Gorse on ground works programs and containment lines will be developed in the NEWA, Glen Innes, Tenterfield and Inverell regions.

Bridal Creeper and CNG will also be included in the project with a focus on education and awareness.

The BRG is proposing to contract the funding through NIWAC, with James Browning, NEWA the on ground Project Manager.

Funding is also available to assist BRG LCA's to purchase the Weed tracer program. It is a high priority to BRG to have accountable monitoring and evaluation and the mapping from the LCA's would provide invaluable knowledge to the BRG.

Funding could also be available to purchase fans for slashers.

The BRG Invasive Species Plan is available in draft form. It will be forwarded to members for comment.

Action:

- Jonathon Lawson to progress the project with James Browning, Neil Rossington, Les Tanner, David Nixon and Heather Apps.
- James Browning to provide an on-ground plan by 31 March 2010.
- Those LCA's interested in slasher fans are to contact Jonathon directly.

5.0 Individual Reports

Reports taken as read unless additions reported below.

Phil Blackmore – I & I

Phil reported that a letter has been circulated from I & I that Class 4 weed declarations have their 5 yearly review coming up shortly.

If any LCA's wish to add any weeds or remove weeds from the list they need to submit an application and complete a risk management assessment on the weed.

Two contracts with the CMA have been completed – the TV advertising program and the washdown areas for Parthenium.

Gunnedah Shire Council - Lee Amidy suggested that the Regional Coordinator take over the Treasurer duties and that NEWA act as banker for the administrative funding.

Motion: That the administrative funding be handled by NEWA as the central banker

Moved: Lee Amidy **Seconded:** James Browning **CARRIED: All**

Action:

- Lee Amidy to transfer the NIWAC funds held at Gunnedah Shire Council to NEWA.

11.0 General Business

a) Weed Action Plan

NIWAC will progress the grant in the next few weeks prior to the MERI training.

Action:

- Heather Apps to meet with Phil Blackmore to progress the project.

b) Rail Corp

Discussion centred around Rail Corp and member's dealings with them.

Motion: That NIWAC write to Rail Corp (Dave Wilkinson) and request their weed treatment program for the coming year.

Moved: Les Tanner **Seconded:** Neil Rossington **CARRIED: All**

A meeting with LCA's for the Weed Action Plan will be scheduled for mid March.

Meeting closed at 12.25 pm

**Next Meeting – Gunnedah
Date TBA**