



Northern Inland Weed Advisory Committee Guyra Council Chambers 10th February 2009

1.0 Meeting commenced at 10.02 am

1.1 Present: Cr Maria Woods (Chairperson), Michael Hooper (T.R.C, Secretary NIWAC), Peter Scott (LPSC), Phil Blackmore (DPI), Lee Amidy (GSC), Heather Apps (NIWAC), James Browning (NEWA), Les Tanner (ISC), Neil Rossington (TSC), Jonathon Lawson (BRG-CMA), Scott Kermode (NEWA), Paul Berdar (NELHPA), Steve Geddes (TRC), Dave Nixon (GISC), Ken Pines (DECC-NPWS-NTR), Rob Munro (NELPHA), Sydney Lisle (D.P.I), Phil Durant (Gwydir Shire Council).

Absent:

Apologies: Andrew Schweitzer (Namoi CMA), Scott McFarland (NSC), Aaron Annis-Brown (MPSC), Jane Edwards (NWLHPA), Stuart Boyd-Law (NPWS), Duane Shawcross ((NPWS), Doug Campbell (UPWA).

Motion: That the Apologies are accepted

Moved: Michael Hooper

Seconded: Steve Geddes

CARRIED: All

1.2 Confirmation of the Minutes from the previous meeting

Motion: That the Minutes of the General Meeting in Narrabri on the Tuesday 11th November, 2008 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Lee Amidy

Seconded: James Browning

CARRIED: All

1.3 Business arising and action sheet from last meeting

There was no business arising from last meeting.

1.4 Correspondence

- **Incoming**

Nil

- **Outgoing**

1. Letter to Richard Carter from NIWAC supporting Hudson Pear declaration.
2. Letter to NWAC declaring NIWAC's adoption of Parthenium Management Plan.
3. Letter of support from NIWAC to NEWA supporting transition of Bridal Creeper from Class 5 to Class 3.

2.0 Chairs Report - Cr Maria Woods

- Maria highlighted the quality of the Individual Reports and Updates provided to NIWAC and encouraged participants to maintain the high standard.
- Caring for Country Grants
- NWAC meeting Orange

3.0 Regional Weeds Strategy progress update – Heather Apps

- The discussion on the Regional Weeds Strategy led to several actions being decided;
 1. Full comment from local Weeds Officers is sought prior to adoption, particularly in relation to weed classifications.
 2. Glossary of terms and definitions to be included.
 3. Sydney Lisle suggested a “New Weed Incursion Component” be built in. This would accommodate future weed incursions not detailed in the Strategy at present.
 4. Heather Apps suggested that review of the Strategy is required, preferably by NSW DPI (Phil Blackmore).
- Jonathan Lawson (BRG-CMA) requested a copy of the Weed Risk Assessment Guideline for use in BRG-CMA grant process. Heather Apps to provide.
- Action: Heather Apps to contact DPI (Phil Blackmore), RLPB, Councils, CMA, State Forest, NPWS, DOL and other relevant agencies including indigenous entities for comment and input on Strategy.

4.0 15th Biennial Weeds Conference

- Cr Maria Wood requested committee members give thought to possible Key Note Speakers for conference.
- Ken Pines (DECC / NPWS – NTR) suggested he would address internal meetings at NPWS for individuals to present additional papers at the 15th Biennial Weeds Conference.
- Lack of Sponsorship was raised by Lee Amidy. Scott Kermode (NEWA) suggested potential avenues of sponsorship and will liaise with Lee Amidy.
- James Browning (NEWA) requested NIWAC members that are not presenting a paper at the conference to chair a session at the 15th Biennial Weeds Conference. The idea was readily accepted by the committee. Conference chair duties for members will be organised by the 15th Biennial Weeds Conference committee.

5.0 Weeds Management Guide Update – Les Tanner

- The Weed Management Guide is near completion. Les suggested the delegation of tasks (updating of plant description text) to members of the committee. Members readily accepted the suggestion and volunteered to update various plant descriptions within the guide (2-3 plant descriptions per person). The plant descriptions are limited to 150 words using 10pt font. Les will email out plant descriptions which should be completed within one month.

6.0 NIWAC Web Site Update

- Heather Apps advised the NIWAC web site will be completed by contractor Sue Piggot. Timeframe for completion is three weeks.
- Regular updating of the web site will be undertaken by Heather Apps. Local Control Authorities can add links and logos via contact with Heather Apps.

7.0 Caring For Country Grant Discussion

- Comments by Cr Maria Woods, James Browning, Heather Apps, Jonathon Lawson and Sid Lisle. Discussion concluded with suggestion that James Browning and Heather Apps contact Northern Rivers CMA for grant amalgamation regarding Serrated Tussock. (further details please contact Heather Apps (NIWAC) and James Browning (NEWA).

8.0 Heather Apps – Regional Report and Group Projects

- Heather raised the issue that Group Project Applications received no feedback from the NSW DPI. This makes it very difficult to fine tune Group Project Applications. Heather has contacted Harry Bensch from the NSW DPI seeking clarification on individual projects and to open communication lines however DPI directs all correspondence for the grants to the Lead Contact Council's General Manager. Weed Officers who are Technical / Lead Contacts for Group Projects are to chase up paperwork from their General Managers.
- The Parthenium Management Plan is completed, for further details please contact Heather Apps (NIWAC Coordinator).
- The Privet Management Plan was sent to Phil Blackmore (NSW DPI), for further details please contact Heather Apps (NIWAC Coordinator).
- NIWAC has been requested to consider sponsorship at 15th Biennial Weeds Conference.

Further Information: please contact Heather: HAApps@newa.nsw.gov.au

9.0 St John's Wort – Bio control distribution and success

- Michael Hooper and Steve Geddes enquired in relation to past successes of St John's Wort bio-control programs within the region. Response was received from Peter Scott, James Browning and Les Tanner who described past bio-control introductions of *Chrysolina quadrigemina* (leaf Beetle) and the St John's Wort mite as unreliable and of no great effect on St John's Wort populations throughout the region.

10.0 Blue Periwinkle – Cr Maria Woods

- Raised by Cr Maria Woods for discussion on distribution, impact and control methods within region. Jonathan Lawson (BRG-CMA) indicated Blue Periwinkle is one of the top 20 Environmental Weeds in the Namoi Catchment. Cr Maria Woods described a major incursion of Blue Periwinkle near the Barnard River that Tony Lawler (former Weed Officer of Tamworth Regional Council) had controlled. This incursion may border an area of the NPWS. Ken Pines (DECC / NPWS - NTR) requires further details for assessment prior to control action being undertaken.

Action: Steve Geddes to contact Tony Lawler for information in relation for control. Information to be forwarded to Cr Maria Woods.

11.0 Individual Reports and Updates

Taken as read.

12.0 General Business

No items for general business.

Meeting closed at 1:47pm

Next Meeting @ Quirindi May 12th 2009