



Northern Inland Weed Advisory Committee
Crossing Theatre, Narrabri – Tuesday 26th February, 2008

1.0 Meeting commenced at 10.00 am:

1.1 Present: Cr Maria Woods (Chair), Peter Scott (LPSC), David Nixon (GISC), Phil Blackmore (DPI), Natasha Soar (TRC), Andrew Schweitzer (Namoi CMA), Mick Kane (MPSC), George Sevil (NSC), Robert Madden (SF), Paul Welshman (NSC), Kevin Waters (NEWA), Andrew Croft (NSC), Lee Amidy (GSC), Gaven Young (MRLPB), Ted Quelch (MRLPB), Natasha Soar (TRC), Greg Lumber (TRLPB), Duane Shawcross (NPWS), Ken Pines (NPWS).

Absent: Gwydir Shire Council,

Apologies: Stuart Boyd-Law (NPWS), Clr Bevan O'Reagan (NSC), Clr Steve Benham (GSC), Clr Barry Johnson (ISC), Les Tanner (ISC)

Motion: That the Apologies are accepted

Moved: Andrew Schweitzer **Seconded:** Peter Scott **CARRIED**

1.2 Welcome – Cr Maria Woods (NEWA), Welcome to Narrabri – Mayor George Sevil

1.3 Confirmation of the Minutes from the previous meeting

Motion: That the Minutes of the General Meeting in Armidale on November 13th, 2007 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED

1.4 Business arising and action sheet from last meeting

There was no business arising from the last meeting.

1.5 Correspondence – incoming and outgoing.

Letter of support for SNELLC/NEWA in their Serrated tussock NLP funding application.
Letter of support for NCMA's Weed control in Peri-Urban NLP funding application.

2.0 Election of new secretary

The call for nominations for Secretary of NIWAC was made.

After much debate Andrew Schweitzer (NCMA) nominated himself;

Moved: Lee Amidy **Seconded:** Paul Welshman. **CARRIED**

Andrew accepted the nomination and, in the absence of other nominees, was elected Secretary for NIWAC for 2008-?.

3.0 Discussion on the Draft Management Plans for Blackberry and privet Extension and Education

No Comment made on Blackberry.

Development a of sub committee to initiate discussions of what needs to be done in relation to the conference program.

Members of sub committee – Philip Blackmore – NSW DPI
Andrew Schweitzer – NCMA
Narrabri Shire Council (two reps)
NPWS (One rep)
Lee Amidy – GSC
Peter Scott – LPSC
Maria Woods – NIWAC

The sub committee will have its first meeting after Phil receives information and outcomes from the 14th Biennial Weeds Conference. Phil to call the meeting.

6.0 Individual report

Reports taken as read unless additions reported below.

7.0 DPI Report- Philip Blackmore

Reports

Weed Control Coordination reports have been reviewed. The comments for each LCA will be distributed to the senior weeds officers. An extract from these comments will be included in letters to local control authorities from Head Office.

Most reports were satisfactory. However, any parts of the report that need improvement or correction for the next report have been included in my comments. Those weeds officers who do not write the report themselves are asked to confer with their report authors about any changes that are needed.

New Weed Incursions

Local control authorities are failing to report new incursions.

In future please report ALL incursions of new weeds whether noxious or not.

Parthenium Weed Outbreak

Gwydir Shire weeds officers discovered a new infestation of Parthenium weed on private property near North Star. Although the outbreak was reported to NSW DPI, I am yet to receive a specific report from those weeds officers.

Water Lettuce

Queensland DPI has discovered an outbreak of water lettuce *Pistia stratiotes* in the Dumaresq River, which forms the border between NSW and Queensland. The infestation starts downstream of Texas and is known to have spread as far west as Keetah. Although the Queenslanders have been treating the infestation, which had been contained by Cunningham's Weir, they had not fully controlled it before the change in the season caused minor flood flows down the river which caused spread downstream.

Les Tanner from Inverell Shire Council and Mick Kane from Moree Plains Shire Council will conduct surveys along the river to establish the current extent of spread.

A meeting of stakeholders is to be held in Inverell on 18th March 2008 to coordinate further action.

Extranet

The extranet is now operational. Please use it.

Performance Based Reporting

Regional Coordinators (Weeds) will be attending training on performance based reporting next week.

It is anticipated that this new reporting method will be in place for applications in March 2009. Training will be offered.

8.0 Regional Planning Coordinator's Report:

As per hand out.

Motion: Write a letter to Bronwyn Witts thanking her for her efforts.

Moved: Gaven Young, Seconded: Paul Welshman

CARRIED

9.0 Tour of Crossing Theatre.

Break for lunch at 12:15 PM
Meeting Resumed 12:55 PM

10.0 Presentation by Moira Williams (DECC)

Moira outlined the Weed prioritisation process that DECC was undertaking to deliver to the 13 CMA's across the state. This process will ensure that each CMA meets its NRC target i.e, 'By 2015 there will be a reduction in invasive weeds'.

11.0 General Business

11.1 Action: Paul Welshman asked the secretary to rewrite the letter to the RTA, to outline its policy on roadside noxious weeds.

11.2 Andrew Schweitzer reported on Macquarie Valley Weed Advisory Committee's desire to get Mimosa bush *Vachellia farnesiana* listed as noxious within its control area.

Motion: That NIWAC write a letter of support to MVWAC in relation to Mimosa bush being declared within its boundaries.

Moved: George Sevil,

Seconded: Peter Scott

CARRIED

11.3 Andrew Schweitzer indicated that he had been approached by his superiors about the need for Baseline weeds data in the Namoi Catchment. Andrew reported that funding was available to tender out to an organisation that would spend time with all control authorities, RLPB's, State forests and NPWS to collate all known weed infestations.

Motion: For Andrew Schweitzer to investigate funding opportunities to collate weeds data from all organisations that collect weeds information. Report findings to NIWAC.

Moved: Paul Welshman,

Seconded: Peter Scott

CARRIED

11.4

Motion: NIWAC send an official letter formally supporting the Serrated tussock NLP funding application to SNELLC. Moved: Ken Pines, Seconded, Phil Blackmore CARRIED

Meeting closed at 2 pm

Next Meeting Monday 12th May in Inverell.