



Northern Inland Weed Advisory Committee
Liverpool Plains Shire council Chambers, Quirindi – Thursday August 9th,
2007

1.0 Meeting commenced at 10.06 am:

1.1 Present: Cr Maria Woods (Chair), Paul Welchman (Secretary, NSC), Bronwyn Witts (RPC), Sue Williams (NSC), Lee Amidy (GSC), Peter Scott (LPSC), Paul Berder (ARLPB), Gaven Young (MRLPB), Greg Lumber (TRLPB), David Nixon (GISC), Phil Blackmore (DPI), Natasha Soar and David Bubb (TRC), Neil Rossington (TSC), Andrew Schweitzer (Namoi CMA), Doug Campbell (UHWA), Duane Shawcross (NPWL), Heidi Mackay (NRLPB), Mick Kane (MPSC), Mike Whitney (LPSC), Rob Munro (New England RLPB), James Browning (NEWA) Clark Kelly (MRLPB) Nigel Fuller (SF)

Apologies: Cr George Sevil (NSC), Andrew Croft (NSC), Les Tanner (NWW), Bob Stewart (LPSC).

1.2 Welcome - Cr Ian Lobsey (LPSC)

1.3 Confirmation of the Minutes from the previous meeting

Motion: That the Minutes of the General Meeting in Glen Innes on May 10th, 2007 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Phil Blackmore

Seconded: Bronwyn Witts

CARRIED

1.4 Business arising and action sheet from last meeting

None from last meeting

1.5 Correspondence - incoming and outgoing.

- RTA - Policy for noxious weeds control along roadsides (no reply on this issue received)

2.0 NWAC Update - Cr Maria Woods

- Maria attended the North Coast Regional Weeds meeting recently which was very informative. Much more formal committee/meeting structure with a Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Treasurer etc. Maria has suggested that committee members consider whether they would prefer this committee to be structured and run in a similar fashion - to be discussed at the next meeting (AGM).

- NWAC has adopted a new system for changing weeds declarations or applying for a declaration.
- Funding applications have all gone to the Minister.
- NWAC has adopted a new sub-committee structure – 3 sub-committees. Nomination forms will be sent out to Weeds Officers to nominate which NWAC position holders they would like on each committee.
- Rebecca Rudd and Phil Blackmore are sitting on the Fireweed committee.
- Next NWAC meeting will be at the 2007 conference in Wollongong – gives weeds officers an opportunity to meet the position holders of NWAC.

3.0 Regional Weed Strategy Update – Bronwyn Witts

- Bronwyn thanked all for getting their weeds lists and comments back to her in a timely fashion. From this information, a list of the top 20 weeds for each LCA has been compiled and from that list we would be determining which weeds will be considered to be put into the RWS – if there are any missing from the list, please contact Bronwyn to advise.
- It was decided that there should be 2 sub-regions within the NIWAC region for the purposes of the RWS – North West and New England. However, this will be a fluid concept. A paragraph will be added to the RWS that if a specific area is on the verge of another area, it may be possible that that area falls into both sub-regions, and that both weeds lists should be referred to. Specific examples of this situation can be written into the RWS – such as: “Areas to the North of Tamworth and East of Inverell may overlap the New England region” etc.
- List of weeds to be considered for inclusion into the RWS for the North West region was determined – see attached list.
- List of weeds to be considered for inclusion in the RWS for the New England region was determined – see attached list.
- Dates for workshops:
 - North West: 5 September 2007 at Gunnedah Shire Council Chambers at 9am;
 - New England: 28 August 2007 at NEWA office in Armidale at 9am.
- Phil will email out a list of what resources etc members should bring along to the workshops.

Action: All members are to attend their relevant workshop and are to bring along as many relevant staff to assist in the workshop as possible.

4.0 Breakdown of member contributions for Regional Coordinator expenses

- Costs of the Regional Coordinator are currently split in a way that appears to be inequitable in relation to the benefit and usage of the position to all members, including RLPB and LCAs.
- It take the Regional Coordinator the same amount of time to deal with an issue for a larger LCA as it does for a smaller LCA, yet at the moment the costs for a larger LCA are much higher than those for a smaller LCA.

Motion: That the contributions of the RLPBs towards the cost of the Regional Coordinator be increased to \$800 annually, and then the remainder of the costs are divided equally amongst the LCAs within NIWAC.

Moved: Neil Rossington

Seconded: Peter Scott

CARRIED

Action: Maria will email out details of the amounts that will be payable by each LCA as a result of the Motion.

5.0 Progress of Riparian Weed project – Frances Pike

- Maria and some of the LCAs involved with this project had some concerns with the projects and the contracts supplied by the BR-G CMA to implement the projects. To-date, these concerns have not been satisfactorily addressed. At this stage it appears that the project has stalled, however Maria will continue handling the matter with the BR-G CMA.

6.0 RPC Update – Bronwyn Witts

- Still working on the RWS so keep the comments coming in.
- Has been working with Andrew Schweitzer (Namoi CMA) on the advertising project being funded by the CMAs. It may be that the weeds they have initially chosen to be part of the project aren't the most appropriate ones, however the project will continue and the most appropriate weeds will be chosen for the campaign. Namoi CMA happy to run with Green Cestrum and Mother of Millions. This project will only involve the Namoi CMA and Northern Rivers CMA – not BR-G CMA.
- Annual funding reporting will need to be done soon.
- Has been working with Sean Brindle (FPI) re weed mapping. Bronwyn will speak to each LCA one on one to find out details on how everyone does their weed mapping, to provide information to Sean.
- Website is currently being updated.

Action: Bronwyn will email the Constitution around to all members for comment at the next AGM.

- Weed Profile Sheets: Paul Welchman advised NSC has been using the templates of these that NIWAC made in 2004. Bronwyn is unaware of these. Paul will email these to Bronwyn so that we may develop some updated Weed Information Sheets for use by all members.

Action: Paul will email a copy of the Weeds Profile Sheets templates to Bronwyn.

- Subdivided land: the issue of who is responsible for dealing with weeds issues on land when there is a DA submitted to subdivide the land – is it the current owner or can the DA be approved and the responsibility then falls onto the new owner when the land is sold? Some LCAs report that there is a condition added to the DA stating that any noxious weeds on the land must be controlled prior to the DA approval being given. Some LCAs do not have this as a DA condition and therefore the responsibility falls with the new owners when it is sold. Many new landholders feel let down by their LCA when they have purchased subdivided land on which there are uncontrolled noxious weeds, even though they may have paid for a S64 certificate from their LCA. S64 certificates only allow LCAs to advise if there are any outstanding Weeds Notices for that land – they are not a report on the weeds situation on the land. Maria will write a letter to LCAs bringing this issue to their attention.

Motion: That NIWAC write to all LCAs to advise of the limitations of S64 certificates and the issue of noxious weed control on land where DA are submitted for subdivision. Maria to suggest that LCAs consider putting a condition on the DA that the weeds must be controlled before the DA is approved.

Moved: James Browning

Seconded: David Nixon

CARRIED

- Noxious Weeds Booklet progress? Mick Kane advised that it would be better to wait until the current RWS is further developed before we progress this booklet. When that time comes, however, he would appreciate any assistance he can get.

7.0 Phil Blackmore's Report

- Buckner and Stevenson Award – there have been 35 nominations, with multiple nominations amongst those, for this award to be presented at the conference in September – great effort to all for the nominations!
- There have been a number of submissions for the venue of the following Weeds Conference with Moree, Narrabri and Tamworth amongst those submissions. As such, everyone should be prepared to possibly be required to sit on the conference committee.
- Parthenium Weed Taskforce: last meeting had to be postponed due to low attendance. New date to be advised soon.
- Trip to Bourke for the Macquarie Valley Advisory Committee meeting recently – very good time had by all!
- There are more \$\$\$ coming through for Parthenium Weed advertising coming in so everyone will see more ads around Feb 2008. Phil will want to get feedback from local farmers re success of the advertising campaign and he will approach the Moree and Narrabri RLPBs for local landholder details.
- We will more than likely have 2 new representatives at the next meeting due to the changes with NWW, Gwydir and Inverell. Inverell Shire Council have not been a member of NIWAC for some years, as such NIWAC should write a letter to Inverell inviting them to attend our meetings.

Action: Phil to email everyone information on the upcoming NSW Weeds Conference to consider attending.

8.0 Individual Reports

- Reports taken as read unless additions reported below:

MRLPB

- Use of contractors: any checklists etc used by LCAs when utilising contractors?
- Maria suggests that we take a look at what each LCA uses at the moment and make up a proforma template that can be accessed via the website for other agencies who do not have such resources.

Action: Anyone with any spray sheets or checklists to email them to Bronwyn for a proforma spray sheet / checklist to be developed and added to the website.

Glen Innes

- Some regional Plans need be updated – eg Privet.

Action: Bronwyn to identify out of date regional Plans and update them as necessary.

NEWA

- Currently going through a lot of staff changes so you will see some new faces coming along to future meetings.

LPSC

- Virtue system – have the questions been answered? Bronwyn advises that a more recent version of the system has been sent to her for use in the upcoming RWS workshops.
- Letter to RTA? Paul w advises no response to our letter as yet.
- Weeds CRC – will it continue? Phil advised that the 3rd round of weeds CRC didn't get up. When the 2nd one finishes, Phil is unsure what will happen. There is no other information at this stage.

Motion: That NIWAC write to Tony Windsor (MP) and ask what the future is for the CRC.

Moved: Peter Scott

Seconded: Andrew Schweitzer

CARRIED

Namoi CMA

- Lippia meeting was held last week. The manual is going ahead with Swift to develop the BMP. There is a 6 month turnaround from when Swift signs the contract to develop it and when the manual is completed.

GSC

- Ag Quip roster – it is flexible, so if anyone has a problem with the day/time they are rostered to man the display, please contact Lee to arrange an alternative day/time.

MPSC

- No report submitted prior to the meeting as nothing has been happening.

9.0 General Business

- NIWAC Secretary: Paul Welchman will not be present for his final meeting as Secretary and may not be present at meetings next year (whispers of LSL but we all know he'll stay forever!). As such, we need someone to act as Secretary at the next meeting at least. Bronwyn has offered to be NIWAC Secretary from now on and Maria agrees that the Secretary position should be held by the RPC as this makes it easier for Maria to access the Secretary. As such, perhaps Bronwyn could fill the role in the interim between now and the AGM in November. At that time everyone can vote a new Secretary in.

Motion: To make Bronwyn Witts interim NIWAC Secretary until the next AGM when a new Secretary will be voted in.

Moved: Maria Woods

Seconded: Lee Amidy

CARRIED

- David Nixon – has excess Noxious weed Control Handbooks. If anyone would like some, please contact Dave.

Thanks to Sue for taking the Minutes and for typing them (What a great job she does).

Meeting closed at 2.14 pm

Next Meeting Tuesday 13th November in Armidale.