



Northern Inland Weed Advisory Committee  
Armidale Dumaresq Council Chambers, Armidale – Tuesday November 13<sup>th</sup>,  
2007

**1.0 Meeting commenced at 10.00 am:**

**1.1 Present:** Cr Maria Woods (Chair), Bronwyn Witts (RPC, (Secretary), Sue Williams (NSC), Peter Scott (LPSC), David Nixon (GISC), Phil Blackmore (DPI), Natasha Soar (TRC), Neil Rossington (TSC), Andrew Schweitzer (Namoi CMA), Doug Campbell and Brenton Klien (UHWA), Mick Kane (MPSC), Mike Whitney (LPSC), James Browning, Scott Kermode and Stephen McCoy (NEWA), Les Tanner (ISC), Rod Williams (BR/G CMA), Annette McCaffery (DPI), Mayor Barry Johnston (ISC), Cllr Merryl Dillon (MPSC)

**Absent:** Gwydir Shire Council,

**Apologies:** Cr George Sevil (NSC), Andrew Croft (NSC), Lee Amidy (GSC), Duane Shawcross (NPWL),  
Late apologies (post-meeting) Gaven Young (MRLPB) plus...

**Motion:** That the Apologies are accepted

**Moved:** Les Tanner      **Seconded:** Peter Scott

**1.2 Welcome – Cr Maria Woods (NEWA)**

**1.3 Confirmation of the Minutes from the previous meeting**

**Motion:** That the Minutes of the General Meeting in Quirindi on August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

**Moved:** Mick Kane

**Seconded:** Sue Williams

**CARRIED**

**1.4 Business arising and action sheet from last meeting**

There has been no response to the letter sent to Tony Windsor MP regarding the winding up of the Weeds CRC early next year requesting what he as our Local Member intends to do about it. NIWAC assumes that given the timing, Tony will most likely reply post election. The Planning Coordinator is yet to send out the letter compiled by Phil Blackmore regarding Section 68 as an action arising from the August 2007 meeting.

**1.5 Correspondence – incoming and outgoing.**

- Letter to Tony Windsor MP Re the Dissolution of the Weed CRC
- Letter of congratulations to Inverell Shire Council for appointment of new weeds department
- Letter invitation to Bingara Shire Council inviting to continue participation in NIWAC
- Letter of invitation to Rod Williams BR/G CMA for attendance at this meeting.

**2.0 Annual General Meeting – Cr Maria Woods**

Maria formally stepped down from position of chair following a short report of NIWACs achievements for 2006-07 and handed the election of chair for 2007-08 to Philip Blackmore.

Chair Report:

Maria thanked Paul (in his absence directed to Narrabri's representative, Sue Williams) for his performance of secretarial duties over the 2006-07 period. Paul has done a fabulous job and the chair points out that one of the observations from the period is that NIWAC members could respond in a more timely fashion in the future please.

The reworking of the NIWAC Regional Weed Strategy has been an important and so far successful undertaking for the committee and Maria points out the importance of developing this type of document within this type of public forum rather than having one singular group such as CMAs to keep the consultation as broad as possible.

Maria thanks the work that the Planning Coordinator has done since she joined NIWAC in March 2007. Maria also noted that NIWAC has done reasonably well with Group Project Grants for the 2007/08 year due to hard work by project participants, the DPI and the NIWAC Planning Coordinator. The extra \$2000 for the running of the committee for the period will be very useful also. It was noted at this point of Maria's report by Peter Scott that thanks also must go to Sue Williams in her assistance to Paul Welchmans with the secretarial duties for the year.

**Election of the Chair-** Phil Blackmore:

Phil called for nominations

Peter Scott nominated Clr Maria Woods

The nomination was accepted by Maria and seconded by Les Tanner. In the absence of other nominees, Maria was successfully voted as Chair of NIWAC of 2007/08 and accepted the position.

**Election of Secretary-** Phil Blackmore

The call for nominations for Secretary of NIWAC was made.

Peter Scott nominated Bronwyn Witts; seconded by Andrew Schweitzer.

Bronwyn accepted the nomination and, in the absence of other nominees, was elected Secretary for NIWAC for 2007/08.

Chair declared that there was no financial report available for the year at this time due to the absence of Lee Amidy at the meeting and it is suggested that the financial report will be forwarded in due course to be presented at the February meeting, which is accepted by members.

**3.0 Demonstration of the NSW DPI Extranet- Annette McCaffery**

**4.0** The Extranet [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds) was developed by Annette and others in response to a series of surveys across the state regarding the usefulness of the weeds section of the DPI website

**5.0 Extension and Education**

The NIWAC Noxious weed Handbook update: RPC suggests this is grossly overdue and urgent attention is required to get this done. Committee is formed consisting of Mike Kane, Andrew Schweitzer, Lee Amidy (TBC) and Bronwyn Witts for minor help. James Bowring

The Website: RPC and chair asks if anyone uses and wants the website to continue, it is unanimous around the room that yes it is a valuable resource"

**Motion:** That the website costs are researched and Les comes back to the next meeting with a new website then the decision is made on whom holds responsibility of the website maintenance.

Moved: Peter Scott

Seconded: David Nixon

CARRIED

Training Update: There have been many expressions of interest from the Weed Planning and Management course and it looks like this will be run in our region some time in March 2008. RPC will keep members posted on this opportunity.

## 6.0 The Weeds Conference

The chair calls for comments on members thoughts on the 14<sup>th</sup> NSW Biennial Weeds Conference held in Wollongong in September.

The general feeling of attendees was that the conference focussed too much on environmental weeds and not enough on noxious weeds

The chair congratulates Narrabri Shire Council on their successful bid to host the 15<sup>th</sup> NSW Biennial Weeds Conference in 2009 and offers NIWAC's help in organising this prestigious event.

**Motion:** That NIWAC writes a letter of congratulations to Narrabri Shire Council extending the offer of help with the conference and requesting attendance for the initial meetings for organising the event.

Moved: Clr Maria Woods

Seconded: Phil Blackmore

CARRIED

## 7.0 Regional Weed Strategy Update – Bronwyn Witts

The RPC thanks for all input and attendance of the 4 workshops held so far to run the Regional Weed Lists through the NSW Weed Risk Assessment Program. There still needs to be at least two workshops run and the dates of these will be circulated shortly. There is some concern as to the process of the risk assessment due to the perceived dodgyness of some of the questions.

**Motion:** Given that NIWAC are the first group (s) to use the program the RPC is to write a formalised submission and liaise with Dr Stephen Johnson on how we can better apply the program in our region.

Moved: Peter Scott

Seconded Philip Blackmore

CARRIED

**7.0 Introduction of Mr Rod Williams BRG CMA.** The chair invites attendees to converse with Rod over the break to raise concerns regarding the BRG CMA/ NIWAC Riparian Project.

**Break for lunch at 12.05 PM**

**Meeting Resumed 1.01 PM**

## 8.0 Regional Planning Coordinator's Report:

Nothing further to add apart from notifying members that a new Blackberry and Privet Management Plans have been drafted and will be circulated shortly following receipt of comments from Philip Blackmore and the Lead Organisations for these projects.

## 9.0 DPI Report- Philip Blackmore

- Fireweed Review Project that is taking up most of his time. A draft was presented yesterday in Orange to Reg Kidd and will be ultimately be presented to NWAC.
- Nice to see that the NSW Government has provided some \$400000 extra funding for the 2007/08 year. NIWAC has received a nice proportion of this with some extra money allocated. This has been partly due to good timing and partly due to Bronwyn's hard work.
- There has been a newly appointed Project Coordinator for Serrated Tussock Bronwen Wicks, whom is based in Goulburn.
- Phil will be attending a meeting with Syd Lysle in Sydney to discuss new roles for his job. Maria requests that when he has these, Phil could perhaps disseminate this information across the region to avoid future confusion of whom does what. This information may well be available on the Extranet as well.

## 10.0 Individual Reports

- Reports taken as read unless additions reported below:

**Gunnedah SC:** in response to Lees comments regarding the reporting responsibilities of Lead Organisations.

**Motion:** wait another 12 months to readdress whom should be listed as the Lead organisation and if the RPC can slot the main reporting responsibilities into her duties. A submission paper will be carried out by the RPC.

Moved: Sue Williams    Seconded: Phil Blackmore

CARRIED

**Inverell SC:** Les Tanner is now happily employed as the Chief Weeds Officer and is busily setting up the section.

**Motion:** that Les and Bronwyn get a letter up following the Mimosa Bush field day forum and shoot it around the committee to reflect the general outcome fo the day.

Moved: Maria Woods    Seconded: Les Tanner

CARRIED

**NSC:** nothing further to add to report other than Paul is leaving in June 2008 and they are looking to employ a new Weeds Officer before March 2008.

**GISC:** The declaration of Privet has been approved and David has submitted a support letter to council for the proposed changes to Bridal Creeper declaration.

**Border-Rivers/ Gwydir CMA** Rod Williams

Several member shad the opportunity to chat with Rod regarding the progress of the Riparian weeds project. It seems that a number of these proposed projects are going ahead with some councils (Tenterfield and Moree). The chair brought the committee up to speed on the project with regards to Frances Pike . Meryll felt that this matter should be dealt with privately between NIWAC and BRG CMA. Meryll departed the meeting at this juncture. .

Rod informs NIWAC that there is a bucket of some \$200 000 earmarked for NIWAC projects and wants these to be moved forward as this money has to be spent by June 2008.. His concern is that this money is spent on targeted projects for weeds. Rod has a background in vegetation management, biosecurity within the QLD DPI. Rod values partnerships and wants this partnership to succeed as does NIWAC.

**Meeting closed at 2.14 pm**

**Next Meeting Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February in Narrabri.**