



MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NORTHERN INLAND WEEDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 12 JULY 2011 AT THE NARABRI RSL CLUB, NARRABRI.

PRESENT

Cr Maria Woods	New England Weeds Authority
Wayne Deer	New England Weeds Authority
David Nixon	Glen Innes Severn Council
Ian Schwartz	Moree Plains Shire Council
Cr Di Baker	Inverell Shire Council
Lee Amidy	Gunnedah Shire Council
Philip Blackmore	Industry & Investment NSW
Les Tanner	Inverell Shire Council
Phil Sutton	Inverell Shire Council
Cr Rick Molesworth	Inverell Shire Council
Mike Whitney	Liverpool Plains Shire Council
Nikki Whale	Moree Plains Shire Council
Troy Crittle	Namoi CMA
Scott McFarland	Narrabri Shire Council
Cr George Seville	Narrabri Shire Council
Rob Munro	NE LHPA
Heather Apps	NIWAC
Christen Henriksen	ARTC
Glen Pereira	Gwydir Shire Council
Natasha Soar	Tamworth Regional Council
Clare Felton-Taylor	Narrabri Shire Council
Jonathon Lawson	Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA
Graham Charles	Cotton CRC (Guest Speaker)

APOLOGIES

James Browning	New England Weeds Authority
Peter Scott	Liverpool Plains Shire Council
Graham Archibald	Glen Innes Severn Council
Cr Peter Strang	Moree Plains Shire Council
Graham Price	Glen Innes Severn Council
Helen Carroll	Narrabri Shire Council
Cr Bernie Perkins	Liverpool Plains Shire Council
David Merrikin	NRCMA
Neil Rossington	Tenterfield Shire Council

Maria Woods opened the meeting at 10.03am.

GUEST SPEAKER

Graham Charles, a Research Agronomist based at the Cotton CRC provided an overview of weed issues in the cotton industry, and issues that have arisen following the introduction of transgenic, herbicide tolerant (glyphosate) varieties of cotton.

Cr Woods on behalf of members present thanked Graham for an interesting and informative presentation.

ITEM 1: WELCOME & APOLOGIES

PRECIS: Apologies from members unable to attend are listed above.

RESOLVED: That apologies be accepted

Moved: Clare Felton-Taylor **Seconded:** Ian Schwartz

CARRIED

ITEM 2: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held 8 February 2011 be accepted as a true and accurate record

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

CARRIED

ITEM 3: BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

PRECIS: (i) NSW WEED ACTION PLAN

Referred to General Business

PRECIS: (ii) Noxious Weeds Act Review

It was agreed at the previous meeting that Councils wishing to send in submissions were to do so on a Council basis, and that a submission from NIWAC was not required.

NEWA, LPSC, ISC and Gunnedah Shire Council reported that they sent in submissions.

PRECIS: (iii)

MANAGEMENT OF NOXIOUS WEEDS ON ROADSIDES

A letter was sent to the RTA requesting clarification as to the position of Weed Officers to the signed document of Councils (Single Invitation Maintenance Contracts (SIMC) and Alliance Agreements) (Section 62 (1)).

No response to date.

ITEM 4:

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence has been outgoing and incoming since the previous meeting:

Outgoing:

- a) Letter to RTA re position of weed officers regarding Councils (single invitation maintenance contracts and alliance agreements)

Incoming:

- b) 28/2/11 Tussock Talk March 2011 (Clare Hamilton)
- c) 1/3/11 Birgitte Verbeek (NSW DPI)
Results of survey on weed management capacity building services
- d) 9/3/11 Stephen Johnson (NSW DPI) – Proposed Declarations
 - i) **Cape Broom**
Tenterfield, Glen Innes, New England, Tamworth, Liverpool Plains at Class 2
 - ii) **Groundsell Bush**
Tenterfield - Class 3, Inverell, Glen Inness, Tamworth – Class 2
 - iii) **Mysore Thorn**
Tenterfield, Glen Inness, New England – Class 2
 - iv) **Chinese Celtis**
Tenterfield, Glen Inness, New England, Tamworth – Class 2

Troy Crittle raised concern over Chinese Celtis in the Namoi area

Action:

- Request S Johnson look at Chinese Celtis in the Namoi region

- v) **Giant Rats Tail Grass**
Tenterfield, Glen Inness, New England – Class 2

vi) **Honey Locust**

Looking at Class 2 or maybe Class 3 for all of Northern Inland

Discussion followed.

Action:

- Request a Class 4 declaration for the whole region and ask Stephen Johnson for justification of Class 2 or Class 3.

vii) **Kudzu**

Tenterfield, Glen Inness, New England – Class 2

viii) **Broad Leaf Pepper Tree**

Tenterfield, Glen Inness, New England – Class 2

ix) **Yellow Bells & Chinese Tallow**

Tenterfield, Glen Inness, New England – Class 2

x) **Mother of Millions**

Glen Inness, New England – Class 4

xi) **St Johns Wort**

Tenterfield, Glen Inness, New England, Gunnedah, Gwydir, Inverell, Moree
Narrabri – Class 3

Action:

- NIWAC requests Class 4 in Liverpool Plains Shire Council

xii) **Cats Claw Creeper**

Tenterfield, Glen Inness, New England, Tamworth – Class 3
Narrabri, Inverell, Gwydir, Moree, Gunnedah, Liverpool Plains – Class 2

Discussion followed.

Neil Rossington requested via email to have Cats Claw Creeper in Tenterfield Shire a Class 4.

Action:

- NIWAC requests Cats Claw Creeper to be Class 4 for Inverell, Tamworth and Tenterfield, Class 3 for Glen Innes

xiii) **Black Willow**

Unless you have a Class 3 declaration for the species at the moment, Stephen Johnson wants to move the species up to Class 2 across the state.

James Browning has contacted John Hoskins who indicated that Black Willow is hard to identify. He suggested it stay at Class 4.

xiv) **Pussy Willow**

Class 3 declaration across the state

xv) **Madeira Vine**

What is the likely palatability of declaration and management of **Madeira vine** (*Anredera cordifolia*) in eastern areas of the state It is somewhat likely that this species will be declared a new WoNS species.

Rough area of interest likely be east of, and including a line from say Albury, to Wagga, to Dubbo, to Moree and to the Qld border

Action:

- Request a Class 4 declaration for the whole region.

It was agreed that NIWAC should hold a weed identification workshop at a future meeting.

- e) 14/3/11 Scott Charlton (NSW DPI)
Copy of Tropical Soda Apple letter sent to affected LCAs.
- f) 13/5/11 David Merriken – NRCMA
NRCMA Incentive Program
- g) 23/5/11 Stephen Johnston
Order 27 Tropical Soda apple gazetted 20 May 2011
- h) 17/6/11 Kay Bailey
National Athel Pine & Mimosa Coordinator
Invitation to attend the NSW Athel Pine Forum
on Thursday 21 July 2011 at Coffs Harbour

RECOMMENDATION: That the incoming correspondence be accepted and the outgoing correspondence be endorsed.

Moved: Glen Pereira

Seconded: Ian Schwartz

CARRIED

ITEM 5: REPORTS FROM DELEGATES

PRECIS: Council, LHPA, I & I NSW and CMA delegates updated members on their activities and actions for the April to June 2011 quarter.

Further Action:

There has been negative feedback from landholders regarding the NLIS cattle traceback for Tropical Soda Apple.

Councils to forward any feedback to Secretary, Heather Apps regarding the traceback.

Namoi CMA has a small amount of funding for response / traceback.

DPI Review of NIWAC WAP.

Phil Blackmore completed a review of the NIWAC WAP and was pleased to see all Plans and Policies were completed or near completed and that Year One outcomes and activities are on target (reviewed May 2011).

RESOLVED: That the verbal reports be received and noted.

Moved: Mike Whitney

Seconded: Ian Schwartz

ITEM 6: GENERAL BUSINESS

PRECIS (i): NIWAC WEED ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Update from Lead Organisation – NEWA

a) Year One WAP Status Report – (Powerpoint presentation)

Heather Apps updated members on the progress to date on the Weed Action Plan.

All plans have been circulated to each General Manager in paper form, and inspection figures will be collated in the next couple of weeks.

b) NIWAC WAP Work Plan (Final Stage July – 31 Aug 2011)

1. All inspection figures and extension activities to be finalised by all LCAs and LHPAs and forwarded to Heather by Friday 15th July 2011
2. Quarterly report for April – June 2011 to be submitted to NEWA
3. GPS Points, high risk sites and pathway documentation must be submitted by 30 July 2011 to allow mapping to be finalised.
4. Stakeholders to complete expenditure report (supplied by DPI) and signed off by the General Manager. NEWA will follow up with the format once advised by DPI.
5. Compilation of inspection / spreadsheet results by NEWA as Lead Agency.
6. WAP report using DPI template submitted by NEWA as Lead Agency.

c) NIWAC Regional Inspection Update

Final inspection figures will be collated and circulated to Weed Officers prior to the August Weed Officer's meeting.

At this stage we are on target to meet our inspection requirements for 2010 – 2011.

d) Year One Budget Summary

Wayne Deer provided an overview of the Year One budget allocation in regard to the WAP's 10% project income and expenditure, which is on target.

e) DPI Reporting Format and Member Council Financial Statements budget expenditure – Year One WAP

The DPI will be finalising the reporting format for the WAP in the coming weeks.

As soon as we have received a copy of the requirements it will be forwarded to Weed Officers. A workshop will then be held to collate all the reporting requirements and financial data.

The Year 2 funding should be expected in the near future following the State Government adopting the State Budget.

PRECIS (ii): NIWAC WAP DOCUMENTS FOR ADOPTION BY COMMITTEE

It was recommended that the following Plans be adopted by NIWAC;

- a) NIWAC Weed Incursion Plan 2010 – 2015
- b) NIWAC Rapid Response Plan 2010 - 2015
- c) High Risk Pathways & Sites Management Plan 2010 - 2015
- d) NIWAC Regional Inspection Program 2010 - 2015
- e) Weed Officer's Educational Pathway Plan 2010 – 2015

Discussion followed.

RESOLVED: That NIWAC endorse the NIWAC Weed Incursion Plan 2010 – 2015, NIWAC Rapid Response Plan 2010 – 2015, High Risk Pathways & Sites Management Plan 2010 – 2015, NIWAC Regional Inspection Program 2010 – 2015 and Weed Officer's Educational Pathway Plan 2010 – 2015 on the basis that there will be amendments and updating of information made from time to time.

Moved: Cr Rick Molesworth

Seconded: Cr George Seville

CARRIED

PRECIS (iii): NIWAC WAP Work Plan Year Two (2011-2012)

A detailed work plan for Year 2 of the WAP will be presented at the next NIWAC meeting when the funding allocation has been advised.

PRECIS (iv): CMA Project Funding update

a) WONS Project

Jonathon Lawson reported that work in the two core Serrated Tussock infestations has been exceptional, and they should be eradicated in two years.

The Chilean Needle Grass outlying populations will continue to be controlled.

b) Education Trailer Project

The education trailer should be completed within the next three weeks and will be available for the New England and Tenterfield regions as an education and extension resource.

c) Aquatic Weeds Tour project

BRG CMA has provided \$7,000 funding for an aquatic weeds tour to the Mid North Coast areas of Gloucester, Forster and Port Macquarie for Weed Officers to become familiar with aquatic weeds which have the potential to invade our area.

James Browning will be organising the trip which will be held from 25 – 27 October 2011, departing from Tamworth.

PRECIS (v): 16th Biennial NSW Weeds Conference

All LCAs will have members attending the weed conference next week.

NIWAC will have the following members participating in presentations;

- Cr Maria Woods on behalf of NWAC
- Josh Biddle & Terry Schmitzer – Tropical Soda Apple
- James Browning & Jonathon Lawson – BRG WONS project
- Terry Schmitzer and Heather Apps – Project Officer review of WAP

ITEM 9: OTHER MATTERS

Les Tanner extended a vote of thanks to the Councils and Heather Apps for their work in relation to the WAP.

Cr Maria Woods thanked all the participants on the work the Committee has done and to NEWA as the Lead Agency

Next meeting dates: Tuesday 11th October 2011 in Bingara

ITEM 10: MEETING CLOSE

PRECIS: There being no further business, Chairperson will declare the meeting closed.

Time: 12.35pm