



MINUTES

MEETING 11th October 2010
COMMENCING 9.45
Wagga Wagga

COUNCILS

Albury
Coolamon
Cootamundra
Corowa
Gundagai
Greater Hume
Junee
Lockhart
Narrandera
Tumbarumba
Tumut
Urana
Wagga Wagga

LHPA'S

Hume
Riverina

STATE AGENCIES

Department of
Lands and
Property
Management
Authority
RTA
ARTC
State Forests
NSW

Guest Speakers: Clare Hamilton – Serrated Tussock Co-ordinator

Welcome:

Mark Sheilds – Corowa Councillor
Alan Urquart – Urana Shire Councillor

Apologies:

Mark Luff - Senior Ranger LHPA
Jeremy Crocker – WWCC
Justin - Lockhart Shire

Attendees:

Sarah Stuart	-	AlburyCity
Jan Mitchell	-	AlburyCity
Paul McPherson	-	Tumbarumba Shire
Russell Percival	-	Gundagai Shire
Mel Wilkerson	-	Tumut Shire
Chris Slinger	-	RENWA
Mark Sheilds	-	Corowa Shire
Pat Minogue	-	Corowa Shire
Alan Clark	-	Narrandera Shire
Paula Bosse	-	ERNWAG/WRNWAG
Cassie West	-	Murray CMA
Robert Ferguson	-	RENWA
Graeme Worboys	-	Cootamundra Shire
Josh Bean	-	DECCW
Peter Routley	-	Retired
Rodney McDonnell	-	Lockhart Shire
John Ross	-	Greater Hume Shire
Alan Urquhart	-	Urana Shire
Rodney Anderson	-	Urana Shire
Adam Craig	-	Wagga City
Nail Hibberson	-	Greater Hume Shire

All Correspondence:

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Minutes:

Guest Speaker:

- State wide position based in Mudgee, Mudgee hosts the position, Mid western regional council
- Serrated Tussock working party created the position, supported by NPWS & I&I as associates
- "Project is for the strategic control of ST", A five year plan
- Trying to build a case for future support/raise awareness
- All Nassella species may be put together as a WONS weed
- Discussed distribution & potential, resistance problems & research
- 20-30year seed viability but low percentage reaches germination
- Discussed strategies for control

Business Arising

- Incorporation – delayed until AGM and new executive
- Poor attendance discussed
- Regional issues discussed and no one here to discuss
- Letter sent out to all councils discussing issue
- Two options, either attend or form back to one group
- Neil asked the group if the group will continue, representatives were also discussed in relation to the WAP & MOU
- Rob Ferguson discussed the importance of regional decisions
- Several members discussed the groups pro-activeness compared to other Regional Advisory Groups

Rodney Anderson motioned to continue on with ERNWAG, Alan Clark seconded, carried.

Correspondence In

- Henty hay bales invoice - \$42. Paid
- Media Hosting bill - Paid
- Letter from Melissa Freeman – Alan Clarke moved to circulate letter to all E/WRNWAG members – seconded by Pat Minogue. Carried.
- Letter from Corowa Shire

Correspondence Out

Letter from Neil to all Councils re. attendance

Financial Reports



RWNPO Report

RNWPO (Paula & Lisa) Report – October 2010

Important Dates over the coming weeks/months:

- AWTF - Griffith - 4th November
- Grass ID – Wagga Wagga – 16th November clarification on course detail.
- Weed Movement, Machinery Inspection & Cleaning - Wagga Wagga - 6th December
- NSW Biennial Weeds Conference – 18th-21st July 2011 Coffs Harbour

Riverina WAP – Rob Williamson is still handling the WAP. Recommendations have gone to the Minister. Just waiting on the official media releases from individual MPs. I have heard (unofficially) that the 0809 budgets + two lots of CPI have been recommended. I don't know if any consideration has been given to anything outside that allocation. If this is correct we have missed out on AW \$, the increase in RNWPO \$ & Riverina LHPAs increased request. Everyone else should receive funds as submitted. Hopefully some paperwork comes through in the next week or two. If anyone receives a MR from their local member can you please forward me a copy as I am usually the last to find out!

GP final reporting 09/10 – All final reports have been submitted to NWAC by the end of September deadline. This was the final run of this report process. I haven't had a chance to incorporate the reporting into the WAP spreadsheets as yet. This is a high priority of mine – along with everything else on my individual WAP spreadsheet.

Unspent grant 09/10 – I have been informed by Rob Williamson that any unspent grant from 09/10 that has been acknowledged in the report process – will be asked to be returned. I have not received this in writing so at this stage do not act on this.

RWAC Report Template – we will be modifying the reporting template for future meetings to reflect the changes with the new WAP process as well as what we learnt through the MERI training last week. It is hoped that the detail you put in your RWAC reporting can be incorporated into your end of year reporting. Once finalised, the template will be available from the web & should be submitted to the secretary electronically to be included in the minutes.

AW Stubby Holders – Have been received and are currently being distributed to all contributing Councils, CMA's LHPA's. These were possible due to remaining funds from the MD Alligator Weed project along with carryover funds from our Riverina AW Project. Very happy with the result and hope that you all enjoy distributing them!

Chinwag – Lisa emailed out the new look Chinwag Edition 39 in August – available for download on the website. Thank you to all those weedos who took the time to contribute to the stories in Chinwag. It actually makes the newsletter much more interesting when others tell their own stories! Please remember to email her anything that you think might be of interest for the next edition. Edition 40 coming soon!!

Our website – www.riverinaweeds.org.au – is always being updated. Remember if there is anything you want to see on there let Lisa know. We generally put info on there before we circulate it – so check it regularly!

Henty Field Days – Very well attended by weedos (even some Western ones) and public alike. We again had a great display, with the new display trailer and also the vast array of plants on display. We received lots of comments from the public that the display was very educational and eye catching with the plants out the front. Congratulations to all involved for a successful few days!



ABC Gardening Australia – In regard to this comment being made "It's a very useful plant in a pond. It covers the surface area sufficiently to help stop algae growth and fish like the protection it offers from birds." I&I responded promptly to the story with emails as well as a letter to the editor. This was printed in Edition 39 CHINWAG.

Red Guide Post system – A major outcome of Albury's CG field day was a greater awareness and understanding of what we as a region are trying to achieve with the red guide post system. I spoke to one contractor who until that day had no idea what the guide posts were for. The same contractor suggested including a contact phone number on the post so that when they pull up at the post they don't have to go looking for a number. Albury has already taken this on board and added a small sticker to their posts with Jan's mobile number on it. RTA & I have also agreed to a deadline (April 2011) to finalise the red guidepost factsheet. RTA has internal (contractor) training that they'd like it available for.

Proposed changes to CG declaration – I submitted the request to amend the CG declaration 9th September (took a lot longer than expected to get all responses in). I received a letter back from Murray Spicer (Acting Director IS & LHPA Liaison) acknowledging receipt of our request and advising "I have referred your request to I&I NSW for consideration and advice".

I&I NSW – I spoke to Syd briefly last week about the WAP and the NWA 1993 review of. He is currently finalising an issues paper that will go to the Minister before we are given the opportunity to comment on it.

New electronic notifiable weed recording form - This form is for reporting declared notifiable weeds in NSW only. The form is to be completed by Local Control Authorities (LCA) only; other persons who detect a notifiable must report it to the relevant LCA.

Chilean needle grass – DVD – I have copies for the individual LCAs who wish to take one.

Display Trailer – is up and running and available for use. Booking calendar and booking form can be found on the web. Form must be filled in and faxed to Paula or Lisa before booking will be made on calendar. WE are the booking point ONLY. All negotiations etc in regard to receiving of and delivering the trailer to the next person are up the individuals involved. Discussion was had by the Secs & Chairs at Henty on further artwork on the trailer. It was decided to go ahead with placing the Weebusters logo on the front of the trailer & NS4W on the sides. This way the trailer is badged and shouldn't date. A current laminated sheet of all members of ERNWAG & WRNWAG will be kept in the trailer for anyone wishing to know who the "participating organisations" are.

Weed Awareness update Jessica Grantley – I&I NSW are planning on launching the new weed awareness hygiene theme at the Australian National Field Days (19-21 Oct).

The new theme for weed awareness is **hygiene** & the new campaign to be promoted under the NS4W banner is titled 'make a difference – at home at work at play'. At **HOME** is aimed at home gardeners & property owners, at **WORK** targets those who have the potential to spread weeds as part of their job while at **PLAY** is about how to prevent the spread of weeds through recreational activities including bushwalking, camping, fishing, four wheel driving and boating.

Dumping garden and aquarium waste can spread weeds. You can stop the spread of weeds at **HOME**

- Dispose of garden and aquarium waste suitably – at a waste management centre or compost, not in the bush or waterways
- Manage weeds at home – don't let them move next door
- Stop weeds at your gate – don't bring them home

Vehicles, machinery, equipment and livestock can spread weeds. You can stop the spread of weeds at **WORK**

- Check livestock and equipment for weeds and seeds



- Wash down vehicles and machinery on site – leave weeds behind
- Be careful not to take weeds with you to your next place of work

Bushwalking, camping, fishing, 4WDing and boating can spread weeds. You can stop the spread of weeds at **PLAY**

- Be careful not to take weeds to your favourite place
- Be on the look out for weeds and seeds
- Check and clean all your gear before you leave

They propose to put together kits of these resources for each of the Regional Weed Committees. These kits will include copies of the new posters, postcards, samples of new NS4W merchandise (and ordering info), kids activity sheets, a display presentation on a disc and pdf copies of all printed materials on a disc. It is proposed that these resources will be able to be used as a stand alone hygiene focused display and regions can add other and local information to tailor the display as required. Stay tuned...

Handouts – there's always plenty of info available in our tubs – some new, some old. Take it if you need it. We packed all the smaller handouts this time.

Local Government weed Survey - Sean Brindle is chasing quite a few LCAs with outstanding surveys....

Weeds Officers Reports

Name: Graeme Worboys

Organisation: Cootamundra Shire Council

Weeds of National Significance Update (Alligator weed, Tamarix, Boneseed, Blackberry, Bridal creeper, Cabomba, Chilean needle grass, Gorse, Mesquite, Parthenium, Salvinia, Serrated tussock, Willows):

Bridal Creeper control in both Cootamundra and at Stockinbingal village

With CNG outbreak close to Shire boundary, mail out on CNG ID and pamphlet sent to local landowners to raise awareness of weed. Chris Slinger and I inspected area – it is not pegged and it seemed area may have been slashed.

Blackberry inspection for weed done and planning to control early summer

Weeds of Regional Significance Update (Sagittaria, Coolatai grass, Silverleaf nightshade, St Johns wort, Hardhead thistle, Prairie Ground Cherry, Spiny burgrass and Johnson grass):

Coolatai Grass control in shire hot spots. Mostly hand pulled but some larger areas sprayed out.

Two landowners cooperating with control on their properties.

St John's Wort will continue to be a major weed this season

Property inspections: (anything unusual found or an unusual situation?)

Slender Bamboo Grass found as isolated plant on Old Gundagai Rd.

Biological control update (weed warriors):

One release of plume moth on farm east of Cootamundra in tree line. Plume moth seems to be active in area.

Other projects / other funding sources:

Working with LHPA on locusts

Roadside spraying program behind schedule due to rain and/or wind

Thistles (variegated and scotch) on the increase showing it is a good season

Attended HMF D – congratulations to ERNWAG on their display

African boxthorn control continued

Cooperative arrangements (working with ARTC, RTA, NPWS etc):

ERNWAG Report

ERNWAG &
WRNWAG

Date: 11-10-10

Name: Russell Percival Organisation: GUNDARAI SHIRE

Weeds of National Significance Update (Alligator weed, Tamarix, Boneseed, Blackberry, Bridal creeper, Cabomba, Chilean needle grass, Gorse, Mesquite, Parthenium, Salvinia, Serrated tussock, Willows):

SPRAYING SERRATED TUSOCK. BLACKBERRY.

Weeds of Regional Significance Update (Sagittaria, Coolatai grass, Silverleaf nightshade, St Johns wort, Hardhead thistle, Prairie Ground Cherry, Spiny burgrass and Johnson grass):

SPRAYING COOLATAI GRASS NO NEW OUT BREAKS.

NEW SITE IN SILVERLEAF NIGHTSHADE.

JOHNSON GRASS.

Property inspections: (anything unusual found or an unusual situation?)

PROPERTY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT
FIRE WEED LOCATED HUNTERY TRACKS SOUTH GUNDARAI.

Biological control update (weed warriors):

FLEA BEETLE GOING GOOD. HOREHOUND
CROWN WEEVIL ALSO. S.T. SOUTHWEST WORT.

Other projects / other funding sources:

BROADLEAF PARKS & OAKS.
SPRAYING ILLYRIAN THISTLE, AND GENERAL SPRAYING.

Cooperative arrangements (working with ARTC, RTA, NPWS etc):

Future guest speakers or topics (thoughts):

Neil Hibberson – Greater Hume

Weeds of National Significance Update

Gorse found at one site on Ferguson's road. Plants have been sprayed.



Too early for Alligator Weed.

CNG is present on roadsides but difficult to find with all the growth.

Weeds of Regional Significance Update

Coolatai article in the land newspaper (farming small areas insert) based on the use of Red guide posts.

Property inspections:

Property inspections as per requirements.

Roadside inspections where Locust egg laying had occurred.

Biological control update

Inspections of bio areas has shown up a large amount of insect attack.

Cooperative arrangements

Working with the Woomargama Alliance on the new freeway site.

General Business

- Constitution
Paula discussed changes to the Constitution with the group. Changes were noted by Paula. Main changes were – Quorum to be 40% - Moved by Mark Shields, Seconded by Rodney Anderson. Carried.

- Agendas to be sent to General Managers and weed officers

- Rob Ferguson moved that all member organisation accounts become \$200 instead of some being \$100.
Seconded by Jan Mitchell, Carried.

- NSW I&I need to be given an invitation to contribute

- Discussion was had about inviting non-voting members to become financial/voting members. Include cover letter with invoice and amended constitution – all members welcome, financial and other.

- The amendments proposed to the constitution moved by Rob Ferguson, seconded by John Routley. Carried.

- Rob Ferguson suggested the secretary use a recording device. He will come back to the group once WRNWAG have tried theirs

- Trailer fees
2 free trailer uses initially
Fees to come through secretary/treasurer
Fees to cover insurance/regro costs
\$20 per usage after 2 free uses – moved by Pat Minogue, seconded by Russell Percival.
Carried
The council that damages it must repair it at own cost.



Date, Time & Venue of Next Meeting

10th March 2010 9.30am

Meeting to be held at the **AlburyCity Council** Office at 553 Kiewa Street, in the Robert Brown Room (ground Floor)

It was agreed that meeting remain in March/June/October

Meeting Close: