

SYDNEY CENTRAL REGIONAL WEEDS SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday 9th June 2011
Woollahra Council Chambers
Chair: Jeff Hill

Attendees:

Jeff Hill	Woollahra Council
Paul Ibbetson	NPWS – Metro North East region
Peter Goss	Canterbury Council
Lana McGee	Canterbury Council
Matt Leary	Randwick Council
Rob Stevenson	City of Canada Bay
Peter Semple	Railcorp
Alex Mackenzie	Strathfield Council
Karen Harper	Kogarah Council
Katie Oxenham	City of Sydney
Andrew Jack	Sydney Olympic Park Authority
Rudi Adlmayer	Woollahra Council (thank you for taking the minutes!)

Apologies:

Deborah Law	Waverley Council
Derek Walker	Waverley Council
Rosanna Luca (sick)	Sydney Weeds Committee Acting Exec Officer
Shelly Slater	Sydney Weeds Committee GIS/Project Officer

Welcome

Jeff Hill declared the meeting open. No pecuniary interests were declared.

Roundtable Discussion & Mapping Activity: SURVEYING AREAS OF CONCERN/ HIGH RISK

The aim of this activity was to start capturing knowledge and information about where the weeds officers are ‘keeping an eye’ on areas of concern, high risk, surveying, concentrating private property inspections and working strategically.

The terms “inspections” and “surveying” were clarified.

- An inspection is a legal activity, referring to the official role and function of a weeds officer, under delegation of the *Noxious Weeds Act*. In this context, an inspection is a formal administrative process.
- A survey can be done in different ways, on private or public land and by anyone involved in weed identification and operation work, regularly spotting weeds on the ground. Can also include Bushcare volunteers. It is important that all weeds officers are surveying their “patch”, to ensure we are not missing areas where weed growth could be accelerating and going unnoticed.

The Department (DPI) is interested in the collective effort across Sydney, which includes both activities: inspections and surveying, as well as education, on-ground control etc.

The term “High Risk” was also clarified.

- Examples of high risk “pathways”: roads, railway corridors, easements, (utilities, drainage etc), waterways, which facilitate the movement of weeds. Eg the F3/M2/M7 corridor is a pathway for Boneseed, travelling south.
- Examples of high risk sites & “hot spots”: where a “pathway” intersects with an area of EEC, Dams, truck & machinery depots, industrial areas, nurseries & garden centres, landscape supplies, development sites, waste disposal sites, horse and boat activities etc

The information collected through this mapping activity is the start of an ongoing process to capture existing knowledge. Discussions will continue at the next sub-committee meeting about the information collected to date, identifying gaps and priorities areas and a strategic response where needed, at the regional level.

ACTION: Shelly to transfer the information manually collected to a GIS map.

Roundtable Discussion: NEW INCURSIONS

Invasive Species Plan definition of a “new weed incursion”:

“An isolated population of an invasive species detected in an area where it has not previously established.” i.e. the weeds that have recently been introduced into an area/landscape, the small populations of a species starting to establish, that are still in a state which we can effectively control

Rosanna tabled the (recently revised and simplified) “New Incursion form”. There had been some confusion about the purpose of this form, with more detailed versions previously circulated.

The form is a simple procedure to record information about:

- Known new incursions in the Sydney Central region (within the last 10 years), which have not been formally recorded by someone on the sub-committee.
- Any new incursions that are detected from now on. As new incursions as detected, the form needs to be completed immediately and sent to Shelly.

ACTION: Rosanna to upload the new incursion form to the members webpage

The information about new incursions is being collected across all 4 sub-committee regions. It will be used to track where the new populations are and facilitate a rapid response for on-ground control.

Discussion/questions:

- Examples: if a Class 1 weed is detected and not previously recorded before, it is a new incursion.
- Does this relate to whole region or just one area/LGA? Can work on both levels.
- A “Weed Alert” would come out when a new incursion of an invasive species is detected (can be any Class, even invasive species not declared as noxious).
- Still encouraged to apply for WAP funding.

Shelly needs to consult with a small team of people across the sub-committees to process the information received about new incursions and ensure that this information is communicated and acted on appropriately. This group will function mainly as a “sounding board” for the GIS/Project officer position, with communication via phone and email. For example, if a weed has shown up in the Sydney Central region/Sydney region

for the first time, a “New Weed Alert” is put out to the sub-committees, Department, RBG, Sydney Weeds website, other relevant people.

Sydney Central Weed Alert Team: Jeff Hill, Lana McGee

Declaration of *Celtis Sinensis*

- Jeff Hill briefly explained the history.
- A lot of work was done by councils and the Sydney Central committee in the past for a Class 4 declaration. A Regional Plan has also been developed.
- Somehow it has been lost in the ether, and not followed through by DPI.

A vote was held about whether *Celtis* should still be declared a class 4 and whether it is appropriate to do this. Majority in favour.

ACTION: Jeff Hill and Rosanna to follow up with DPI about proceeding with the Class 4 declaration now.

High Risk Weeds List

Weed Risk Assessments (WRA) have been done by DPI for the highest priority weeds (eg *Salvinia*). Sydney Weeds Committees representatives did WRAs for several Sydney region weeds last year. The Sydney region high risk weeds list needs to be finalised by (i) identifying if there are any gaps, weeds that have not been through WRA and (ii) identifying which of the weeds on the list are still have not yet become widespread (and can be effectively controlled now).

ACTION: Rosanna to request assistance from sub-committees for any more WRAs requiring completion.

Weed Action Program (WAP) Funding

Year 1 (2010-2011)

- 25 members out of 40 are receiving funding
- The progress report form and procedure has just been emailed to all organisations that received funding. The report form to use and procedures are on the website members page.
- Progress Reports for the financial year 2010-2011 are due 15th July 2011. Reminders will be sent leading up to this deadline.
- Statistics (baseline & site monitoring information) will also be requested for on ground work, so progress can be tracked over time.

Year 2 (2011-2012)

- The Year 1 funds were received and distributed late, so all funding recipients need to catch up on expenditure and work programs, which will run over into Year 2.
- Calls for Year 2 WAP applications scheduled around July 2011.
- The Board agreed to invite existing project partners to nominate for slightly increased amounts in Year 2 and justification for why the extra is needed.

For Year 3: The Board may consider asking for a significantly larger amount.

ACTION: Rosanna to circulate information about Year 1 reporting, closing dates for Year 2 applications and whether there is opportunity to request increased allocations for Year 2.

ACTION: Jeff Hill to discuss with Frances/Shelly/Rosanna gaps in the WAP funding

Training needs & skills gaps for officers

Training & information needs identified:

- Grasses identification (to also assist contractors)
- GIS skills: eastings/northings, how it is done. One on One. Or in a group. (Especially for the purposes of capturing information in format that would suit Shelly's needs) Jeff mention Nearmap software that is available on line for free. Link below.
<https://www.nearmap.com/welcome-new>.

- Myrtle Rust

Sydney Weeds website Members page

The website now has a Members Page, requiring a login password. The information on this login page is for internal use, to be shared among sub-committee members.

ACTION: Rosanna to email login instructions and password

ACTION: Rosanna to fix arrows on the community reporting flow chart

Sydney Weeds stall at ABC Gardening Expo

Proposed Sydney Weeds stall at the Expo, which is on from 19th - 21st August 2011 at Rosehill Racecourse. Representatives from all of the sub-committees are being asked to do 3-4 hour shifts at the stall over the weekend. The stall meets a major target of the Weed Action Program, for regional community education events.

ABC Gardening Expo stall/ interested Sydney Central representatives: Jeff Hill, Rudi Adlmayer (19th), Alex Mackenzie

ACTION: Rosanna to confirm availability and the weekend roster with all.

Follow up from Previous Meeting/Action List (not already discussed)

The minutes from the previous meeting were confirmed.

Moved: Paul Ibbetson. Seconded: Jeff Hill

- **Mich Michelmore workshop notes**

ACTION: Rosanna to upload Mich Michelmore's Draft workshop notes to the website members page

- **Delegation of Weeds Officers**

The question was raised about delegation of weeds officers. Needs to be delegated through a Council meeting (not the General Manager).

- **Committee quorum**

ACTION: Item deferred until next meeting

General Business

Class 4 plans

- Many plans have expired for many councils
- Information needed about what is required
- Should be put back on the individual councils
- The Noxious Weeds Act is being reviewed. Sydney Weeds Committee provided input.

ACTION: Rosanna to circulate the Sydney Weeds Committee submission about the Noxious Weeds Act review.

- Clarification needed on application of the Act, with the current amendment.
- Possible removal of plans and letters advertising Class 4 plans.

ACTION: Rob to check past correspondence with Mich Michelmore

Brochures

ACTION: Contact Matt Leary for spare copies

Next meeting & host

Date: Thursday 15th September 2011

Host: Randwick Council (Matt Leary)

Action	Responsibility
Transfer the mapping activity information a GIS map. Distribute when ready.	Shelly
Follow up with DPI about proceeding with the Class 4 declaration of <i>Celtis Sinensis</i> .	Rosanna & Jeff Hill
Request assistance from sub-committee when new WRAs require completion.	Rosanna
Circulate information about Year 1 reporting, closing dates for Year 2 applications and whether there is opportunity to request increased allocations for Year 2.	Rosanna
Discuss with Frances/Shelly/Rosanna gaps in the WAP funding	Jeff Hill
Email members webpage login instructions and password. Fix arrows on the community reporting flow chart	Rosanna
Confirm availability and roster timeslots for ABC Gardening Expo stall, 19-21 August 2011	Rosanna Jeff Hill Rudi Adlmayer Alex Mackenzie
Upload Mich Michelmore's Draft workshop notes to the website members page	Rosanna
Clarify Sub-Committee quorum	Item deferred to next meeting
Circulate the Sydney Weeds Committee submission about the Noxious Weeds Act review.	Rosanna
Check past correspondence with Mich Michelmore, re expired Class 4 plans	Rob Stevenson
Contact Matt Leary about spare brochures	Everyone