

**Sydney West Blue Mountains Regional Weeds Committee
Meeting No 2014.3
Friday 28th Nov 2014
Blacktown City Council**

MINUTES

| Present | Apologies |
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| Janet Rannard (Penrith CC) Justine Clarke (Blacktown CC) Chris Stanfield (HRCC) Dan Cacatian (HRCC) Steve Parker (NSW OEH) Steve Nicholls (Parramatta CC) Mal Decker (Sydney Trains) Anne Duncan (Sydney Weeds) Anthony Schofield (WAP PO, HRCC) | Pino Todarello (Parramatta CC) Scott Herring (NSW PWS) Peter Ridgeway (LLS) Michael Pattison (Hawkesbury CC) Karen Jenkin (HRCC) |

1. Welcome

The Chair (CS) welcomed all participants to the meeting. Members present declared any pecuniary interests: NSW NPWS and HRCC, indicated that they received WAP funds.

2. Actions arising

2.1. Confirmation of previous minutes - Meeting of 25th Sept 2014

Moved: Justine Clarke
Seconded: Janet Rannard

2.2. Matters arising from the previous minutes.

The meeting went through the status of the table of actions arising from the previous meetings as indicated in Attachment 1. Some follow-up actions were identified from Meeting 1 (see below).

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| 1.3.2 | Provide electronic copy of weed alert for Kei Apple to EO for circulation. | Steve Parker to follow up. |
| 1.3.3 | Discuss herbicide for Amazon Frog bit with DPI. Send photos and info for website to EO. | Carried forward |
| 1.3.4 | SWC to work out how to access nursery and garden industry days | JC to provide dates for industry days next year and copy of newsletter to EO. |
| 1.6.2 | Provide feedback/comments and ideas on website to inform review | Ongoing. HRCC (Kaz) to assist with website review. |

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| 1.6.3 | Consider SWC displays at Garden Expo (and other events) as part of development of SWC events program | HRCC offer to assist with Field Day (Karen J) |
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2.2.1. Brochure review

The species to be included in the update of the regional brochure was discussed. Changes to be made were discussed and these are identified in the spreadsheet at Attachment 2 and summarised below.

Action 2.2.1 Updated spread sheet to be circulated with minutes prior to being finalised (for comment of those not present).

| Removed | Added |
|--------------------|--|
| Asthma weed | Croften weed |
| Senegal tea | Cats Claw creeper |
| Honey locust | Coral tree |
| Rhus | Agapanthus |
| Cape Broom | Corky passionfruit |
| Cootamundra wattle | Horsetail |
| Black willow | Heteranthera reniformis |
| | <i>Asparagus falcatus</i> added to the Asparagus section |

3. Roundtable reports (including new incursions and significant activities)

HRCC (Chris Stanfield)

- HRCC have been working on boneseed, green cestrum, African olive, aquatics.
- Boneseed - over a dozen new sites. Location of these to be provided to SWC.

Action 3.1. CS to provide HRCC boneseed location for SWC boneseed mapping.

NPWS (Steve Parker)

- Drew attention to the fact that *Senecio glastifolia* (Holly-leaved senecio) – had been found at Royal NP – was now eradicated. Has a purple flower. A weed alert to be provided by SP.

Action 3.2. SP to provide weed alert for *Senecio glastifolia* (Holly-leaved senecio)

Penrith (Janet Rannard)

- Has been doing corky passionfruit work with HRCC and Penrith bush regeneration group – trialling some controls – sees corky passionfruit as an emerging threat. It was suggested that she contact NPWS/Rockdale (doing work at Wolli Creek) and talk to them re techniques.

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| Action 3.3. JR to contact NPWS/Rockdale re corky passionfruit control techniques. |
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Blacktown (Justine Clarke)

- Business as usual

SWC (Anne Duncan)

- Upcoming AGM on 3rd December
- Advised of DPI meeting re new Biosecurity Information System attended by AD, AS and one person from each regional committee (Karen Jenkin, HRCC, from this committee). Advised how implementation of the new metadata standards will be part of the implementation of the BIS. WAP Stage 2 funding will be tied to providing data for the BIS and according to the new metadata standards (available on the DPI weeds extranet). Members should consider investigating whether their weed mapping system meets those standards as part of preparation for WAP Stage 2.
- The 4 people (1 from each region) now formed a “steering committee” to assist EO with update of SWC weed GIS data (WAP management zones, new incursions, boneseed etc). Person to be employed in New Year using WAP funds.
- SWC had been involved as a partner in submission to DPI innovation grants for a project to pilot test use of weed detector dogs but result of application not known.
- A Sydney Weed App had been developed by a volunteer and was available on Itunes (50 species). Feedback welcome.

Weed Action Program update (Anthony Schofield)

- WAP grant allocation for year 5 – 900K - has all been allocated. 880K for projects, 20 K for SWC GIS. Circulated a map of WAP activities for 2013-14 i.e. where funds had been spent. Advised that the map can be downloaded from HRCC website, if required. Steve Parker queried where PWS funds appeared in the map. AS advised that they had been agglomerated with local government.
- Updated the meeting on the Kudzu eradication project at Penrith, which had been very successful. A copy of the local press they had received about the project was circulated and the importance of the use of local press to raise awareness of weeds and projects was discussed.

4. High Risk Weed Review

The re-categorisation of the SWC high-risk weed list using a new set of categories was discussed and then implemented. The categories were based on a regional catchment management strategy with distinct sub-regions:

- Weeds not currently present, but which would present a threat if they occurred.
- Weeds present with limited or low distribution
- Weeds with a moderate distribution – numerous partially dispersed infestations.
- Weeds widespread throughout

The area to be considered was the Sydney West Blue Mountains area (each SWC regional committee would consider their region separately – but bearing in mind the bigger picture). This would allow the four lists to be brought together and compared and contribute to an overall Sydney weed strategy revision, which would assist with WAP Stage 2, and which was an essential tool for other grant application processes. The current list was discussed and categorised (See Attachment 3).

Action 4.1 Send out final list of high risk weeds for Sydney West Blue Mountains (A-D) for review, especially by those not present at the meeting.

5. High Risk pathways and Sites review.

Review of the High Risk Pathway and Site Management Plan is to be undertaken as part of preparation for WAP Stage 2. The existing plan has detailed lists of HRP's and HRS's for each LGA and it is these that AS has asked members to review.

The matter of what was a high-risk pathway (a linear path with risk of weed spread by vectors such as vehicles) was discussed at length. It applies both within a region (at local and regional levels) and to outside the region. Many examples were discussed to clarify:

- fodder trucks were vectors, points of sale for fodder were sites.
- Sydney Water main pipeline, which was regularly traversed by trucks that could be vectors. It was agreed that engagement of Sydney Water was important and vehicle hygiene practices was also important.
- The Western Sydney Parklands, which were a linear tract of land containing many bike tracks and the like. It was agreed that this was a site rather than a pathway, although infrastructure within it could be pathways.
- Sydney stormwater infrastructure
- Windsor Road- connects to a road that exits Sydney.
- Railways were high risk pathways. But Mal Decker also pointed out that parts of the rail corridors were assets where there were endangered ecological communities present (there were 116 of these in the rail network) and where they passed through significant assets such as the Blue Mountains WHA.
- Other parks, reserves and catchments were further identified as assets which needed to be considered as part of the risk assessment

related to a pathway. It was also pointed out that riparian corridors. E.g, along the Parramatta River also sometimes contained EECs.

Action 5.1. All members to provide updated list of local level High Risk Pathways to AS by end of January, considering risk of spread within the local LGA (additional ones not already listed in the existing HRP and Sites Management Plan).

High Risk Sites were also discussed and it was noted that the existing plan contained detailed list. It was queried whether members wanted to continue with this level of detail or summarise into categories. All agreed that the list was a useful resource for weed officers and committed to keep it updated. It was also discussed that there should be a schedule for updating of strategies and tools and it was agreed that this issue should be raised with the Board at the next meeting.

Action 5.2. AS to send detailed list of High Risk Sites to all members for update.
Action 5.3. High Risk Sites lists to be updated by all members by end of January. It was agreed that HRCC would collate for their members.
Action 5.4. AS to liaise with Mal Decker re railways and HRPs information.

6. Other Business

- Green Army (JR). Noted that applications for Round 2 due 9th December.
- Bio-control taskforce (CS) DPI are asking if anyone is interested in registering interest for using bio-controls e.g. Lantana, mother of millions (stem boring weevil), trad. Supply of *Salvinia* weevils is available – these have 80-90% success. If so then send Chris an email.
- All of lines up to Blue Mountains very shortly will have been mapped for weeds. Will supply raw data to SWC. Have also done Blacktown to Richmond line.
- Railway surveys – Mal Decker can arrange front of train passes for weed survey along railways by weeds officers. MD to send AD the applications for members.
- Next meeting; Wed 11th March at HRCC.
- Noted that Sydney Trains will host the June meeting.
- Business for raising with the Board.
 - Development of a schedule for regular updating of strategies and tools.

Action 6.1. MD to send applications for passes for railway surveys to EO for coordination of railway weed surveys (e.g. for boneseed next spring).
Action 6.2. MD to supply raw data of all the Sydney Train surveys to SWC
Action 6.3. CS to raise the issue of need for development of a schedule for regular updating of strategies and tools, with the Board at the next meeting.

Summary of actions arising from this meeting (2014.3)

| Action No | What | Who | By when |
|-----------|---|-----|----------------|
| 3.2.2.1 | Updated spread sheet to be circulated with minutes prior to being finalised (for comment of those not present). | EO | 1-Jan-15 |
| 3.3.1 | Provide HRCC boneseed location for SWC boneseed mapping. | CS | 11-Mar-15 |
| 3.3.2 | Provide weed alert for <i>Senecio glastifolia</i> (Holly-leaved senecio) | SP | 30-Jan-15 |
| 3.3.3 | Contact Rockdale/NPWS re corky passion fruit control techniques | JR | 11-Mar-15 |
| 3.4.1 | Send out final list of high-risk weeds for Sydney West Blue Mountains (A-D) for review, especially by those not present at the meeting. Feedback by end of January | EO | 10-Jan-15 |
| 3.5.1 | Provide updated list of local level High Risk Pathways to AS by end of January, considering risk of spread within the local LGA (additional ones not already listed in the existing HRP and Sites Management Plan). | ALL | 30-Jan-15 |
| 3.5.2 | AS to send detailed list of High Risk Sites to all members for update. | AS | ASAP |
| 3.5.3 | High Risk Sites lists sent by AS to be updated by end of January. It was agreed that HRCC would collate for their members. | ALL | 30-Jan-15 |
| 3.5.4 | Liaise with Mal Decker re Sydney Trains and HRPs information. | AS | 30-Jan-15 |
| 3.6.1 | Send applications for passes for railway surveys to EO for coordination of railway weed surveys (e.g. for boneseed next spring). | MD | 11-Mar-15 |
| 3.6.2 | Supply raw data of all the Sydney Train surveys to SWC | MD | Ongoing |
| 3.6.3 | Raise the issue of need for development of a schedule for regular updating of strategies and tools, with the Board at the next meeting | CS | Next Board mtg |

Attachment 1. Actions arising from WBM meeting 2014.1 held 8th May 2014 – Progress @ 28th Nov

| Action No | What | Who | By when | Progress @5 Sept | Progress @ 28th Nov |
|-----------|--|-----------------|--------------------|---|---|
| 1.3.1 | Provide new incursion report forms to EO, including location | ALL | 30-Jun | Ming asparagus completed | |
| 1.3.2 | Provide electronic copy of weed alert for Kei Apple to EO for circulation. | Matt Springall | 30-Jun | Carried forward | Steve Parker to follow up. |
| 1.3.3 | Discuss herbicide for Amazon Frog bit with DPI. Send photos and info for website to EO. | Chris Stanfield | 30-Jun | Carried forward | Carried forward |
| 1.3.4 | SWC to work out how to access nursery and garden industry days | EO/Chair/MS | Next mtg | Carried forward | JC to provide dates for industry days next year and copy of newsletter to EO. |
| 1.6.1 | Respond to request re updates required to regional weed brochures | ALL | Respond to request | Action to be carried forward (can now include changes to Order 30) | Completed |
| 1.6.2 | Provide feedback/comments and ideas on website to inform review | ALL | Ongoing | Ongoing | Ongoing. HRCC (Kaz) to assist with website review. |
| 1.6.3 | Consider SWC displays at Garden Expo (and other events) as part of development of SWC events program | EO | 10-Jul | Raised at Board/Steering group meeting and was supported. | HRCC offer to assist with Field Day (Karen J) |
| 1.6.4 | Develop list of education display resources for members | EO | Ongoing | Weeds extranet has logos, brochures, ideas for pamphlets, banners etc for use. http://extranet.dpi.nsw.gov.au/w | Ongoing |

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| | | | | eed/ns4w (under the "weeds awareness" tab) The username and password for our region are "salvinia" and "noxious". | |
| 1.7.1 | Prepare Weed Alert for Arundo donax and provide risk assessment links to EO for circulation. | Michael Pattison | 30-Jun | Alert tabled at meeting. | Completed |
| 1.8.1 | Email re 2014-15 meeting dates. | EO | | Completed | Completed |

Actions arising from WBM meeting 2014.2 held on 5th September

| Item No | Action | Who | By When | Progress @28th Nov |
|----------------|---|------------|----------------|--|
| 2.2.1 | Investigate the "google ads" projects further for DPI innovation funding and keep the RWC informed. | AS | ASAP | Complete 26th Sept |
| 2.3.1.1 | All members should ensure that: field staff should be aware of how to identify; all new locations should be noted for SWC GIS coverage and this forwarded to SWC; boneseed information sheet is distributed to stakeholders and community | ALL | ASAP | Complete |
| 2.3.1.2 | Ensure that SWC GIS boneseed coverage should be updated as part of SWC GIS project. | EO/ALL | Ongoing | Ongoing |
| 2.3.1.3 | Circulate current boneseed map | EO | 30th Oct | Information circulated for checking (spreadsheet instead of map). GIS person required to complete this action properly and this is SWC priority for next 6 months. |

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| | | | | Parramatta have controlled sites not on the map. SN to forward geo spatial info re these. |
| 2.3.4.1 | Provide contacts re website working group | CS, JD | 30th Oct | Kaz (HRCC) to assist. Requires follow-up |
| 2.3.4.2 | Web working group to consider Far North Coast website – Look Learn Act – as a good example. | ongoing | ongoing | Ongoing. |
| 2.3.4.3 | Members to provide support in relation to boneseed media stories. | ALL | 30 th Oct | Ongoing. Kaz (HRCC) to assist |
| 2.3.4.4 | Members to provide support to EO in relation to field day working group (volunteers wanted). | ALL | 28 th Nov | Carried Forward |
| 2.5.1.1 | Send new incursion reports to EO – Kei apple | SH | ASAP | SP to chase up NI report - Scott Herring has been working on it. Kemps Creek is a priority for NPWS. |
| 2.5.2.1 | Issue of time delay for declarations in context of drafting of new Biosecurity Act to be drawn to the attention of the Board for discussion/action. | Chair/ Board | Next Board mtg | Next Board mtg |
| 2.5.4.1 | Write letter expressing appreciation of efforts by Sydney Trains and seeking ongoing support | EO/Board | 30 th Oct | Draft circulated to Chair/Mal Decker. EO to re-send. |
| 2.5.5.1 | Send new incursion reports to EO – Ludwigia | EM | ASAP | EO to follow up. |
| 2.5.8.1 | Send any new incursion reports to EO | CS | ASAP | Ongoing |
| 2.6.1 | Chris Stanfield and Michael Pattison to forward letters of agreement to serve as Board representatives. | CS, MP | 5th Oct | Complete |
| 2.6.2 | Letter of acknowledgement and thanks from RWC to NPWS re Jonathan Sanders. | EO/Chair | 30th Oct | Draft circulated to Chair |