

SYDNEY WEST SOUTH REGIONAL WEEDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING Thursday 3rd March 2011

Casula Powerhouse
Hosted by Liverpool Council
Chair: Joel Daniels

1. Welcome and Introductions

Joel Daniels opened the meeting.

Attendees	Joel Daniels	Liverpool City Council
	Eddie Ferry	Fairfield City Council
	Alex Burgess	Wollondilly Shire Council
	Ceilo Roldan	Railcorp
	Rebecca Coventry	Office of the Hawkesbury Nepean
	Fiona Stalgis	Camden Council
	Renee Windsor	Campbelltown Council
	Claire deLacey	Acting Executive Officer, SWC
	Shelly Slater	GIS Officer, SWC
	Andres Bianchi	DECCW
	Andrew Attwell	Campbelltown Council
	Matt McNaughton	Camden Council
Apologies	Eddie Ferry	Fairfield City Council
	Denis Ashton	Sydney Catchment Authority

2.1 Confirmation of previous minutes

Minutes from previous meeting were accepted. Moved Rebecca Coventry. Seconded Renee Windsor.

2.2 Actions from previous meeting

Community Education Events – Royal Easter Show

Response for people offering to be Team Leaders at the Bushcare Stall at the 2011 Royal Easter Show has been good. Still in need of people to nominate themselves for the weekend time slots.

Action: Send a request for regional weed brochures to be used at Easter Show
Responsibility: Shelly Slater

2.3 Correspondence

Incoming: None

Outgoing: NWA review submission to Industry & Investment NSW.

3. Reports

3.1 Treasurer Report

Operating Account \$334,971.23 CR (includes balances from contributions from regional committees as shown below)

Investment Account \$364,000 CR Maturing 31st March

Operating accounts includes the below funds which were received from regional committees:

Sydney North \$22,440.55 (Mosman Council)

Sydney Central \$30,228.97 (Randwick Council)

Sydney South West \$12,300 (Fairfield Council)

3.2 Acting Executive/Project Officer's report

- Updating the membership status. In summary, few members are up-to-date with membership, paperwork and tax invoices for the allocated funding.

Four actions need to be completed by members before payment issued:

- 1) Application submitted
 - 2) Sign MOU
 - 3) Return form with nominated member
 - 4) Paid membership
- Facilitation of successful workshop hosted by Chris Dewhurst at Hawkesbury River County Council. Michael Michelmores from Industry and Investment NSW provided some thought-provoking material regarding the powers of delegation and how they differ between the Local Government and Noxious Weeds Acts, as well as a range of other material which is provided electronically and in hard copy.

Miscellaneous items:

- Successful negotiation with Judy Christie and Angie Fricker who are organising the the Royal Easter Show Exhibition. SWC is now represented by a range of members on roster developed by Shelly
- Amending monitoring and reporting forms and establishing deadlines with Shelly.

4. Agenda Items

4.1 Adoption of Weeds Alert/ Incursion/ Monitoring Form & Process

After gauging from the last subcommittee meeting the feeling that the forms need to be simple, and yet capture all relevant data needed for reporting. A first draft was circulated in late December requesting comments be made on the draft.

Possible amendments from this meeting included:

- *prior control methods*
- *work on ideas of how best to capture rate of spread / decline (between monitoring).*
- *ability to change the location of waypoint for aquatic weeds.*
- *include land uses such as ponds, dams & lakes*
- *need to be able to show a relationship between an existing plume and a new plume when plume is actively shifting location such as an aquatic scenario.*

It is understood that the most obvious problems with the form will arise when trailed in the field.

Action: To amend Alert/ Incursion/ Monitoring form and circulate for use.
Facilitate workshop for contractors, consultants and ground operation staff that covers how to use a GPS & how to fill out the incursion form.
Responsibility: Shelly Slater & Claire deLacey

4.1.1 Website Feedback – How the public is to communicate an alert.

The new website allows the public to report on invasive species following the protocol proposed by Frances Pike outlined on the website (found on the website under “What You Can Do/ What is being Done” > “Report Invasive Species”). The process involves the member of public using various weed and plant identification websites listed on the SWC website in an attempt to identify the weed. The following comments were made regarding the current process:

- There needs to be a link to the **National Parks contact** for bushwalkers/ members of public discovering an incursion/questioning a species found in a National Park.
- Request that the contact email address become the **council's generic email address** to allow recording of numbers of weed ID requests. Default to customer services unless otherwise specified.
- Request that the URL posted on the SWC website contact page be the **URL to the weeds page of that council/ agency**, rather than the council's home page.

- Suggested that a **simple form** is filled out by the member of the public that accompanies the photograph and is emailed to local council/agency. This form requests the information: location, maturity, count, area.

Action: Circulate the link to the Google spreadsheet for members to enter in their preferred email, URL and position in council.
Responsibility: Shelly Slater

4.2 Comprehensive list of weeds – filters for high risk

A set of filters applied to the comprehensive list of weeds to ascertain whether a species warrants listing as (i) high risk and (ii) potential for declaration as Class 4 (Weed Risk Assessment) WRA species.

All members were requested to think about what criteria is used in a WRA (I&I) and to think of any further additions to these criteria.

Action: See further information and clarification on this issue. Item for further discussion at the next meeting.
Responsibility: Claire deLacey

4.3 New Dept I & I workshop summary

The SWC Acting Executive Officer facilitated a workshop for members, which was presented by Michael Michelmore from Industry and Investment NSW.

The workshop covered the current issues relating to delegations under the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*.

All members are encouraged to check with their internal legal department to confirm delegation of powers is in accordance with the NWA.

- Example was given for Class 4 management plans highlighting the care needed in specifying the measures of control.
- The need to have current management plans re-endorsed by Council's (in their current form) was discussed.

Action: Circulate digital copies of the workshop notes and hand outs.
Responsibility: Claire deLacey

5. Agency Roundtable

Matthew: First round of spraying Alligator weed. Spread by mowers on side of road with brush hooks.

Alex: Trials of mixed sprays for blackberry & privet. Boneseed 90% reduction?

Andrew: New officer for Campbelltown. Undertaking weed inspections.

Andres: Myrtle Rust spread primarily through Nurseries.

Action: Circulate hygiene protocols for machinery & promote the reporting of incursion. **Responsibility:** Claire deLacey

6. General Business

None raised.

7. Next Meeting & Host

Next Meeting	
Contact	Matthew McNaughton
Date	Thursday 2 nd June 2011
Location	TBC
Host	Camden Council

ACTION LIST

Action	Responsibility	Status
Send a request for regional weed brochures & team leader roster for Royal Easter Show.	Claire deLacey	
Amend Alert/ Incursion /Monitoring form and circulate for use. Facilitate workshop for contractors, consultants & ground operation staff that covers how to use a GPS & how to fill out the incursion form.	Shelly Slater & Claire deLacey	
Circulate the link to the Google spreadsheet for members to enter in their preferred email, URL and position in council.	Shelly Slater	
Criteria for high risk weeds: See further information and clarification on this issue. Item for further discussion at the next meeting.	Claier deLacey	
Circulate Michael Michelmore's (I&I) workshop notes and handouts.	Claire deLacey	