



General Meeting MINUTES

05 March 15
Albury City Council Chambers

Local Government

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

Local Land Services

Murray
Riverina

Other Agencies

Department of Lands
NPWS
DPI
HLN

All

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1. **Introductions/Welcome** Neil Hibberson welcomed members and a quorum was established. The following detail was noted:

Apologies:

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Rodney Anderson	Urana Shire	Patrick Minogue	Corowa Shire
Tony Phelps	Wagga Wagga City		

Attendees

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Neil Hibberson	Greater Hume	Paula Bosse	RNWAGs
Ian Singleton	Corowa Shire	Francesco Bruinsma	Corowa Shire
Chris Slinger	RENWA	Robert Ferguson	RENWA
Jeremy Crocker	Wagga Wagga City	Chris Holman	Wagga Wagga City
Jan Mitchell	Albury City Council	Graeme Worboys	Cootamundra
Mel Wilkerson	Tumut Shire	Roger Evans	Narrandera Shire
Tracey Geppert	Lockhart Shire	Cr Jim Morgan	Lockhart Shire
Sharyn Coulston	Tumbarumba	Paul McPherson	Tumbarumba
Hillary Cherry	NPWS/OEH	Michael Michelmore	DPI
Mick Lalor	NPWS	Duane Shawcross	NPWS
Adam Craig	Crown Lands	Kylie Durant	HLN
Peter O'Shannassy	Murray LLS	Helen Wilson	Murray LLS
Ron Tilyard	Riverina LLS	Alan Dawes	Riverina LLS
Julia McCourt	Murray LLS		

2. **Previous Minutes-** Previous Minutes were noted from the General Meeting held at Albury City Council Chambers on 16 October 2014. It was noted that Andrew Negly is from Urana Shire and this change was made to the minutes. No other changes were noted.

Moved- Jim Morgan
Second- Tracey Geppert

3. **Business Arising** – The following items of business were noted:

- 3.1 A 'Herbicide Resistance' speaker will be organised for the next meeting.
3.2 Tracey Geppert noted that the date set for the next AGM will clash with the Weed Forum in Cooma. It was proposed that the AGM be moved to **29 October 2015**. The motion was carried with all in favour.

4. **Correspondence.** The Secretary noted the following items of correspondence received:

- 4.1 A report from Mich Michelmore (DPI) was received and tabled later in the meeting.
4.2 A letter was received from the Weed Society of NSW looking for a host for the 2017 Weeds Conference. Nil response required.

Moved: Jeremy Crocker
Seconded: Chris Slinger



5. Financial Reports. The current financial report was tabled by the Chairman. A full list of income and expenses is in the financial report which is available to members. The group net operating result was \$15,374.00. Suggestions for using funds will be discussed in general business.

Moved- Neil Hibberson
Second-Jan Mitchell

6. RNWPO's Reports

6.1 Congratulations to Paula, Lisa and the Red Guide Post team for their recent win at the Local Government Awards in December. The citation reads:

*Winner in Division C and Overall Winner Weed Management
Greater Hume Shire Council
Red Guide Posts – Riverina & Central Western NSW*

“Eastern Riverina Noxious Weeds Advisory Group, Western Riverina Noxious Weeds Advisory Group, Lachlan Valley Weeds Advisory Committee, Macquarie Valley Weeds Advisory Committee, Riverina & central west Local Control Authorities, Local Land Services and Roads and Maritime Services have collaborated to develop a simple system to assist in reducing the spread of high risk invasive species along roadsides. It involves the installation of red guide posts at the 'start' and 'end' of each roadside weed infestation to identify the site, and an extensive awareness campaign to ensure that the local weeds officer is consulted on any works that occur at these sites.”

Paula Bosse, project officer for the RNWAG managed this project. Murray LLS supported this activity to extend the reach of the public awareness campaign. A big win for collaboration in the region!

6.2 Paula noted that she would not read her report – a copy is attached to the minutes for delegates to read and copies were handed out on the day. The remainder of the discussion centered around the WAP and preparations/arrangements/processes for the 2015-2020 input. Key items to note:

- WAPs must be aligned to LLS regions.
- Michael outlined DPI position on the WAP in his report (copy attached) and the detail provided in the WAP guidelines.
- Delegates were reminded that councils and LLS's need to formally confirm their financial support for the Project Officer position for the next 5 years. Please check with your organisation to ensure this is done ASAP.
- Mandatory meeting for the officer actually filling out the WAP spreadsheet 19 March at Darlington Point
- Electronic spreadsheets must be with Paula by 31 March 15
- Partner declarations must accompany all spreadsheet input
- Current WAP – nearly time to produce final reports so start checking financial targets now

Moved – Jan Mitchell
Second – Neil Hibberson

7. Agenda Items

7.1 Community Based Social Marketing. Aaron Driver has been contracted by DPI to assist change programs. The key message is that you have to change peoples' behaviour to affect change – commitment is an important part of that process. Key steps involved in the process are

1. Identify the behaviour you desire, or wish to change
2. Identify the barriers and benefits to those changes (do some research)
3. Identify relevant strategies (eg commitments, prompts, social norms)
4. Piloting of the program, review, adjustment
5. Implementation
6. Evaluation

Paula noted the value of CBSM techniques to the Red Guide Post Project. Courses are intermittently available and there is a website www.cbsm.com

7.2 Hawkweed Incursions. Duane Shawcross from NPWS gave an interesting and somewhat scary account of Orange Hawkweed infestations and behaviour in and around Tumut River and Kosciusko. 26 new infestations found this year so far, but Duane noted that control efforts appear to be working, and the number of new sites found is comparatively less. It appears the seeds can be active for 5 years, thus a five year program of treatment is required to ensure a result. One infestation of Mouse Eared Hawkweed has been found in Tumbarumba Shire near Strezlecki Creek. This is being monitored. Many community volunteers and a variety of agencies have been involved in monitoring and mapping over the flowering period. Hillary Cherry then discussed the Weed Detector Dog (WEDD) program, funded through the AP Innovation grant. The two dogs are in training and showing great promise as another tool in the fight against weeds in difficult terrain.

7.3 MDB Aquatic Weeds Project. Hillary noted the progress of this project and the range of resources that have been developed. The toolkit and information/resources will be available online shortly and via the ERNWAG site for all weed professionals.

7.4 Sagittaria Containment Zone Update. Mick Lalor from NPWS also gave a great roundup of the progress with this project, including maps of identified sites and control activities. This is another great example of cross agency and cross state collaboration.

8. Weed Officer and Other Agency Reports

Reports received by the Secretary are held electronically and available on request. Of note, Chris Slinger stated that he had a good contact for bio control of Tiger Pear if other weed officers were interested. Jeremy Crocker noted his 'sting' of a local seller of Frogbit that he has nipped in the bud. Paul McPherson thanked ERNWAG members for their well wishes and support during his accident recovery. A request was made for a speaker on Silver Leaf Nightshade (Phil Bowden?). Verbal reports were also tabled by DLO (Adam) who noted the opportunity to submit applications for the Crown Land Reserve Grants for gazetted Reserves (see attached info sheet), NPWS (Duane) and HLN (Kylie). Kylie noted that HLN is the local Green Army coordinator if shires wish to use this resource.

9. General Business

9.1 Jan raised the issue of a sunshade or awning for the trailer. A motion was made by Jeremy Crocker that \$1500 be made available for Jan to investigate and purchase a portable marquee and some form of awning fitting for the trailer. The motion was seconded by Mel Wilkerson and passed by all.

Action: Jan to investigate and purchase a portable marquee and awning fitting for the trailer.

9.2 A second motion was also raised by Jan that Rob investigate the cost of a solar set up for the trailer (panels/battery etc) to provide a source of power. This would potentially be a shared cost between Eastern and Western groups. The motion was again seconded by Mel and passed by all.

Action: Rob investigate the cost of a solar power setup for the trailer and report back to the June meeting.

9.3 Mel noted that he still remained the contact for the Weeds Officers association if anyone had any queries or issues.

9.4 The Weeds Conference was discussed, a reminder was issued for abstracts for speakers due now. Graeme, on behalf of LVWG, asked ERNWAG to consider grants for community members to attend the Weeds Conference. He noted that the LVWG has a 'scholarship' of \$1000 for people to attend conferences or training every second year.

Action: Neil to raise the issue of a 'scholarship' for weed related training at next general meeting.

10. The next ERNWAG general meeting is set for 04 June 2015 at Albury City Council. Meeting Closed: 1400.

Julia McCourt
Secretary ERNWAG
20 Mar 15