

MINUTES

Teleconference

**Thursday 3 September 2009
9.00 AM WADST (Australia)**



1. Present.

Sandy Lloyd (SL) – President (due to telephone problems SL cut out 15 minutes into the meeting)
Trevor James (TJ) – Vice President, NZ
Alex Douglas (AD) – Secretary/Treasurer
Rachel McFadyen (RMcF) – Qld
Rex Stanton (RS) – NSW
Warwick Felton (WF) - NSW
Aaron Maxwell (AM) – WA
Catherine Borger (CB) - WA
David Hughes (DH) – SA
Rachel Melland (RM) – SA
Kerry Harrington (KH) - NZ

2. Apologies.

Michael Hansford (MH) –Vic
Matthew Stevenson (MS) - Vic
Ian Popay (IP) - NZ
Jarrah Vercoe (JV) – Tas
Martin Bower (MB) - Tas
Dorean Erhart (DE) – Qld
Alice Beilby (AB) – NT

3. Additional agenda items

To be added to Business arising
6.3 Contacts for state societies
9.5 Progress on CAWS website

4. Adoption of Minutes from meeting held 4 June 2009.

Motion # 09/09 01. RMcF moved that the minutes be accepted.
Seconded by TJ. Unanimously accepted.

5. Presidents Report.

(Circulated via email, by SL)

Hi Everyone, I've been trying to think about the issues that have been in the media since the last teleconference, certainly not weeds. The GFC and swine flu are still in the news. Perth was a seething mass of colds in July, then had a spike in swine flu cases after the school holidays.

Several conferences, meetings and workshops have been held since the last teleconference, for example:

- *NZ PPS had their 62nd annual conference in Dunedin*
- *WSQ held the 10th Queensland Weed Symposium in Yeppoon (and announced a new award)*
- *Tasmania held a Land & Water Australia Forum*

WA will soon hold a Land & Water Australia Forum (see the WSWA report) and NSW is planning for two separate seminars. All this is very important in the world of weeds, CAWS and it's member societies need to keep weeds on the agenda at all levels.

Excellent progress has been made towards 17AWC – I congratulate Trevor and Ian for this. Excellent progress has also been made towards hosting APWSS in 2011 which we will discuss later.

Two of our travel award recipients were in South Africa last week so we will have reports from them soon.

Funding for the Australian Weeds Research Centre was an election promise by Labour but it seems nothing much is happening there. I have called the office of Minister Tony Burke to find out about this.

- *The WONS are under review.*
- *Australian Weeds Committee*
- *Weedbuster Week next week*

RMcF plans to draft a letter of enquiry to the Aust. Weeds Research Centre, a body that looks as if it has 'fallen in a hole', to ask what progress is being made, if any. Suggests that other societies draft similar letters on an individual basis.

TJ would like suggestions for CAWS orators preferably Australian or addressing Australian issues.

6. Secretary / Treasurers Report.

A treasurer's report had been circulated prior to the teleconference.

6.1 There have been continued problems with getting signatories added to the bank accounts with the NAB. In the AGM that immediately follows this meeting we will discuss a motion to add AD and TJ as signatories to the bank accounts. This added level of formality will hopefully meet the banks requirements.

6.2 The three CAWS travel award recipients have received their awards (and banked them).

6.3 Payment has been made to John Kean for redevelopment of the website

6.4 A question was asked regarding the income of the society. CAWS income is derived from membership levies, shared profits from conferences and interest on deposits. There are no royalties received.

Further to this, who has paid their membership fees for 2008/2009? and if a society has not paid their membership are they still entitled to vote?

According to the constitution there is no stipulation made that a society needs to be financial to have a vote on the council. AD did a quick check of the records and determined that 3 societies were financial (*Later AD was able to determine that all but one society had paid their fees for 2008/2009*).

Action - AD asked delegates to contact their state sec/treas and determine the number of members in their society so that the invoices for membership can be sent out for 09/10.

6.5 The books will be submitted to an auditor next week (week starting 7 September 2009)

Motion # 09/09 02. AD moved that the financial and secretarial reports be accepted.

Seconded by TJ. Unanimously accepted

7. Business arising from previous minutes.

7.1. Draft guidelines for international visitors.

This topic has been on the agenda for nearly 12 months now. With the changes in delegates and confusion over what we are aiming to alter in the draft policy, it has been decided to redraft the policy and start the process again.

Action – SL and John Virtue to redraft and submit the draft guidelines for international visitors and resubmit to CAWS prior to the December meeting. Please also include a 'history of the discussion' where possible.

7.2 Awards (membership of state society clause)

There was concern that if we make restrictions then we will get fewer applicants.

We can use the awards as a means of attracting students to areas of weed research and to advertise state societies.

WSQId make becoming a member a requirement after receiving an award, but whether they remain members after that initial year is another thing.

Could favor long term or existing members, but not make it a requirement.

We do not need to alter the policy. Individual societies may make being a member of **state** society a requirement for **state** awards if they choose to.

The CAWS committee agreed that there **does not** need to be a change to the policy regarding state society member status (currently not required) of applicants for the CAWS student and Young Weed Scientist Awards.

7.3 Sponsorship by CAWS of speakers at non-weed conferences.

There was similar discussion regarding this point as the one listed above.

CAWS sponsorship of non-weed conferences raises awareness of weeds and the profile of CAWS.

There is not statement in the current policy stipulating that it needs to be a weed related conference.

The present CAWS committee, decided to leave the decision of support for non-weed conferences up to the CAWS committee of the time.

Decisions to be made on a case by case basis. The current consensus is that support should not be limited to weed conferences.

WF asked that a member of a state society should be associated with what ever meeting is to be supported.

State societies may not have sufficient funds to offer support. CAWS is a prominent national body and it may be more appropriate for support to come from CAWS. CAWS can involve the relevant state society to represent it at a face to face level (meet and greet etc).

7.4 Contacts for delegates and state societies.

AD has sent out a document requesting contact details of delegates and also for state society secretaries. AD has received some of these, also delegate profiles.

Action – AD to compile and circulate contacts and delegate profiles.

7.5 Web site redevelopment.

The redeveloped website is now on line. Although at present it is a little light on for content. There were also some concerns that it was hard to find, not appearing on 'google', perhaps the old site needs to be hidden. When will the .pdf files of papers from AWC's be added to the site?

Action – TJ to contact John Kean regarding the points above.

Action – AD to send updated constitution and nomination forms for awards to John for loading on website.

8. Reports from member societies

Note – the state society reports have been combined into a separate document circulated with these minutes.

8.1 South Australian Report.

Report presented by RM.

8.2 Victoria.

No report, no Vic delegates.

8.3 New South Wales.

Report presented by RS.

8.4 Western Australia.

Report presented by AM.

8.5 New Zealand.

Report presented by IP.

8.6 Tasmania.

Report circulated by MB.

8.7 Queensland.

Report presented by RMcF.

8.8 Northern Territory

No report tabled.

9. General Business

9.1 Support for "Is that plant poisonous" book (Agenda Paper Ros Sheppard)

Ros Sheppard has submitted a request for an interest free loan (or grant) of \$5,000, to assist with printing this book.

Victoria and NSW are already contributing \$5,000 each and WA \$2,500 to support this publication.

The committee considered an interest free loan more appropriate than a grant.

Motion # 09/09 03. WF moved that CAWS provide an interest free loan of \$5,000 to support the printing of “Is that plant poisonous”. Loan to be repaid following the sale of the first 600 copies. Seconded RMcF. All in favour.

Action – SL to contact Ros Sheppard to advise her of the outcome of this request.

Action – AD to send formal letter of notification and advise of repayment stipulation.

9.2. APWSS conference proposal (Agenda paper Steve Adkins)

Steve Adkins is requesting seed funding, of \$13,000, to support the set up costs for the 23rd APWSS conference to be held in Cairns in 2011.

WF does not support CAWS support for this conference as it is not being hosted/run by a state society.

However, there is an international committee organizing this conference and it has been given support to be hosted in Australia. WSQ had recently run an AWC and did not bid for the APWSS, Steve Adkins bid was successful and it was supported by WSQ. WSQ has also contributed funds to this conference and has a representative on the organizing committee.

There was concern that the loan will need to be repaid to CAWS.

APWSS do have a successful track record and the majority of the committee do not think that there is risk of a significant loss.

CAWS support for this conference will raise the profile of CAWS and local and international interest in weeds and weed issues.

Motion # 09/09 04. TJ moved that CAWS support Steve Adkins request for a seed loan of \$13,000 to help set up and host the 23rd APWSS conference in Cairns in 2011. Seconded by AM.

A vote followed. NSW voted against the proposal with all other delegates supporting the proposal. There was a clear majority in favour and the motion was carried.

Action – SL to contact Steve Adkins to notify him of the outcome of his request.

Action – AD to write to Steve Adkins advising him of the policy on the use of CAWS funds with the loan repayment stipulation highlighted.

A second request was also made by Steve Adkins, that a member of CAWS serve on the organizing committee of the 23rd APWSS.

Rachel Melland (RM) has nominated to stand on this committee. There were no other nominations and RM was supported by the CAWS committee as our representative on this committee.

9.3 Seed funding for the 18th Australasian Weeds Conference (Agenda paper Ros Sheppard).

The request is for \$12,000 as seed funding for the 18th AWC, they are entitled to \$15,000 according to our policies.

Motion # 09/09 05. TJ moved that the Weed Society of Victoria be supported with seedling funds of up to \$15,000, to assist with the set up and management of the 18th AWC. Funds to be forwarded when requested and a copy of the relevant CAWS policy to be included with the stipulations on profit share and repayment window highlighted. Seconded WF. All in favour.

Action – SL to contact Ros Sheppard and inform her of the committee's decision.

9.4 2009 Weed wise Nursery Award.

9.4.1 NZ has already found a winner for this year.

9.4.2 No nominations were received by Australian state societies.

9.5 CAWS orator for 17th AWC.

NZ committee seeking input on as suitable CAWS orator for the 2010 conference. Looking for someone that would provide information and views pertinent to Australia, as other key note speakers span local (NZ) and international topics.

Action – Please circulate request to state society executives and send suggestions to SL and TJ.

9.6 Report on 17th AWC

TJ requested that delegates circulate to their state society membership that the website is active and open for receiving abstract submissions.

Action – TJ to draft a newsletter article for inclusion in state society newsletters.

Conference fees have been set. Altering the conference 'layout' could bring the costs down more. By altering the field trips to the first or last day of the conference could reduce costs as a conference space would not need to be retained empty for a day. This may impact on the number of people attending the field trips.

The committee were comfortable with altering the field trips to the first day of the conference. This is perhaps too late for the 2010 conference but may be a suggestion for the 18th AWC in 2012.

10. Next meeting.

Teleconference: 3rd December 2009. 9am Western Australian Standard Time (Aus.)

Meeting closed 10.55 am

President.....____/____/2009