

MINUTES

Teleconference

Thursday 4 June 2009

9.00 AM WADST (Australia)



1. Present.

Sandy Lloyd (SL) – President
Trevor James (TJ) – Vice President, NZ
Alex Douglas (AD) – Secretary/Treasurer
Ian Popay (IP) - NZ
Rachel McFadyen (RMcF) – Qld
Dorean Erhart (DE) – Qld
Rex Stanton (RS) – NSW
Warwick Felton (WF) - NSW
Aaron Maxwell (AM) – WA
Catherine Borger (CB) - WA
David Hughes (DH) – SA
Michael Hansford (MH) –Vic
Matthew Stevenson (MS) - Vic
Jarrah Vercoe (JV) - Tas

2. Apologies.

Rachel Melland (RM) – SA
Axel Meiss (JM) – Tas.
Alice Beilby (AB) – NT

3. Additional agenda items

6.2 Correspondence In; Letter from Ros Sheppard requesting financial assistance with the publication of a book on poisonous weeds.

9.4 Book on Poisonous weeds (Ros Sheppard).

4. Adoption of Minutes from meeting held 5 March 2009.

Motion # 06/09 01. RS moved that the minutes be accepted.

Seconded by MH. Unanimously accepted.

5. Presidents Report.

(Circulated via email, by SL)

The two things that come to mind are the global financial crisis (even being referred to in the media as "The GFC") and swine flu. I heard on the ABC two days ago that Kevin Rudd plans to host an Asia-Pacific forum and one of the

subject areas mentioned was biosecurity. Weeds are rarely given high priority in the scheme of things so I'm betting it will be swine flu on the agenda rather than weeds or other invasive species. It is very important that we keep weeds at the forefront, and give support to conferences, travel awards and so on.

On a positive note, good progress has been made with 17AWC and even 18AWC, and Steve Adkins won his bid to host the APWSS conference in Queensland. I have news that two American weed scientists will be visiting Australia, for separate conferences, later this year and will probably be able to address some weed society events.

There is an initiative from Prime Minister Rudd for an Asian Pacific forum on biosecurity.

Action – SL to write a letter.

6. Secretary / Treasurers Report.

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

6.1 Reimbursement of the WA society for the Weed Wise Nursery Award. AD is still unable to do this as the amount owing to the WSWA has not been submitted. (WSWA treasurer has recently had a baby).

Action – AM stimulate submission of an invoice prior to the next meeting.

6.2 Secretary/treasurer stipend. According to CAWS policy this stipend is an annual amount of \$1000, adjusted for CPI. AD has submitted an invoice to the President and Vice-president for payment to be approved.

6.3 Contacts for delegates and state societies. AD has sent out a document requesting contact details of delegates and also for state society secretaries.

Action – Those who have not completed these details please do so and return to AD.

6.4 The amendments to the constitution passed at the AGM and again at the last meeting have been accepted by DOCEP.

Action – AD to load amended constitution on the website.

Motion # 06/09 02. AM moved that the financial and secretarial reports be accepted.

Seconded by JV. Unanimously accepted

7. Business arising from previous minutes.

7.1. Draft Guidelines for international visitors. SL has not been able to make alterations previously discussed to points 4 and 5 from the paper submitted by John Virtue.

Action – SL to alter wording of points 4 and 5 and circulate to the council members for discussion at next meeting, all to make comment on it please.

7.1.1. Itinerary of Dr Carla D'Antonio. Dr D'Antonio's mother is unwell and she is now unable to travel to Australia in August.

7.2 Awards (membership of state society clause)

There had been limited comments received from the state societies regarding this subject.

Action – AD to circulate the original document (from NSW) and the comments received to date following the conclusion of this meeting.

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

Once again there had been limited comments received from the state societies regarding this subject.

Action – AD to circulate the original document (from NSW) and the comments received to date following the conclusion of this meeting.

7.4 17th AWC, key note speaker suggestions

There is currently no specific subject areas or themes.

Action - Please send through suggestions of key note speakers to TJ ASAP.

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 tabled by DH.

8.2 Victoria.

Report tabled by MH.

It was asked 'who is responsible for organising the CAWS Orator?'. The answer to this is the state society organising the conference, CAWS will cover the costs following submission of the request to fund document being received and approved.

APWSS being held in Queensland should not conflict with delegates (even though the conferences will be 1 year apart).

8.3 New South Wales.

Report presented by RS.

8.4 Western Australia.

Report tabled by AM.

8.5 New Zealand.

Report tabled by IP.

8.6 Tasmania.

Report presented by JV.

The Tas society has held an AGM recently and a new committee has been elected. The delegates from Tas are now Jarrah Vercoe and Axel Meiss.

Planning 2 weed ID workshops.

Have the 'defeating the weed menace' forums been scrapped? Advised to contact Judy Lambert.

Tas is providing assistance for a scholarship to look at what enters Tasmania via the 'Spirit of Tasmania' (Ferry).

Providing incentives for membership.

8.7 Queensland.

Report presented by DE.

Qld website has had a facelift. Pdf versions of 'Weedshine' have been added.

Weed spotter groups have been created.

Working with 'Grow me Instead' to determine appropriate less weedy plant alternatives.

Been approached by Steve Adkins with a request to financially support APWSS conference.

Upcoming Qld weed symposium currently has 160 registrations and sponsorship exceed costs!

8.8 Northern Territory

No report tabled.

9. General Business

9.1 2009 Student and Early Career Weed Scientist Awards

Three applications were received for this years awards, one student and two early career weed scientists. The student has only requested \$2000 rather than the \$3000. The awards subcommittee has recommended that all three applications be supported as this will only increase the cost of these awards by \$1000, see the agenda paper on this issue.

CB questioned whether it would be better for all delegates to view the applications. It was discussed and decided that the existing selection process (sub-committee of President, Immediate past president and third person) is most appropriate.

Motion # 06/09 03. That the CAWS Executive approves the Student travel award to Ms Janukowski, and two Early Career Scientist Travel Awards, to Dr McAlpine and Dr Michael. To the value of \$6,000.

Moved SL, seconded TJ, carried.

Action – AD to write letters of congratulation and cheques for the three recipients as soon as possible to facilitate their travel planning.

WF – were reports received from the 2008 award recipients?

Action – SL to follow-up with SA delegate regarding submission of reports

Of the three applicants, two are members of their state societies.

9.2. APWSS conference proposal

It is not clear from the proposal submitted by Steve Adkins if he is planning to share any profits with CAWS or if he is also asking for support to fund a CAWS Orator.

Need to ask him to write another clearer more concise paper to submit prior to the next council meeting.

Australia could be quite a safe venue and could get good attendance; all depends on future finances and range of flights to the conference venue (Cairns or Brisbane).

Adkins is acting independently of the Qld society but will have an executive member on the organizing committee. Qld is contributing \$13,000.

APWSS may not be in a position to provide seed funding.

Good logo exposure is a must.

Action – SL to rewrite the agenda paper and circulate to the committee following clarification with Steve Adkins.

9.3. 2009 Weed wise Nursery Award.

9.3.1. NZ has already found a winner for this year.

9.3.2. Australia is not as organized.

9.4. Poisonous Plant Book (Ros Sheppard)

Book to focus on plants poisonous to livestock and pets.

Discussion was held whether a loan or a gift of the requested amount (\$5,000) was in the best interests of CAWS. A gift will result in the books being sold at a cheaper price.

Action – SL to rewrite the request in CAWS format and circulate enabling delegates time to discuss prior to the next meeting.

NZ poisonous plants book recently published. There could be some areas of cross over between the publications and some savings could be possible.

9.5. Progress on CAWS website.

Action – SL to recirculate the URL for the new website.

Still asking for people to send in any items of interest, links, photos etc.

Action – TJ to contact John Keen to get a report on progress to date and a deadline for completion of the site.

10. Next meeting.

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

Meeting closed 10.40 am

President.....____/____/2009