

MINUTES

Executive meeting, teleconference.

Thursday 8th September 2011
9:00am WA SDT



1. Present.

Trevor James (TJ) – President
Kerry Harrington (KH) – Secretary / NZ
Alex Douglas (AD) – Treasurer
Sandy Lloyd (SL) – Past President, WA proxy
Alan Barton (AB) – Tas
Dorean Erhart (DE) – Qld (arrived late)
Warwick Felton (WF) – NSW
Lawrie Greenup (LG) – NSW proxy
Michael Hansford (MH) – Vic
Rachel Melland (RM) – SA (arrived late)
Anna-Marie Penna (AMP) – WA
Ian Popay (IP) – NZ
Steve Walker (SW) - Qld

2. Apologies.

Michael Widderick (MW) – Vice president
Catherine Borger (CB) – WA
Marty Bower (MB) – Tas
John Burley (JB) – Vic
Sheree Edwards (SE) – SA
Rex Stanton (RS) – NSW

IP moved that the apologies be sustained. Seconded by SW. Carried.

3. Additions/Alterations to the agenda.

A report on the Asian-Pacific Weed Conference was requested to be added to the general business.

(RM joined the meeting)

4. Conflict of interest declarations.

No conflicts of interest were declared.

5. Adoption of the minutes from 9 June 2011.

No corrections made.

TJ moved from the chair that the minutes be accepted. Carried.

6. Business arising from previous minutes.

6.1 Financial support for "Weed News"

TJ contacted David Low (DL) asking for more clarification on whether he was still seeking funding from CAWS. He has not replied so TJ feels we let that matter rest unless DL does make contact again.

6.2 CAWS Orator for herbicide resistance conference

SL reported that Steve Powles (SP) will probably request financial support for Dr Jason Norsworthy from University of Akansas to be the CAWS orator at his herbicide resistance conference in 2013. Some discussion followed as to whether member societies should be putting in bids now to have him visit their area as part of the CAWS funding, though it was uncertain how much he would be prepared to travel widely. Those societies with an interest could contact SL though before she puts in a formal bid at the December meeting on behalf of SP to fund a CAWS Orator.

7. President's Report.

This was pre-circulated and TJ quickly summarized it. AB raised at this point that the Tasmanian Society was very appreciative of TJ's recent input to their meeting about holding an Australasian Weeds Conference.

TJ moved from the chair that the report be adopted. Carried.

8. Treasurer's Report.

This was pre-circulated. AD reported that the first of the fixed term deposit investments has matured, earning CAWS \$370, and this has been reinvested at 5.5%. Cards have been sent out to all delegates with the numbers required to join teleconferences for each meeting.

TJ moved that the report be adopted. Seconded by AB. Carried.

9. Correspondence

There were no items of correspondence apart from miscellaneous e-mail messages.

10. Reports from Member Societies.

The reports from member societies are compiled in a separate document circulated with these minutes.

10.1. Report from SA

Presented by RM.

10.2. Report from Vic

Presented by MH. An update was given on planning for the next CAWS conference. AB asked for clarification about the comment that Richard Mack, who will be speaking at the conference, may be able to visit other societies if there is an interest.

(DE joined the meeting)

10.3. Report from NSW

Presented by WF. He stated that NSW is considering withdrawing from CAWS if more rapid progress is not made with review of the constitution. TJ suggested the NSW executive may be misunderstanding the review process, as they had been expecting to receive comments from other societies as they discussed it, whereas the agreed process was to report to today's meeting.

10.4. Report from WA

Presented by AMP.

10.5. Report from NZ

Presented by TJ.

10.6. Report from Tas

Presented by AB. They have confirmed they will host the 2014 Australasian Weeds Conference. RM reinforced that those members who have hosted past conferences are happy to give Tas advice with holding theirs. A short discussion then occurred about conference organising companies.

10.7. Report from Qld

Presented by SW. No written report was pre-circulated. They recently held the 11th Queensland Weeds Symposium, which went well, but attendance was low, so they have made a loss of about \$8000. Sales of the "Weeds of Southern Queensland" have been going very well.

11. General Business.

11.1. Report on Upcoming Asian Pacific Weeds Conference

RM reported that they have 172 paying delegates signed up for the conference at present, but they are still expecting to make a loss. They need another 42 delegates to attend and another \$10,000 in sponsorship in order to break even. At present, they are looking at making a \$33,900 loss if these extra delegates and sponsorship are not found. She made a plea for more Australians to attend the conference. WF asked for clarification on who is representing CAWS for the Asian Pacific Weeds Society. RM is representing CAWS on the conference organising committee, but SW is representing CAWS on the Asian Pacific Weeds Society executive.

11.2 Plant Protection Quarterly

LG stated that NSW are keen that CAWS not become involved with running "Plant Protection Quarterly" now that Rob and Fiona Richardson are looking at no longer being editors for this, but that we simply help facilitate finding a new editor. TJ assured him that was all CAWS was likely to be doing. There was some discussion about whether PPQ was likely to survive into the future, and also about letting anybody interested in taking on the editor's role to contact Rob and Fiona directly.

11.3 Written Proceedings for Australasian Weeds Conferences

Vic had asked for clarification about whether written proceedings must be made available for the conference. TJ read out the current policy (CAWS Policy 2, available on the CAWS web-site) on this issue, stating that printed

proceedings do need to be produced, but that there is a grey area over whether every delegate needs to have a copy. He suggested that organisers could ask each delegate whether they wish to receive a printed copy or whether an electronic copy would suffice. Discussion then occurred on the pros and cons of every delegate having printed proceedings. TJ concluded this by saying that the organisers need to have some copies printed for libraries and that typesetting is needed even for electronic copies, but they can look into possibly limiting how many of the delegates receive them if they wish.

11.4 Bid by WA to host 7th International Weeds Conference

SL reported that there has been no further news on this matter.

11.5 Constitutional review

TJ reminded the meeting that recommendations were tabled at the June 2011 CAWS executive meeting from a sub-committee about changes to the constitution, and that each member society was asked to consider the recommended changes prior to the current meeting. The present constitution states that changes to the constitution need be circulated 2 months in advance of a vote, and that changes require a three fourths majority vote of member societies. As there are seven member societies, six of these seven must vote in favour of the changes for them to be passed. AMP stated that when their society considered the document, they were looking at an earlier version of it, so the comments they circulated before the meeting are now irrelevant as they were addressing issues that no longer existed in the version of the document that was supposed to be considered. Because they discussed the wrong document, they did not feel they could vote today. LG felt NSW couldn't vote because they want to see comments on the suggested changes by each member society. TJ suggested that NSW were causing unnecessary delays wanting to do this, and it was ironic that it was NSW who stated the process was taking too long. RM and SW then both stated that they did not feel it was necessary to have opinions from each society to make their decision on the document, which was put together by a carefully selected sub-committee, which included John Virtue who has lots of background knowledge of CAWS. AMP stated that many members have limited time to spend on such issues and that they need more time to consider the document. TJ stated that the time-consuming part had been done by the sub-committee, and that it was written in such a way that 3 months was ample time to consider the issues involved. WF then stated they cannot vote as RS was the NSW person dealing with the constitutional review and in his absence, they didn't feel able to vote. Several delegates expressed annoyance at NSW now holding up proceedings despite complaining about lack of progress. KH suggested that even though WA have not discussed the correct document and NSW are hesitant to vote, that the remaining societies should voice their opinions on the review document. Delegates from NZ, Vic, Tas, Qld and SA stated they were happy with the recommendations of the review document, apart from some minor wording issues picked up by NZ to make the document read better. The WA reps decided that if the five societies who have looked at the document are happy with what has been suggested in the review, and as they were at fault for not looking at the

correct document, they were prepared to vote in favour of the changes being approved rather than hold up the ratification process.

Motion # 9/11 01. TJ moved that the revisions to the constitution as submitted at the June 2011 meeting be accepted in entirety subject to some typographical corrections. Seconded by SW. All seven member societies agreed, though NSW had their vote subject to RS agreeing to the typographical changes. So the motion was carried.

TJ said work can now begin on the review of the CAWS strategic plan. RM, SW and AMP reminded TJ that they agreed at a past meeting to help TJ on this review, so some work may begin before the next meeting.

12. Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be Thursday 8th December 9 am WAST.

Meeting closed at 10.43 am WAST.