



Lachlan Central West Landcare

Communities Supporting Natural Resource Management

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 10th November 2006 Forbes Services Memorial Club, Templar Street, Forbes

Meeting opened: 9.00 am

PRESENT: Ron Spithill (Watershed), Colleen Watts (Central Tablelands), Ian McColl (Mid Lachlan), Ted Spackman (Castlereagh/Lower Macquarie), Ruth Worthington (Condobolin and Districts), Margaret Haddin (Parkes & Districts), Don Bruce (Cumnock), Fergus Job (Cumnock), Stephen Pereira (Grenfell), Rod Blake (Boorowa), Mike Chambers (Lachlan Catchment Officer, Landcare).

APOLOGIES: John Johnson (Weddin), James Wheelwright (Crookwell), Brian Phillips (Central Tablelands), Paul Gavin (Dunedoo).

MOTION: That the apologies be accepted

MOVED: Ruth Worthington **SECONDED:** Margaret Haddin **CARRIED:** All in favour

AGM AGENDA

Ted Spackman took the Chair. All were welcomed to the meeting.

PREVIOUS MINUTES:

MOTION: That the Minutes of the General Meeting on 7th December 2005 are a true and accurate record.

MOVED: Ron Spithill **SECONDED:** Ian McColl **CARRIED:** All in favour

BUSINESS ARISING:

No issues outstanding

CO-CHAIR'S REPORTS

Co Chair Central West Report – Ted Spackman

“The Central West has had a disappointing year, we have not been able to institute any projects nor get any interest in the network, and I think most of the apathy is due to the drought and the lack of a Landcare coordinator.

“In conjunction with the Dunedoo Coolah Community Group and the Central West Catchment Management Authority we are having discussions with the Warrumbungle Shire Council in an effort to have them host a position for a Landcare coordinator. The coordinator will service the Coonamble, Coonabarabran, Coolah/Dunedoo and Gilgandra areas. So far we have developed a job description, and are in the middle of completing a MOU. Some problems have arisen due to the Council wanting to incorporate the position into the Council salary and administrative structure. This could lead to the salary being more than we wish to pay and to us losing control of the position. The Council are also requesting payment for the provision of some of the services to be provided. I hope the differences can be resolved in the near future.

“Lately our relations with the Central West Catchment Management Authority have improved. A Central West Natural Resources Community and CMA Working Group has been formed, and is meeting on a regular basis.

“I hope that this meeting can come to some conclusions as to our future. I want the group to continue but we in the Central West will have to make more of an effort to get all (or most) of the networks to continue with us to ensure we have a voice into the future. As a member of the NSW Landcare Committee I now appreciate how the larger groups can influence political advisors and get your views put to the politicians.”

MOTION: That the Central West Co-Chair’s report be accepted.

MOVED: Ted Spackman **SECONDED:** Ruth Worthington **CARRIED:** All in favour

Co Chair Lachlan Report - Ian McColl

“Lachlan has had a reasonable year with a good working relationship with the Lachlan CMA. The CMA is finding it difficult to get funding out at the levels required and the Lachlan CMA/Landcare working group will be having a meeting with the LCMA Board later today.

“The current situation with the drought is unprecedented and creating problems with getting works out on the ground. This is making it hard to support people and provide general motivation.

“Mike Chambers as the Landcare coordinator is having valuable input and is a valuable resource for Landcarers. It is noted that Mike wishes he could spend more time in the field.

“In my opinion Landcare is heading back to where its strength has always been – that is, local people with local projects. Works directed to the regional and local level are more effective and empowering to communities.

“I agree with Ted that it is not an onerous task to keep LCWL active and it can still be a useful political tool and has the potential to be activated if needed. We still need more participants however.”

MOTION: That the Lachlan Co-Chair’s report be accepted.

MOVED: Ian McColl **SECONDED:** Ted Spackman **CARRIED:** All in favour

TREASURERS REPORT:

1. Financial Statement for the year ended 30th June, 2006

This was prepared by Hancocks Chartered Accountants of Coonabarabran, and is tabled separately. This will be returned with the Annual Statement to the Department of Fair Trading subsequent to this AGM.

In summary: Total income for 2005-06	\$3,403.37
Value of assets, including deposits	\$82,536.18
Total expenditure for 2005-06	\$33,998.89
Value of all liabilities	NIL

2. Financial report to:

Thursday, 9 November 2006

As at 06 November 2006

Account Balances

Westpac Working Account	\$5,705.54
Westpac Cash Management Account	\$70,933.19
Petty Cash Account	\$184.74
GST Control Account	\$97.25
Total	\$76,920.72
<u>Less</u>	
Unpresented Cheques	\$925.93

Current Outstanding Accounts	\$0.00
Total	\$925.93
<u>Current Balance</u>	\$75,994.79

Without an Administration Officer there has not been as much activity this year as in previous years, however I think the treasurer will be able to cope into the future. I have found that it is essential to engage a good accountant, last years (2004-2005 financial year) accounts did not include separate audits of Envirofund Projects. Last month I had Project 38376 audited and sent to the Australian Government Envirofund Unit. Just today I have received a request that Project 37229 also be audited, I have advised them that they will have to wait until next year, as our accountant is busy with tax returns. They have agreed, and I will ensure that it is completed as soon as possible.

Ted Spackman

Treasurer

MOTION: That the Treasurer's report be accepted.

MOVED: Ted Spackman **SECONDED:** Margaret Haddin **CARRIED:** All in favour

WEBSITE MANAGER'S REPORT

Ron Spithill reported that he had taken over from Nadine Coleman when she left earlier this year. He reported that there had been 3000 hits on the site since 2004 and approximately 1000 over the past year. A problem had occurred when the designer partnership had broken up but this was now being rectified and a new provider has been employed. The new provider should be able to report where the hits are coming from.

There had been some trouble with excess spam and it had been necessary to change the address. The advantages of a contact page were discussed and it was pointed out that we need to design a contact page that required the name and email address of the respondent. Although there was potential for changes and more updated website it had to be considered that many people are still on dial up which is slow.

Ron requested more information and ideas to incorporate onto the website, and particularly news of Landcare groups. It was best if he could received material in Microsoft Word.

Current addresses to note: Website - lcwl.org.au
 Website email address - lcwl@hwy.org.au

Ted's email address – lcwl@hwy.com.au

MOTION: That the Website Manager's report be accepted.

MOVED: Ron Spithill **SECONDED:** Margaret Haddin **CARRIED:** All in favour

CORRESPONDENCE:

Incoming Correspondence:

Date	From	Subject	Ans.
30/01/06	AI of AS & T	Invitation to Symposium & Wkshop	Yes
10/02/06	Agdata	Phoenix Service Plan	
14/02/06	John Dalton	Mendooran Landcare Group	
15/02/06	DPI	Sourcing the Salt	
03/03/06	Shell Co	Petrol Cards	Yes
05/03/06	Forbes Advocate	Landcare Training	
13/03/06	Leading Edge Parkes	Invoice (Not ours)	Yes
21/04/06	STIPA	Workshop	Yes
09/05/06	Shell Co	New fuel formula	
25/08/06	Aust Bureau of Statistics	Economic Activity Survey 2005/6	Yes
01/09/06	Dept. F,CS & IA	Volunteer Small Equipment Grants	
18/09/06	NHT Envirofund	Request for audit project 37229	Yes
20/10/06	Jolieske Lips	Int. L/C Conf. claim	Yes

Outgoing Correspondence:

Date	To	Subject
04/01/06	Westpac Parkes	Change of address
15/02/06	LCWL Members	General Meeting Parkes
27/02/06	LCWL Executive	CW CMA meetings
28/02/06	ATO	Change of Registration details
18/03/06	Shell Co	Cancellation of Shell cards
23/03/06	GM CW CMA	NLP Funding
Apr.06	Emails to Executive	NLP Funding
17/07/06	Dept. F,CS & IA	Volunteer Small Equipment Grants
02/11/06	Jolieske Lips	Claim for Int. L/C Conference

MOTION: That the incoming correspondence be accepted and the outgoing correspondence be endorsed.

MOVED: Ruth Worthington **SECONDED:** Ron Spithill **CARRIED:** All in favour

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS:

Mike Chambers took the Chair and declared 7 positions to be open and nominations called for.

Accepted Nominations:

Ian McColl	Nominated by	Colleen Watts
John Johnson		Ian McColl
Ron Spithill		Margaret Haddin
Margaret Haddin		Ted Spackman
Colleen Watts		Ted Spackman
Ted Spackman		Ron Spithill

It was decided that an executive of six was sufficient under the Constitution

MOTION: That the nominations of Ian, John, Ron, Margaret, Colleen and Ted are accepted to fill the places on the Executive Committee and that the Office Bearers be as before.

MOVED: Ruth Worthington **SECONDED:** Steve Pereira **CARRIED:** All in favour

Executive Committee is therefore:

- Ted Spackman (Co Chair/Treasurer)
- Ian McColl (Co Chair)
- Colleen Watts (Secretary/Public Officer)
- Margaret Haddin (Assistant Secretary)
- Ron Spithill (Website Coordinator)
- John Johnson

GENERAL BUSINESS:**1. Financial Management:**

Ted expressed some concern about the lack of supervision of his management of the accounts. It was pointed out that Colleen receives an invoice from Ted once a month noting hours worked on accounts and other incidental expenses. The accounts are audited once a year. In general discussion it was felt that Ted should be empowered to continue as he is with the endorsement of all those present.

2. Website:

Dealt with under Website Manager's Report

3. Future of LCWL

General discussion by participants on a range of issues facing Landcare at local and regional levels and suggestions and scenarios that may be possibilities for the future. There was discussion concerning the Landcare coordinator position in the Central West and the best options for its supervision.

MOTION: That, if required, LCWL will take over the administration of the Central West Landcare position.

MOVED: Ted Spackman **SECONDED:** Ron Spithill **CARRIED:** All in favour

Further discussion looked at the role of LCWL in both catchments. In the Lachlan catchment the LCWL is the only group representing Landcare, whereas in the Central West various subregional groupings are developing. What will LCWL's effectiveness be once the money has been used? What is LCWL contributing to the rest of Landcare. Is LCWL duplication what others are doing or attempting to do?

The meeting defined the role of LCWL as – a vehicle for political lobbying

- Providing a level of communications within the catchments
- Communications with the CMA's
- The future may involve funding from the CMA's for training programs etc. which LCWL is ideally positioned to deliver.
- May look to the CMA for funds for programs that NLP will not fund.
- Alternatively may also look to NLP for funds to run programs or projects that are not priorities for the CMA.

We should look more closely at the Victorian model where the state pays for Landcare coordinators. We need to lobby for more coordinators.

The meeting generally agreed that the LCWL should continue as a Landcare representative body, and increase participation and involvement over the next twelve months.

Next Meeting: TBA

Meeting closed at 11.30 am

Minutes Authorisation

Co Chair

Print _____ Signature _____ Date / / .

Executive

Print _____ Signature _____ Date / / .