



RCE-GWS Half Day Planning Day Meeting

Minutes of meeting at UWS Werrington North Campus 6th March 2013 8.30am – 12.00pm

- Present:**
- Geoff Scott, Chairperson University of Western Sydney
 - Mark Edwards, Brewongle Environmental Education Centre DEC
 - Damien Feneley, Department of Education and Communities
 - Steve Brody, Brewongle Environmental Education Centre DEC
 - Chris Vella, Department of Education and Communities
 - Andrew Hewson, Penrith City Council
 - Jim Fanning, Terta Santa
 - Mark Samaha, WSI TAFE
 - Ian Knowd, Hawkesbury Harvest
 - Eric Broken, Hawkesbury Earthcare Centre
 - Robin Woods, Hawkesbury Environment Network
 - Annie Nelson, ParraCAN
 - Helen Angelakis, Office of Sustainability University of Western Sydney
 - Margaret Sommerville, Centre for Educational Research University of Western Sydney
 - Brittany Hardiman, Office of Sustainability University of Western Sydney
 - Elizabeth Hellenpach, WSI TAFE
 - Beatriz Cardona, University of Western Sydney
 - Jen Dollin, Office of Sustainability University of Western Sydney
 - Sharon Kerr, WSI TAFE
 - Suzanne Stuart, Hawkesbury City Council
 - Marty Gauci, Hawkesbury City Council
 - Greg Cheatham, WSI TAFE
 - Debbie Cummings, Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment and Engagement
 - Darren O'Connell, SWSI TAFE
 - Anne Foster, UWS College (Lithgow) - Invited Observer
- Apologies:**
- Anthony Collins, Parramatta City Council
 - Anne Waller, UWS Connect
 - Ben Artup, Penrith Business Alliance
 - Eric Sidoti, Whitlam Institute
 - Greg Whately, UWS College (Blacktown)
 - Judith Bruinsma, WSROC
 - Mike Bartlett, Sydney Olympic Park Authorities
 - Rachel Bentley, TVS
 - Zhan Patterson, Hawkesbury Environment Network (ALIVE!)
 - Antony Lewis, ParraCAN

1. OPENING

1.1 Purpose

Meeting was called between the RCE Greater Western Sydney Partners to discuss and plan the outcomes of the working projects from 2012 and the strategic priorities for the RCE in 2013.

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

1.2 Welcome to new members

Parramatta City Council
Hawkesbury Community College

2. MATTERS ARISING

2.1 UNU Report

The report produced was for the UNU and the 133 RCEs now operating across the world. The 11 key change lessons in that document were seen to be useful guidelines for optimising the efficiency and effectiveness of RCE-GWS.

ACTION: All members to give Geoff Scott feedback on the paper before 7th March.

2.2 Working Group Updates

Working groups provided an update on their experiences from 2012 and their groups' directions for 2013

ACTION: Working groups to email strategic priorities for 2013 to Brittany Hardiman for website update.

ACTION: All members to view Attachment 1 (Strategic Priorities for 2013) and provide feedback.

2.3 Opportunities for 2013

2.3.1 Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment and Engagement

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cadetships - the 'Uni to Work' Program - employment of a Cadet engaged in a relevant undergraduate area of study. Employers can resource a four to five week project, or longer term position through a 12 or 24 week internship.

ACTION: Debbie Cummings to forward guidelines and other information on Cadets to Jen Dollin for distribution to all members

2.3.2 Love your Lagoons

Wetland and wetland awareness programs around Greater Western Sydney.

ACTION: Looking for members to join project - contact Jen Dollin for more information.

2.3.3 Low Carbon Economy

ParraCAN seeking to start up a working group around this topic.

ACTION: Looking for members to join project - contact Annie Nelson for more information.

2.3.4 Anniversary of the Blue Mountains Crossing

UWS College in Lithgow are interested in linking heritage projects to this event

ACTION: Looking for members to join project - contact Anne Forster for more information.

2.4 Strategic Priorities for 2013-14

2.4.1 Riverfarm & River health

Suggested action areas: River Festival/Clean up Australia Day; Sponsorship dinner; thank-you dinner for Riverfarm contributors; involvement of the Waterkeeper; River health 'barometer'; use of augmented reality; scale up engagement of students and community; Bush regeneration; Board walk & Boat Ramp; adaptive reuse of the silos with Vic U; use of the Tobacco shed for planning days/meetings; involvement of UWS students from Communication Arts, Design, Marketing, Env Mgt, Computing & Health; links to the 200th anniversary of the crossing of the Blue Mnts & the H/N catchment

2.4.2 Food security – Love Food/Hate Waste

Suggested action areas: Continue with the love food/hate waste program with staff but consider expanding to VET and School members and to the Lithgow campus of UWSC; next project is the establishment of a food co-op at UWS – expanding this model to schools, VET and other member's workplaces was suggested; promoting the links to the Hawkesbury Harvest and using Costa Georiadis to promote the RCE work in this area noted as having potential; links to Hawkesbury community college and a Fair were

2.4.3 Engaging Businesses, including SMEs

Suggested action areas: Consider returning to the SMExcellence project by starting with the use of trained interns from UWS and other members to work with SMEs on what they are doing, would like to do, want to know in the area of sustainability; it was suggested that Wayne Fallon of UWS be contacted re interns; promote more directly the Blue Economy projects and other ways to demonstrate the business proposition for this area; convene a round table of GWS employers of VET and HE graduates to identify the new jobs that are emerging in the four pillars of sustainability and link this to the YES project; undertake a stocktake of new SMEs dealing in sustainability related areas – e.g. recycled clothing businesses. Check Reverse Garbage.

2.4.4 Education for Sustainability in GWS schools, VET & HE

Suggested action areas: Involvement of GWS schools in the Riverfarm (on-site and virtually); 3 action research projects underway (Alive; STAR aspiration-building; Our Place); it was suggested school members of the RCE contact Gitanjali Bedi re the funded Swinburne national VET sustainability champions program (RCE members from WSI & SWSI have sustainability champions in this program); greater linkage to schools undertaking similar work in other RCEs; this year GWS schools will be linking with German and Alaskan schools; Youth Eco-Summit; more engagement of the creative arts; explore the potential to use of www.sustainability.edu.au to link successful strategies & course designs in HE, VET and schools in GWS; look at HSC assessment that might enable action on ESD – e.g. capstone assessment projects; explore links to the new university campus (launching late in 2013) at Lithgow via Anne Forster.

2.4.5 GWS engagement & communication

Suggested action areas: A pooling of strategies on how to engage staff, community members, students who are not already committed to the area; importance of looking at ways of influencing policy formation in an election year noted; review and

add to the strategies we could use outlined on pg 8 of the UNU paper discussed at the start of the meeting; we have two living laboratories underway to engage the community – at Nirimba and the Riverfarm.

ACTION: Working groups coordinators are requested to update their section on the website and list the set of activities/outcomes for 2013

ACTION: Office of Sustainability UWS to work on Strategic Priorities document for circulation and uploading to the website.

2.5 Grant Applications

Each working group or RCE partner can use the RCE network as leverage for funding opportunities. Each member or group can write their own funding applications and administer the funding resources themselves. If you do require assistance please email Jen Dollin, as necessary.

A current grant database has been created for you on our [RCE website](#) under the resources page.

2.6 Use of UNU Logo/RCE Logo

RCE partner are allow to use the RCE logo however must seek approval from regional RCE to use logo.

ACTION: Members to email Brittany Hardiman for logo request form and use guidelines, as required.

2.7 Partners Contact Database

The RCE Database will provide our network with information on each member of the group. The Office of Sustainability working on document for circulation and uploaded onto the website.

ACTION: All members to email details to Helen Angelakis or Brittany Hardiman, including:

- Full name, organisation, phone number, email address and postal address
- Working group (if applicable)
- Interest areas (RCE projects)
- Willingness to speak or attend events (if asked by RCE members)
- Any other resources or relevant info

2.8 Optimising RCE-GWS Operations and Impact in 2013

It was agreed that a collective picture of the optimum strategies for winning grants, with exemplars of successful ones would be useful. The consolidated summary of grant opportunities tabled at the meeting was noted as a good starting point for identifying potential sources of funding.

The RCE website includes both a section for RCE action areas/working groups and an events calendar. It was recommended that, for this to be effective, information to keep it up-to-date should be sent to the UWS Office of Sustainability who maintains the site.

It was suggested that all members look at the sorts of indicators in the 4 level evaluation framework discussed in the UNU paper on pg 8 and send in to the Office of Sustainability the sorts of indicators and evidence we can use to show our activities are having a positive impact on those intended to benefit. It was suggested that there is potential to ask parents in the RCE schools what they have changed or seen change in their children as one measure.

3. STANDING ITEMS

3.1 RCE Website

The RCE-GWS website is a resource of all our members to provide, present and share information

with our members and to share the wider community. To keep this resource up to date it is important that each partner submits regular updated information, including your contact details and any images you may have.

For a simple and effective way to share your important event, the Office of Sustainability has had a calendar created for our RCE partners to enter their event details and attachments. You will find a direct link to the RCE Events Calendar on the [RCE website](#) homepage. Please note content must first be approved by a moderator and when filling out the events form ensure to add as much detail as possible.

ACTION: All members to have a link (www.uws.edu.au/rce) to the RCE website

ACTION: All members to provide updated information for the website. Send to Brittany Hardiman for uploading

ACTION: Each working groups to provide update information on project outcomes and future plans

ACTION: Brittany Hardiman to upload 2013 Strategic Priorities document and database once completed.

3.2 RCE-GWS E-Newsletter

The RCE-GWS e-newsletter is a resource of all our members to provide, present and share information with our members and to share the wider community. Our bimonthly newsletter will next be released in April, June, August, October and December.

ACTION: Members to send article, photos and web links to Brittany Hardiman for inclusion in the newsletter.

3.3 Linking with Global RCE

There is potential for members to use the international (and national) RCE networks to link up with 'fellow travellers' doing the same work as they are across Australia and the world. There is potential for exchanges of staff and students using this network.

4. NEXT MEETING

Working groups to meet as required.

ACTION: Working groups to let Jen Dollin know when they are meeting and the outcomes, when possible.

Minutes confirmed by: _____
RCE-GWS CHAIR

DATE