



## RCE-GWS Video-Conference Meeting

**Minutes** of meeting via video-conference 18<sup>th</sup> July 2013 10.00am – 11.30am

**Present:**

- Geoff Scott, Chairperson University of Western Sydney
- Helen Angelakis, Office of Sustainability University of Western Sydney
- Ian Knowd, Hawkesbury Harvest
- Jen Dollin, Office of Sustainability University of Western Sydney
- Suzanne Stuart, Hawkesbury City Council
- Brittany Hardiman, Office of Sustainability University of Western Sydney
- Eric Broken, Hawkesbury Earthcare Centre
- Jim Robinson, Hawkesbury Community College
- Elizabeth Hellenpach, WSI TAFE
- Darren O'Connell, SWSI TAFE
- Aimee Freimanis, Parramatta Council
- Mark Edwards, Brewongle Environmental Education Centre
- Steve Body, Brewongle Environmental Education Centre
- Damien Feneley, Department of Education and Communities
- Maureen Johnson, Principal Willmot Public School – Invited Attendee
- Stephen Bingon, Assistant Principal Willmot Public School – Invited Attendee
- Marianne Sheumack, Sydney Olympic Park Authority
- Rachel Maitland, Sydney Olympic Park Authority
- Katrina Hood, Sydney Olympic Park Authority
- Debbie Cummings, Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment and Engagement University of Western Sydney
- Jenny Guice, Penrith City Council
- Bernadette Riad, Penrith City Council

**Apologies:**

- Anne Waller, UWS Connect
- Andrew Hewson, Penrith City Council
- Antony Lewis, ParraCAN
- Annie Nelson, ParraCAN
- Ben Artup, Penrith Business Alliance
- Berice Anning, Badanami Centre for Indigenous Education University of Western Sydney
- Debrah Gersbach, North West Disability Service
- Eric Sidoti, Whitlam Institute
- Greg Whateley, UWS College (Blacktown)
- Judith Bruinsma, WSROC
- Marty Gauci, Hawkesbury City Council
- Margaret Somerville, Centre for Educational Research University of Western Sydney
- Melissa Williams, Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment and Engagement University of Western Sydney
- Michael Paramor, Greening Australia
- Mike Bartlett, Sydney Olympic Park Authorities
- Rachel Bentley, TVS
- Robin Woods, Hawkesbury Environment Network
- Sharon Kerr, WSI TAFE
- Zhan Patterson, EcoEducator (ALIVE!)

## 1. OPENING

### 1.1 Purpose

The meeting of the RCE Greater Western Sydney partners to discuss project progression with each of the RCE working groups.

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

### 1.2 Welcome to new members

Cumberland Bird Observers  
Greening Australia

## 2. MATTERS ARISING

### 2.1 Outcomes from Planning Day

Actions from RCE-GWS Planning Day minutes held 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2013 were addressed.

#### 2.1.1 All partners have read and reviewed UNU report

**ACTION:** All partners to read and advise Geoff Scott of changes, if any, to the RCE Waikato application based on the UNU report.

#### 2.1.2 Working groups have supplied information for the RCE-GW S website.

#### 2.1.3 The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment and Engagement Office has reduced the number of cadetships aiming for direct employment instead due to new funding.

**ACTION:** Debbie Cummings to advise Office of Sustainability when cadetships are being reoffered

#### 2.1.4 Love your Lagoons project was unsuccessful for funding.

#### 2.1.5 Low Carbon Economy working group is awaiting establishment. Future plans for exploration of bio-gas project for teaching and research were noted – partners include TAFE WSi (lead by Greg Cheetham), UWS, Hawkesbury City Council, Bio-Char, Penrith Regatta Centre.

### 2.2 Working Group Updates

#### 2.2.1 River health and Biodiversity, including Riverfarm

- a. *River Festival* to be held 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> April 2014. The planning committee includes UWS (lead), UWSConnet, TAFE WSi, Hawkesbury Council, Hawkesbury Environment Network

**ACTION:** Helen Angelakis to put together scope of works and forward to the RCE network for their involvement in River Festival

- b. The *Hawkesbury Waterkeeper* now has a boat. UWS and TAFE are looking into the potential to source a solar powered engine. The sponsorship dinner for donations for the boat has now been cancelled. In addition

- c. 35 international visitors from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature visited the Riverfarm (and had lunch at the Earthcare Centre). The visit included a presentation from the Waterkeeper.
- d. The *Dreaming on the Riverfarm* project is now complete. Chris Vella from DEC is running a pilot program with 30 high school students and 30 primary students who will have an onsite tour at the Riverfarm. Students will work together on a project around the oral history of the Riverfarm with an exhibition planned. Current works to develop an augmented reality app with UWS IT Services are underway.
- e. The *Wetland birds* project with Cumberland Bird Observers and UWS students from School Health and Science is underway. The team would like also to include school groups in future.
- f. Ideas for a *Bush tucker garden* at the Riverfarm are being discussed with the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment and Engagement and 2-3 other groups.
- g. A *tri-sector water agreement* is in development between UWS, Brewongle, TAFE WSi and HEN to share student data looking at the health of the Hawkesbury Nepean River.

**ACTION:** Jen Dollin is following up with Hawkesbury City Council and Penrith City Council regarding their possible involvement.

### 2.2.2 Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture

- a. The *Love food hate waste* project is complete. Earthcare was unsuccessful in attracting second round funding. LFHW will be presented at the international AASHE conference in the U.S. in October. Please watch the [youtube film clip here](#) – as seen on TVS.
- b. Plans for a *food production and migrant communities* project are being developed which includes mentoring and language skills for sustainable food production at the Riverfarm. Partners include Eric Broken, Hawkesbury Community College, UWS, HIE, Hawkesbury Harvest.
- c. It was suggested that the feasibility of holding a *Multicultural Market* at the Riverfarm or at another GWS location be investigated by Hawkesbury City Council and Hawkesbury Harvest.
- d. *School tours* for primary and infant school teachers and their students of the Hawkesbury Earthcare Centre are currently being planned with DEC.

### 2.2.3 Engaging businesses, including SMEs

- a. The *Dunheved Business Park* surveys are complete, with the results now being collated. A partnership with Penrith City Council to achieve similar goals is underway, with a meeting between the working group and council to be held on the 31<sup>st</sup> July – all partners welcome to get involved.
- b. Use of the SMExcellence site is being reinvestigated.
- c. An *Information session* to engage new stakeholders (OEH, Sustainability Advantage) and SMEs in the Penrith/Hawkesbury region is being planned. Suggestions for this event include the use of proven business cases, [blue economy ideas](#) and successful businesses that have made environmental and cost recovery savings. To identify these it was suggested that the Sustainability

Advantage Program be contacted details and contacts for successful GWS case studies. It was also suggested that the session could be filmed for uploading to the website and for further promotions.

**ACTION:** Liz Hellenpach to send survey results to Brittany for uploading onto RCE website

**ACTION:** Aimee Freimanis to pass details onto Liz re Parramatta Eco Business Precinct in Camellia.

**ACTION:** Liz to talk to Paul Wormell (UWS) for inclusion of UWS Business students looking at sustainability and globalization.

#### 2.2.4 Education for Sustainability

- a. The *Living Links* project looking at aspirations in the local aboriginal community was postponed due to bad weather. The event is being rescheduled.

**ACTION:** Damien Feneley to provide new event details for Living Links event

- b. The *Teachers for Sustainability* program (originally a component of the Alive program) is being presented at the NSW Environmental Education Conference to be held in Dubbo during late September.
- c. The *Youth Eco Summit* has 40 organisations (with 28 providers offering workshops,) and 1300 students currently registered to attend. Spots are still open for any school interested in attending.
- d. The *GWS Giants and SOPA* have run a joint initiative with five low SES schools to inspire students on learning outside of school, building on local partnerships. The day included 5 activities (interviews with GWS giants, food and nutrition, cartooning, wetland tour, sustainability). SOPA is looking to build on project.

**ACTION:** Geoff to visit Sydney Olympic Park, organized by Marianne, to look at their sustainability related activities

- e. *Community based learning through technology* via smartphones and tablets is being increasingly used in both formal and informal learning. For examples please see [Padagogy Wheel of App site](#).

**ACTION:** Jen Dollin to supply details of UWS computing students for app development with Willmot, Brewongle and Parramatta Council for community and student educational apps

**ACTION:** Jen Dollin to contact Austin Robinson for possible augmented reality app development

- f. The *Business of sustainability* video conference between RCE-GWS, SOPA, RCE Sans Malayasia and Rouse Hill Public School is being held. All RCE partners are invited to become involved.
- g. A pilot *roof top garden* is proposed for the UWS Kingswood campus with an approach relevant to Western Sydney area. Social research is also included

about the advantages and benefits of the initiative. Penrith City Council is waiting to hear back if application was successful for funding.

## **2.3 Communications, Links and Promotions**

**2.3.1** It is important for RCE-GWS to promote, link and leverage our work with our GWS community and networks. It was suggested that we can continue to use RCE partnerships and a growing network to provide leverage to funding opportunities.

**ACTION:** All members to personally contact and forward the URL of the RCE-GWS website and newsletters to 4-5 people in their network whom they believe may be unaware of the RCE's work.

**ACTION:** Hawkesbury Harvest to link with Simon Marnie to talk about the RCE on ABC radio.

**ACTION:** All members to send Brittany the details of all grants applied for, whether successful or unsuccessful, including amounts during 2012/13.

**ACTION:** All members to send Brittany the details of upcoming events to form a timeline and for uploading to the RCE calendar.

**2.3.2** Darren O'Connell suggested involvement of South Western Sydney Councils and other local organizations. Helen proposed involvement of RCE members in the Campbelltown Council River Fest, 31<sup>st</sup> August.

**ACTION:** Darren and Geoff to work on a joint stocktake of sustainability initiatives in the region. Darren to teleconference with Geoff

**2.3.2** There is potential for RCE-GWS to link with RCEs around the world working on the same action areas.

- a. RCE-Sains Malaysia student exchange programs and video conferencing with schools, led by UWS
- b. Links made in Geoff's recent visit at the University of the South Pacific which hosts the RCE-Pacific.
- c. The Provost of Simon Fraser University which hosts RCE-British Columbia is to visit UWS and meet with Geoff in late July 2013.
- d. RCE-Waikato, an applicant for UNU acknowledgement, is to visit and wishes to link with RCE-GWS on common areas for sustainability action, including sustainable food production and a Waterkeepers' program

## **3. STANDING ITEMS**

### **3.1 RCE Website**

Our website has just undergone a full remodelling.

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

information with our members and the wider community. To keep this important members' resource up to date it is important that each partner submits regular updated information and events that are underway.

**ACTION:** All members to provide updated information and events for the website. Please send to Brittany Hardiman for uploading

**ACTION:** Each working groups to provide update information on project outcomes

### 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 bi-monthly newsletter will be delivered in 2013 in August, October and December.

**ACTION:** Members are requested to send articles, photos and web links to Brittany for inclusion in the newsletter.

## 4. NEXT MEETING

A video-conference meeting will be held in early October, with a face-to-face gathering in December which will include an end of year celebration.

**ACTION:** All members to selected preferred date and time on either 9<sup>th</sup> October or 10<sup>th</sup> October at 10am – 11.30am or 2pm to 3.30pm.

**ACTION:** Final meeting to be held 10<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm. Please let Office of Sustainability know if this does not suit.

Minutes confirmed by: \_\_\_\_\_  
RCE-GWS CHAIR

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE