



## RCE-GWS Video-Conference Meeting

**Minutes** of meeting via video-conference 9<sup>th</sup> October 2013 10.00am – 11.30am

**Present:** Margaret Somerville, Centre for Educational Research University of Western Sydney  
Brittany Hardiman, Office of Sustainability University of Western Sydney  
Ian Knowd, Hawkesbury Harvest  
Eric Broken, Hawkesbury Earthcare Centre  
Jim Robinson, Hawkesbury Community College  
Michael Robinson, Hawkesbury Community College – Invited Attendee  
Aimee Freimanis, Parramatta Council  
Steve Brody, Brewongle Environmental Education Centre  
Damien Feneley, Department of Education and Communities  
Stephen Bingon, Assistant Principal Willmot Public School – Invited Attendee  
Jen Flood, Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment and Engagement  
University of Western Sydney  
Andrew Hewson, Penrith City Council  
Mike Bartlett, Sydney Olympic Park Authorities

**Apologies:** Anne Waller, UWS Connect  
Antony Lewis, ParraCAN  
Annie Nelson, ParraCAN  
Ben Artup, Penrith Business Alliance  
Berice Anning, Badanami Centre for Indigenous Education University of Western Sydney  
Darren O'Connell, SWSI TAFE  
Debra Gersbach, North West Disability Service  
Elizabeth Hellenpach, WSI TAFE  
Eric Sidoti, Whitlam Institute  
Geoff Scott, Chairperson University of Western Sydney  
Greg Whately, UWS College (Blacktown)  
Helen Angelakis, Office of Sustainability University of Western Sydney  
Judith Bruinsma, WSROC  
Jen Dollin, Office of Sustainability University of Western Sydney  
Mark Edwards, Brewongle Environmental Education Centre  
Marty Gauci, Hawkesbury City Council  
Rachel Bentley, TVS  
Robin Woods, Hawkesbury Environment Network  
Sharon Kerr, WSI TAFE  
Zhan Patterson, EcoEducator

## 1. OPENING

### 1.1 Purpose

Meeting was called between the RCE Greater Western Sydney partners to discuss project progression with the RCE working groups.

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

## 2. MATTERS ARISING

### 2.1 Outcomes from Meetings

Actions from RCE-GWS VC minutes held 18<sup>th</sup> of July 2013 were addressed.

- 2.1.1 All partners to supply updated information on RCE projects, outcomes and funding sources for annual UNU RCE reporting due 14<sup>th</sup> October.

**ACTION:** All partners to email Brittany ([b.hardiman@uws.edu.au](mailto:b.hardiman@uws.edu.au)) with information for UNU report – please find attached

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

### 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> of April. Still in planning stages.
- b. *Dreaming on the Riverfarm* audio tour is now complete. 60 students from Lapstone public school and Blaxland High School were the first students to partake in curriculum based activities. Students will work together on a project around the oral history with an exhibition planned for the 19<sup>th</sup> November.
- c. *Bush tucker garden* at the Riverfarm is in talks with the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment and Engagement and 2-3 different groups still in planning stages.
- d. *Windsor to Weir* project with Greening Australia is about to begin with primary bush regeneration, with plans of folding in UWS students for research projects.
- e. *Environmental Trust Grant* for Cumberland Woodland education program at Parramatta City Council to develop an augmented reality app.

**STANDING ACTION:** Jen Dollin to supply details of UWS computing students for app

#### 2.2.2 Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture

- a. *Food production and migrant communities* project is being developed for a funding bid which includes mentoring and language skills for sustainable food production at the Riverfarm. Still waiting to hear if successful.
- b. Hawkesbury Harvest involved with a pilot project looking at supply of food from the Sydney basin direct to suppliers including farmers markets, to sustain commercial agriculture.
- c. *Community Garden Cooking projects* (Ling) developed from Our Place – Western Sydney funding. A successful project involving Ling Halbert (community

volunteer), PHD student, Holroyd and Parramatta City Councils which is looking for more funding. Margaret is currently preparing evaluation of project.

### 2.2.3 Engaging businesses, including SMEs

- a. *Elizabeth sends her apologies.* Working group doesn't have too much to report on. A working group meeting will be held in November.
- b. *Course from community college* - Jim from HCC has tried to engage with local businesses on short courses. They have found that SME need more training/education but are lacking in time. Aimee mentioned involving a representative from OEH on their business modules to involve SME.

**ACTION:** To be discussed further at next RCE meeting

### 2.2.4 Education for Sustainability

- a. *Living Links event* is now complete, with future plans. Event was run at Willmont Public School with 14 workshops. 90 people attended (including teachers and professional development persons) the day along with 400. Further to living links a TVS documentary will be created (as part of YES) on students with TAFE Cert 2 in Horticulture who have built an Aboriginal learning trail, paving, irrigation, etc which has up-skilled students. Looking to develop AR for environmental cultural garden, including kids aboriginal identities with goal to share with NSW communities. Future directions also include the Willmont School community to support other communities like Vanuatu.
- b. *Youth Eco Summit* now has 3,000 student attending on site, as well as small number of schools involved in VCs. Launch will be held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October at 9.30am with the Hon. Robin Parker, Minister for the Environment. Partners can join into the launch VC or any other VC on offer by partnering with a local school(s) in their area. In addition looking to encourage international RCEs to get involved with VC to engage with students at YES. Please see invitation attached.
- c. *Our Place Project* stage 2 is now finished. Report out shortly.
- d. *Love your lagoons* project being held in South Western Sydney area. Project is linking up 12 schools (primary and secondary) with local wetlands, by adopting wetland and building into curriculum. Partnership with Campbelltown, Camden, Wollondilly Councils. HSBC to link with project - Aimee to provide details to involve them with community engagement.

**ACTION:** RCE network to get involved and ramp up the volume of YES VC with their local schools.

**ACTION:** Aimee to send Jen/Margaret HSBC details to get involved in project and community engagement.

### 2.2.5 Other Business

- a. *Geoff Scott Report* – Geoff sends his apologies. Please find attached an outline of his agenda/works over the last 3 months.
- b. *Scoping Grant* - still trying to figure out where it is at and how to progress
- c. *Governance* – Margaret has raised the issue that we need representatives as part of a decision making committee, perhaps a person from each working

groups, to improve our current RCE governance structure. All partners would still have input.

- d. *Final Meeting* – Decision of topics for our final meeting included:
  - i. Building future collaborative projects
  - ii. Developing a new governance structure
  - iii. Developing or updating working groups
  - iv. Collaborating more effectively across GWS on larger scaled projects
  - v. Leverage off our new Federal Government
  - vi. Funding applications

### 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 with the wider community. Our website has just undergone a full remodel. 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 is through 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 provide updated information for the website. Send to Brittany Hardiman for uploading

**ACTION:** Each working group 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 bimonthly newsletter will next be released in October and December.

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

### 4. NEXT MEETING

Our last meeting for this year will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm which will include an end of year celebration. More details will be advised closer to the date.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE