**RCE Greater western sydney**

**Minutes**

**Attendees:**

David Reid Georges River Combined Councils’ Committee, Svetlana Georges River Combined Councils’ Committee, Richard Maguire ParraCAN, Maria Maguire ParraCAN, Judith Bruinsma WSROC, Elizabeth Hellenpach TAFE WSI, Caroline Allen The Academy (Western Sydney University), Michele Mullineaux Campbelltown City Council, Steve Body Brewongle EEC, Michael Rynn ParraCAN, Ian Knowd Hawkesbury Harvest/Western Sydney University, Greg Cheetham TAFE WSI, Helen Angelakis Western Sydney University, Brittany Hardiman Western Sydney University, Rafiq Huq Greening Australia, Peter Whale Greening Australia.

**Apologies:**

Bert Lo Campo Blacktown Learning, Mark Edwards Brewongle EEC, Kelly Williamson Campbelltown Council, Michael Rhydderch Campbelltown Council, Damien Feneley DEC, Suzanne Stuart Hawkesbury Council, Robin Wood Hawkesbury Environment Network, Vicky Whitehead Longneck EEC

Debrah Gersbach North West Disability, Nicole Thornton Parramatta Council, Andrew Hewson Penrith Council, April Browne Western Sydney University, Chris Vella Western Sydney University, Geoff Scott Western Sydney University, Jen Dollin Western Sydney University, Margaret Sommerville Western Sydney University, Nic Pasternatsky WSROC, Frank Calabria Wooglemai EEC, Danielle Krix RAS, Garry Baldry Hawkesbury Council, Om Dhungel SEVA International, Sharon Kerr TAFE WSI, Mark Samaha TAFE WSI, Debra Blakely Blacktown Learning, Peter D'Ermilio Blacktown Learning, Mike Bartlett SOPA.

**Minutes from meeting 7 June, 9.30am to 11.0am at Parramatta campus, Western Sydney University**

**Minutes:**

1. **Welcome and Opening**
	1. Meeting Chair: Helen Angelakis
	2. No minutes from last meeting (February)
		1. New Chair not decided
		2. Working groups merged. No reports supplied by new leaders as to direction for 2016
	3. New members application: Conservation Volunteers Australia, Western Sydney Branch **APPROVED**
	4. RCE Planning Day Date
		1. Group decided on Tuesday, 8 November 2016 at Hawkesbury campus (potentially EarthCare Centre). Half Day Planning for 2017 RCE direction, with lunch afterwards. All members invited to participate.
		2. Strategic agenda for September to set out project ideas for November planning session
		3. End of Year Celebration and Networking tentative on Tuesday, 13 December 2016 at Hawkesbury Campus, 3.30pm – 5pm
2. **Working Group Updates**
	1. River Health and Biodiversity
		1. National Pollinator Week in November. Online resources available (NB dates need updating on resources, work in progress) - <http://www.beesbusiness.com.au/pollweek.html>
		2. Wetlands for the West Forum – Planning for 2 day forum to be held in September led by Hawkesbury Environment Network
		3. Macarthur Nature Photography – partnership between Campbelltown, Camden and Wollondilly Shire Councils for schools and community groups. Sponsorship for 2016.
		4. Cumberland Stepping Stones – Federal funding awarded to Greening Australia through 20 million trees. GA offering free school planting exercises (up to 500 plants) for any primary or secondary school with Cumberland Plain Woodland – up to 80 schools. Additional funds for other community and corporate events as well. To get involved or to host a event please directly contact Rafiqul Huq (RHuq@greeningaustralia.org.au) to coordinate.
		5. PARRACAN walk for water event to raise awareness about the impacts of CSG, huge focus on renewables and solar citizens program with links to Parramatta Council, developing Western Sydney Environment Network for all groups to lobby. Contact them to get involved
	2. Business Sustainability (working title)
		1. Group applied for OEH research funding to look at urban heat and community engagement but were unsuccessful. However WSROC/TAFE still keen to progress with the work.
	3. Community Engagement – nil representation
3. **Members Presentation - Georges River Combined Councils’ Committee (presentation attached)**
	1. Committee has 8 councils, 7 external partnerships and 4 full time staff managing programs.
	2. Key initiatives included River Health Program, Riverkeeper Program and Estuary Management Program.
	3. Looking to expand partnerships and ideas to engage community in events through RCE network.
	4. If you would like to get involved please contact GRCCC - Svetlana Kotevska (skotevska@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au) or David Reid (davidreid@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au)
4. **Students and The Academy (flyer attachment)**
	1. The Academy at Western Sydney University is a program that targets high achieving students.
	2. The program offers students with serviced learning opportunities, including 60-hour Community Internships and Citizen Scholar Program that RCE partners can connect with.
		1. Information workshop will be held 22 June at Werrington for anyone who wished to attend
	3. Programs must be designed with key learning outcomes for the students, and partners must provide oversight during the placement.
	4. Students are from a range of background degrees and usually 2nd or 3rd Year students.
	5. Next round of students starts in July 2016. If you are interested in supporting our students please contact Caroline Allen directly (caroline.allen@westernsydney.edu.au)
5. **Other Business**
	1. Nil from floor
	2. Next meeting: Tuesday 6 September at Campbelltown campus, Western Sydney University

**Meeting Closed**