

WELRA MEETING ECAN CHRISTCHURCH

2nd March 2015

ECan Office, Lincoln. 11.30

1.0 Present: David Hewson, (OPUS), Jocelyn Muller, (ECan), Ray Goldring, (Chair) Maree Goldring, Nick Ledgard, James Kilgour, (DOC), Darrin Woods, (consultant) Steve Palmer, (ECan), Jenny Ladley, (University of Canterbury), Richard Hill and Chris Cochrane (Flock Hill).

2.0 Apologies: Chris Stewart

Nick/David

3.0 Minutes:-of previous meeting 28th October Jenny/James

4.0 Matters arising:

Craigieburn Station - wilding strip, many are Nigra. Ray has query in with station re removal. Ray asked if there is any clause in sale agreement offering opportunity for requirement to remove. Jenny said only if it will be an OIO sale. Open to other wilding control, just tree line sticking point. Jenny said application is going to be put in to biodiversity fund (ECan) to remove other wildings other side of Lake Grasmere as well as completing Cora Lynn. Volunteers needed to tackle infestation on Craigieburn by Winding Creek. Ray, Jenny, Richard and Chris to talk about how to take advantage of sale for future work. Jenny to be included in trip to see spread. Jenny and James arranged to spot spray the ones behind Lake Grasmere.

- ♣ **Monitoring** - Nick - electronic system working well, monitoring recruitment of wildings over time subject to control. Some half dozen plots done so far, and more to be done in burnt areas. Helicopter Hill all cleared up re seed source, so if little ones turn up, we need to look somewhere else for source.
- ♣ **ECan money** - Steve - \$20,000: - \$10,000 for DOC management fee and \$10,000 for Darrin's plan.
- ♣ **Wasp** - Ray and Nick - control programme done by WERC, and seems to be successful to date. 80+% successful. 1300 bait stations, mice predation was an issue. Flock Hill has hives on west side of SH 73 to compare with hives on east side to test effect of poisoning programme/bee travel/wasp infestation effect on untreated Flock Hill. Good bird survey pre wasp control carried out and DOC monitoring honeydew flows before and after.

5.0 Correspondence:

In

- ♣ Land Information - purchase ordering system
- ♣ Internal Affairs - funding \$20,000
- ♣ DOC - predator control in Poulter and Hurunui.

- ♣ Canterbury Community Trust - closing dates 2015 for applications
- ♣ CC Trust - \$20,000
- ♣ Lottery Grants original notification of funding
- ♣ Crow and White - Terms of engagement - accountant - original for Jocelyn's files.

Out

- ♣ Lotteries
- ♣ Charities
- ♣ DOC

Ray and Jocelyn - As a result of fire have had to change some of our plans and this needed to be explained to funders as our priorities have changed. Jocelyn has processed this but money has not yet in been received. Leonie from DOC made things easy but just paperwork still to be done to go forward.

6.0 Finances:

WELRA - transactions to date since October 28th

Account balance is \$66,114.26

Bank account leftovers

- \$3,279.04 earmarked in WELRA bank account for future cave stream work
- \$5,000.00 2013 payment by flock hill
- \$5,691.03 remains from Broad Stream project back in 2010
- \$8,625.00 remains from current Broad Stream Funding for work.
(total 28,750.00incl gst) (11,375.00 still to come)

4 February 2015 PAY Opus Broad Stream Plan cost \$5,750.00

2 February 2015 PAY Peter Davidson & Assoc Audit accts Year end 30 June 2014 \$980.30

22 January 2015 PAY Mt Hutt Helicopters MT Hutt Heli Aerial view \$3,363.75

18 December 2014 Direct Credit The Canterbury Community Trust \$20,000.00

11 December 2014 Direct Credit Grant PDCT \$20,000.00

Awaiting confirmation on deed agreements for:

DOC \$268,695.00 (ex gst)

LWEH - \$304,000.00 (ex gst)

Invoices through - Jocelyn needs permission to pay CSI for helicopter use from our existing fund if funding does not come through before company's deadline for penalty on the 20th March. Funding may be through by then.

Motion: That Jocelyn be given leave to pay this account out of WELRA fund to date if necessary . Maree/Jenny

Accounts moved for payment - Jocelyn/Nick

WERC – transactions to date since October 28th

Account balance is \$13,592.44

4 February 2015 PAY P Wright – administration resources, catering and mileage \$301.90

9.0 General Business

9.1: Flock Hill - Fire and Future Plan

Nick reported: *'The fire burnt a significant area of wildings, and we should try to capitalise on this relative to our control plans. As it started at the northern windward end of the affected area, the opportunity to prevent reinvasion is greater than if it had burnt in the southern down-wind portion, with huge intact seed sources upwind. Although the major original seed source on Helicopter Hill is no longer present, there are still intact seed sources upwind (unburnt patches and individual trees, plus Manson Ck D-fir blocks and FH homestead plantings) which need attention in the near future. If this control is undertaken, together with FH's proposed grass/legume seeding of the most scorched parts of the burn, then we have a real chance of permanently reducing the total wilding affected area in the relatively short term. the vital importance of returning to primary control areas which have had impressive initial kills (such as Helicopter Hill) to clean up the remnants (delayed germinants, missed seedlings etc) before they reach coning age. This is fiddly 'non-glamorous' work which can cost almost as much as the initial removals, but it must be done - or all the first-up time and effort could be wasted.'*

4 hectares boom sprayed area was burnt, 10 hectares of spot spraying burnt. Next week will be spot spraying from helicopter.

Dense areas being done basal, \$2,000/hectare, boom \$1,000/hectare.

Nick's monitoring vital and under way. Need to remove seed source below Craigieburn Cutting to ensure burnt area is not reinfested. Some areas where seeds and tiny trees remain need attention.

Darrin -\$5,000 from Flock Hill last year; suggest use to secure boundary from unburnt trees.

Funding plan from FH \$10,000 for next year. Darrin suggested it would be good to take time to see what true impact fire has had, to hold off for 12 months. K1 block - top end of CC, east of road. \$10,000 aside to try to tidy up across road from Craigieburn Cutting. Nick - need to push from north down. Consequence of fire - have spent about two thirds of budget but lost time opportunity due to fire for some boom spraying. If there is shortfall in spending for this year, flexibility is in funding sources (Jocelyn), available for next season for tidying up.

Richard - trial of new slasher, at Field Days, 25-27th March which could be used on flats.

Nick - source of invasions have been hit in many areas.

Richard - Just need to hold spread and reduce burn stain in wool. Not intending to reseed.

Flock Hill Plan - Chris/Richard. Clear highway trees and get grass growing for first year. Allocated \$10,000 towards homestead, to be productive. First 4 years and FH stream area. Areas BC up to year 3.

Trees down near coal mine area need basal spraying. Source unsure. One-off event. Nick suggested **Wayne** be sent in there.

Jenny - biodiversity fund - for clearing of wildings before the opening of mine area

Jenny and James arranged to spot spray the ones behind Lake Grasmere.

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event next year. **Richard and Ray to go down and look at area.**

9.2 Strip on SH 73 - sprayed in next two weeks, \$5,000 Transit.

Under power lines - any money from Orion and Transpower?

Steve Hicks and ?? **Ray to look into that to organise something.**

9.3 Surveillance Programme - Nick - evaluate at end of summer, using students.

Jenny to talk to David Norton re allowance.

9.4 Volunteer programme - 7th March (Chloe and Jeff) and 11th April (Jocelyn and Katherine).

Limited to parking bus on side of road and wandering into close

proximity of SH 73. Lake Lyndon and down towards Porter, then from Parapet

north along face to stream. Some towards Flockburn as well.

Send ECan letter urging allowing future volunteers to go off main road to tackle

areas where they can make a huge difference for next year off main road. Jocelyn

explained the changes in ECan volunteers re strategy and H&S.

Jocelyn to send Richard a list of volunteers for use in future access to FH by the public/PR.

9.5 Lake Pearson fan - 15 people began working on this area last weekend.

Another trip is planned for 21st March. Flock Hill and Darrin Ok with chainsaw as

long as extinguisher goes with it.

Motion: Purchase of small Stihl chainsaw and fire extinguisher. Maree/David

9.6 Funders Update - unsure at this stage if anything is under way.

9.7 National Strategy - Final version signed off and in print. Anyone can apply for copies through the internet. Bulk funding being worked on by MPI currently.

9.8 Broad Stream - volunteer fund specific to Broad Stream

Wayne has put in tracks, will be asked for idea of how many people are needed

David suggested Rangiora Tramping Club as alternative to ECan funded day.

Unknown if we have petrol money. **Jocelyn to look into it. David and James to**

communicate on one off day to tidy up around arboretum.

9.9 Spray Trial Request: Rob Kiddo from Way to Go, Helicopters is offering to spray to trial new chemical in one area. Darrin - need close control. 5-10 hectares.

Needs to prove brew. Some issues re liability between Kiddo and Flock Hill. Jenny

and FH to talk. Some issues re its composition. **James** to discuss and get back to

FH. WELRA consents as long as all liabilities are covered and Flock Hill is happy.

May suggest leaving it to early next season when growth is flush and can compare

with own programme spraying. Good monitoring plots in place will be necessary.

9.10 Castle Hill wildings - approach owners. **(Ray)**

9.11 Sign - Replacing it in Cave Stream site decided subject to DOC approval.

Nick/ Jocelyn to follow up with ECan and Maree with DOC.

9.12 Website operating OK, under ECan.

9.13 Mapping - James is keeping mapping up to date, which will be necessary for the new sign.

9.14 Thanks expressed to Darrin for his report work., to Chris and Richard for Flock Hill's commitment., and to James for his on site work etc.

Meeting ended 1.54 p.m.

Maree Goldring
Minute Secretary.

MFE Report

February 2015

The total funding remaining was \$48,048.16. This was spent over 5 blocks and predominantly used for helicopter time, both for basal bark and boom spraying.

Godfrey Pest Management (GPM), are ground contractors. Using hand tools, chainsaws or knapsacks with X Tree.

Central South Island Helicopters (CSI) are the main helicopter company DOC Rangiora use for their wilding pine control. DOC manages their own control in conjunction with WELRA to save on helicopter ferry time and chemical transport.

The Department of Conservation (DOC) have been purchasing the chemical that will be used for WELRA operations, and then invoicing WELRA for the amounts used at the same cost that DOC purchased the chemical for. This means a saving to WELRA and makes it easier to manage.

GPM spent \$14,384.50 over two weeks to control 39.1ha using the basal bark technique. The area controlled can be seen in Figure 1. The chemical used to control these trees is not included in this price.



Figure 1. Area controlled by GPM, 39.1ha, shown in blue, in Block M5 (volunteer).