

Myrtle Rust 2018 Governance Meeting Minutes

Purpose	<i>To establish the group, confirm its purpose, membership and endorse/amend the terms of reference.</i>
Date	28 September 2018
Time	1:30 - 4:00pm
Venue	Pastoral House – Meeting Room 14.3
Members in attendance	John Walsh (Chair), Jacquelyn Shannon (DOC), Melanie Mark Shadbolt (Te Tira Whakamātaki, (TTW), Matthew Dolan (NZPPI), Gail Ogilvie (Auckland Council).
Observers	Paula Loader (MPI), Kim Morgan (DOC)
Apologies	Joris De Bres (Project Crimson Trust), Mike Slater (DOC), Phil Brown (Auckland Council), Haami Piripi (Iwi Chairs member)

Summary of Actions		Section	Responsible	Date	Status
1	Delivery of a draft strategy by December 2018	5	Working Group	22/06/18	Ongoing – keep as an action item
2	Working Group members – Melanie and Haami to provide names of potential members who could provide an iwi perspective (i.e. matauranga Maori, community and connection to the whenua)	5	Melanie Mark-Shadbolt Haami Piripi	01/08/18	28/09/18 Ongoing
3	Share information on the UK nursery accreditation programme with Rebecca Martin.	6	Melanie Mark-Shadbolt	01/08/18	
4	Talk to compensation team about progress for outstanding claims.	3	John Walsh	28/09/18	
5	Talk to SSAG chair about how to connect in with science effectively and options for meeting attendance	5	John Walsh	28/09/18	
6	Provide a list of SSAG members to the group.	5	MPI	28/09/18	
7	DOC to query their own nursery hygiene practices and whether myrtle plants are held for an observation period before planting.	6	DOC	28/09/18	

Items under discussion

1 Welcome & apologies

Apologies from Mike Slater, Joris De Bres and Phil Brown. Gail Ogilvie (Auckland Council) is attending in Phil Brown's place and Jacquelyn Shannon (DOC) is attending in Mike Slater's place.

2 Previous minutes, matters arising and actions (attachment 1)

- The minutes were recorded as an accurate record of the previous meeting.
- Following review, the governance group members have endorsed the terms of reference (TOR) for both the working group and the governance group.
- The previous action item 'share information on the UK nursery accreditation programme' is ongoing.
- Governance discussed the need for central government, local government, Maori and industry to work closely with one another in biosecurity. It was suggested that we make the myrtle rust programme an exemplar of how we collaborate and adopt this as a challenge for this group.
- It was agreed that these minutes and future governance minutes will be published on the MPI website.

3 Joint dashboard report (attachment 2)

3.1 Budget

The Chair noted that the programme budget summary includes funding for both MPI and DOC long-term management. Funding allocated for research has already been contracted, with some operational research funding being allocated to tool development.

Concern was expressed about a reduction in the budget for engagement and communication activities. It was suggested that this is an area that will need investment. Note that MPI will confirm its final 2018/19 figures at the next meeting.

3.2 DOC update

DOC noted that there has been a delay in developing the Germplasm strategy, but this will be passed on to governance once it's developed. The seed collection season for 2018 has now finished. DOC is now planning for the next seed collection season in 2019.

3.3 Engagement

MPI and DOC staff attended a community hui in Kerikeri hosted by Ngati Rehia on 6 September 2018. Key concerns raised were the potential risk of spores being spread by people coming into contact with infected plants in public places. Many of those in attendance want infected trees on public land removed and will pursue this with the landowners (in this instance the district council).

MPI also attended a hui in New Plymouth with Taranaki iwi representatives on 24 September 2018. A key outcome of the hui is the desire for broader community engagement and involvement..

An engagement plan is being developed alongside the LTM programme strategy. Citizen science will be included in the engagement plan. A presentation on this approach will be given to the working group next month, and a paper will come to governance in due course.

3.4 Compensation

Concerns were expressed from NZPPI regarding progress with the compensation claims for some nurseries. The Chair is in discussion with the compensation team already and undertook to raise these concerns.

Action: Chair to talk to compensation team about progressing the claims.

4 Working group (verbal update)

The working group had a successful two day workshop in September, and progressed the vision statement and objectives listing activities to achieve the objectives and beginning to map these to current actions.

Recruitment of new member continues with Peter Berg joining the group as a representative of the New Zealand Farm Forestry Association (NZFFA) and Tane's Trees Trust.

NZPPI is in the process of recruiting a new biosecurity manager who may also join the group.

5 Draft Strategy (attachment 3)

Comments on the draft strategy were positive. It is well structured and a clear plan is emerging. Governance expressed confidence in the draft vision statement and objectives, noting that a further Treaty of Waitangi objective is still being developed. A number of suggestions were made which will be taken into account in the next version. The final strategy is due in December.

5.1 Key risks

It was noted that more work around risks needs to be done. For the risk identified as capacity, it was further clarified that this is this the capacity out in the community, in the collaborative space. There are similar audiences for many biosecurity topics, so we need to think about how we combine all the different messages it so that it is a single message.

Further thought needs to be given around the disease risk, the risk of apathy or indifference in the community, the risk of conflicting objectives, and the biological risk of another strain coming into New Zealand.

5.2 Engagement implementation

It was suggested that for the engagement implementation, an implement-as-you-go approach may be suitable and that we need to consider ideas of effective behaviour change to accommodate the broad diversity of the different communities in New Zealand.

Points raised were an area that is not articulated clearly in the draft strategy is the ability to influence management governance structures and thinking about how we can pre-empt decision making.

5.3 Science connections - SSAG and TAG

It was noted that that the development of the LTM strategy and the science oversight by the Strategic Science Advisory Group (SSAG) needed to be joined up. Note that a LTM Technical Advisory Group (TAG) has been established, which includes some previous members of the response TAG. A copy of the terms of reference for the TAG will be provided at an upcoming meeting.

Action: Chair to talk to SSAG Chair about how to join up more effectively.

Action: Provide a list of SSAG members to the group.

6 DOC beehive concessions policy (verbal update)

DOC signalled plans are in place for a new beehive concession policy restricting the movement of beehives from known infected areas to public conservation land (PCL) in parts of the country where myrtle rust has not been found. DOC is writing to 70 concessionaires (100 concessions) to notify them of these restrictions and is consulting with Apiculture New Zealand who are in support of this action and the key messages. Iwi and the wider community are being actively engaged. A question was asked about hygiene practices in DOC nurseries. Are plants being held for an observation period, before planting on PCL?

Note that the recent research report into the risks of beehives did not make any recommendations on beehive movements. It is MPI's view is that it is up to landowners to make their own management decisions.

Action: DOC to query their nurseries' hygiene practices and whether plants are being held for observation before planting.

7 Operational changes

When the decision was made to transition the response to long-term management, it was on the basis that field operations would continue in outlier areas and it was understood that this effort would be scaled back over time as appropriate. Over the winter period, targeted surveillance and organism management proved ineffective in slowing the spread of the disease to any appreciable extent. With several new areas becoming known infected, the decision was taken to cease field operations at the end of August 2018. Council, iwi and affected property owners have been advised of the operational change. MPI has offered to engage with interested communities. The public notification number remains in place.

8 Next meeting - Friday 26 October

There were no objections to the next scheduled meeting date. Note Jacquelyn left early at 3.00pm. Meeting closed at 3:10PM.

Minutes taken by: Kendal Ratcliffe