

Myrtle Rust Governance Meeting Minutes

Date	29 March 2019
Time	1:30 - 4:30pm
Venue	Charles Fergusson Tower – Meeting Room 1.01
Members in attendance	John Walsh (Chair, MPI), Phil Brown (Auckland Council), Melanie Mark Shadbolt (Te Tira Whakamātaki, (TTW), Joris De Bres (Project Crimson Trust), Kathryn Hurr (NZPPI), Hilary Aikman (DOC), John Sanson (BNZ)
Observers	Ezra Pedro Jennings (BNZ), Paula Loader (BNZ), Naomi Parker (MPI), Kim Morgan (DOC), Fiona Thomson (DOC), Suliana Teasdale (DOC)
Apologies	Mike Slater (DOC), Matthew Dolan (NZPPI), Haami Piripi (Iwi Chairs), Melanie Mark-Shadbolt (for lateness)

Summary of Actions	Section	Responsible	Date of action	Status
1 Provide formal thanks to the working group.		Chair	25/01/19	To be actioned.
2 Follow up with the compensation team on when the open claims were received and an indication of when they will be closed.	3	BNZ	29/03/19	
3 Provide an update for surveillance plans past June 2019.	3	BNZ & DOC	29/03/19	
4 Small working group to accelerate long-term seed banking protocols.	4	DOC, TTW & BNZ	29/03/19	
5 Develop a strategy launch plan.	6	BNZ & DOC	29/03/19	

Items under discussion

1 Welcome, introductions & apologies

Apologies from Mike Slater (DOC), Haami Piripi (Iwi Chairs) and Matt Dolan (NZPPI). Hilary Aikman (DOC) is attending in Mike Slater's place and Kathryn Hurr (NZPPI) is attending in Matthew Dolan's place.

Note that Melanie Mark Shadbolt arrived late to the meeting.

MPI welcomed Ezra Jennings Pedro the new programme manager of the myrtle rust programme team. DOC welcomed Suliana Teasdale an Adviser in the myrtle rust programme team.

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

The minutes were recorded as an accurate record of the previous meeting and were published on the MPI website.

3 Joint dashboard report (attachment 2)

MPI and DOC spoke to the dashboard noting:

- The overall status of the programme is green. A trend indicator has been included to compare current progress with the previous report.
- The myrtle rust website was recently launched. MPI is undertaking a review of its myrtle rust webpages to reduce double ups and any remove any outdated information.
- A key risk remains that it is unclear what central government funding is available for a long-term myrtle rust programme. The MPI and DOC teams are currently mapping scenarios and prioritising key cornerstone documents for the programme.

- Roughly 15% of compensation claims remain open. The Chair noted that we need a clear sense of when the open claims were received and an indication of when they will be resolved.
- The research permit from DOC has been granted.
- A graph of finds by month and accumulation has been included in the report. It was clarified that the different blocks of colour indicate finds during the different phases of response, transition and long-term management.
- The myrtle rust notification service is due to conclude in June. DOC clarified that they would continue monitoring at high risk sites and seed collectors would conduct a delimiting survey before collecting any seed. Governance expressed interest in knowing:
 - what the passive number of finds are compared when we were doing surveillance,
 - the plan going forward for citizen science reporting. It was clarified that members of the public would be encouraged to use the iNaturalist platform.

Action: Programme team to follow up with the compensation team on when the open claims were received and an indication of when they will be closed.

Action: Programme team to provide an update for surveillance plans past June 2019.

4 Research Summary (attachment 3)

Paula presented an overview of the current MPI funded research projects and their progress. Note that the key findings of the research are due June 2019 and will be used to inform the setting of future research priorities.

Background: The myrtle rust response SSAG (2017) came up with five intersecting research themes of understanding the biology, improving management tools and approaches, Te Ao Maori, building community engagement and social license and evaluating the impacts of myrtle rust and disease control efforts.

Governance sought clarification on the implications of recent research into the sexual reproduction of myrtle rust. A recent scientific paper confirms that myrtle rust reproduction in New Zealand is not strictly clonal, contrary to what has previously been thought, but it is unclear what this will mean for New Zealand Myrtle species. Note that a separate paper is due to be published on sexual reproduction in Australia.

Action: Governance members who are interested can request a copy of the paper by Esna du Plessis, et al. (2019). The pandemic strain of *Austropuccinia psidii* causes myrtle rust in New Zealand and Singapore. Australasian Plant Pathology. 10.1007/s13313-019-0624-x.

It was clarified that import permits are in place for NZ native myrtle seed going offshore to be used for research purposes.

Governance expressed concern around the apparently inconsistent use of agreed protocols for seed collection with iwi/hapu and suggested that a small working group (including DOC, TTW & MPI) meet to discuss how this could be improved for future New Zealand myrtle seed-banking efforts. It was noted that MBIE will not need to be part of the conversation but needs to be kept informed. DOC noted that their germplasm preservation strategy for New Zealand Myrtaceae is in draft and is due to be formally approved in June 2019.

DOC also noted that a report is due on the monitoring of Rangitoto and Raoul Islands.

Action: A small working group to meet and discuss options for developing suitable seed banking protocols for the long-term preservation and research use of New Zealand Myrtaceae.

5 Strategic Science Advisory Group (SSAG) (verbal update)

The SSAG has been focused on the drafting of the Science plan, with an aim to agree to a first final draft in April and publishing the final in June. Note that the timeline provided to the Governance Group needs to be updated by about two weeks due to recent events.

Note that Paula Loader has replaced Erik Van Eyndhoven as an observer on the myrtle rust SSAG.

The Science Policy team is recruiting to fill a Strategic Communications Science role covering kauri dieback, myrtle rust and *Mycoplasma bovis*.

6 Endorsement of Strategy (attachment 3 & 4)

Ezra acknowledged contributions from Governance members and noted their final feedback on the strategy:

- Changed the term 'myrtaceae' to the more familiar term 'myrtle species' (throughout the document).

- Included a measurement 'Scientific understanding of the spread and impacts of myrtle rust increases' (p. 11).
- International collaboration of 'indigenous to indigenous'. Governance suggested clearer phrasing of 'exchanges through indigenous people' (p.13).
- The Appendices – New Zealand hosts of known infected species updated today.

The programme team noted they would like to include a special contribution to Haami Piripi in the Strategy. The Governance members agreed with this.

All of the Governance members provided acknowledgement of the changes and endorsed the strategy as a living document, noting:

- we need to emphasise it is a living document when releasing the strategy;
- we will need a process or mechanism for capturing the feedback and reporting back to governance (as part of the launch feedback);
- the Science plan will be aligned to the strategy.

The launch plan will need to be developed out of session. Governance members expressed that they all need to think about how they will demonstrate leadership in the launch plan. The Chair noted that they will lend a coms person to help the programme team with developing a plan.

The Governance Group extended a very big thanks to all the staff involved and expressed that the thanks need to be extended to the working group also.

Action: Develop a strategy launch plan.

7 Next meeting

It was agreed that the placeholder meetings scheduled for 18 April and 24 May will be cancelled and the next meeting will be on Friday 31 May 2019.

Note: Budget day is 30 May.

Meeting closed at 3:00PM.

Minutes taken by: Kendal Ratcliffe