



Northern United Forestry Group

Monthly Meeting. Raywood Hotel, 8:00pm Wednesday 22 February 2012

1 Welcome and Apologies

Vice-President Ken Wellard welcomed members and declared the meeting open at 8:25pm

Present: Ian Rankin, Tim Johns, Ken Wellard, Bill Gallagher, John Childs, James Williams, Robyn McKay, Andy Hay, Phil Dyson, Leanne Rankin.

Apologies: Louise Wellard, Anne Murphy, Carmel Hay, Keith Murphy, Rob Comer, Mal Brown, Howard Perry.

Motion: "Accept the apologies." Moved PD. Seconded JW. Carried.

2 Minutes of previous meeting held 25 January 2012

Motion: "Minutes of the meeting held at Dingee Hotel 25/1/12, be accepted as a true, accurate record of the meeting." Moved BG. Seconded JC. Carried.

3 Business arising from previous minutes

All issues held over to general business

4 Correspondence In

- ♦ NCCMA – Bill for National Soils Conference Exhibitor.
- ♦ Howard Perry – National Forest Industries Review email.
- ♦ David Clark –VFF FTLA, merger with VLC.
- ♦ Australian Forests and Timber Mag, Issue 1, Vol 21, article on NUFG.
- ♦ Australian Forest Grower, Summer 2012, vol 4, #4, article on NUFG.
- ♦ The Whirrakee, Vol 33, #1, article on NUFG.

5 Correspondence Out

- ♦ None.

Motion: "That the correspondence be accepted." Moved RMcK. Seconded IR.

6 Reports

President's report – No report tendered.

Treasurer's report – No report tendered (honeymoon)????!!!!

Social Secretary's Report – Rob's wedding was a very nice affair. Congratulations to Rob and Nobuko.

Kamo report – No report tendered by Phil. Andy passed on that the water-table has further fallen, due to two dams going dry which depend on the water-table to hold water.

7 General Business

1. HP- email, Howard would like NUFG to write a letter to Sharman Stone with some specific requests arising from the submission to the National Forestry Review. The report has come out on the review, and it may be an opportune time to follow up. Discussion ensued about the appropriateness of getting an opposition person involved, however the meeting felt that the correspondence should be sent to the relevant minister. Recommendation of the meeting was for HP to draft a letter and for the group to do an email edit, then forward to the appropriate government ministers via the secretary. Thanks to Howard for following up on the issues.

2. JW – VFF FTLA/VLC proposed merger. David Clark has sent some info about the issues with doing this, and ensuing insurance issues as a key element of this information.
Motion: "That NUFG endorse the executive decision to pass proxy to Lexton LC Group on this issue." Moved RMcK. Seconded BG.

3. Issues with LC movement handling of 2011 LC Awards. Want some further action and closure to the issue. Issues with the processes and future approach to the awards.

Letter to be written by group with email edit, then forward to the appropriate people within the LC movement.
4. JW – Northern Bio-links project. Has been more happening, groups are getting involved. A good linkage for the group and possible funding opportunities may arise. JC, BG, JW, PD went to meeting last week, example of a bio-links project which has been undertaken largely in NSW was presented.
5. RMcK – Sub-committee for the LC grant. Asked for variation of \$1,400 for marquee hire, approved by NCCMA for bore construction. Various items for the field day discussed. Organisation going well, involving tree planting, Miles Geldhard (nest boxes). Great work by the sub-committee.
6. IR – Plantation firewood, some work has been done by IR and BB on getting some firewood and selling into the Bendigo market. Possibility of depot in Bendigo. Bendigo Sustainability Group involved. Costing and so on to be done.
7. JW – Helen McPherson-Smith Trust visited the Kamo site with others to further progress the concept of the mental health project. The Education Centre was really well used on the day. Sign would be good.
8. TJ – Gathering data for forestry from the groups existing assets. The group needs to look at gathering data from people's plantations which can be used toward agroforestry. These might include getting individual members to forward their information or paying for someone to gather the data. Members to think what the best way to gather this information is for the next meeting. This could include reference to data being gathered at Kamo.
9. PD – Dendrometers in Armidale being serviced. Soils forum 8 th and 9 th of March, anyone who is going to be there, please assist Ranks at the trade table. Water bore information to be got from AH.

Meeting closed: at 9:30pm.

Next Meeting: Raywood Hotel, Wednesday March 28th, 2012 at 8:00pm.