

RCE-GWS Meeting

**Minutes** of meeting via video-conference 27th February 2014 at 8.30am – 11.30am

**Present**: Andrew Hewson, Penrith City Council

Annie Nielson, ParraCAN

Bert Lo Campo, Blacktown Learning Community

Brittany Hardiman, Office of Sustainability UWS  
Damien Feneley, Department of Education and Communities

Elizabeth Hellenpach, TAFE WSi

Geoff Scott, UWS and RCE-GWS International Adviser  
Greg Cheatham, TAFE WSi  
Helen Angelakis, Office of Sustainability UWS  
Jen Dollin, Office of Sustainability UWS

Margaret Somerville, RCE Chairperson

Mark Edwards, Brewongle Environmental Education Centre  
Michael Rynn, ParraCAN

Mike Bartlett, Sydney Olympic Park Authorities

Robin Woods, Hawkesbury Environment Network

Sophie Bartlett, Hawkesbury City Council

Suzanne Stewart, Hawkesbury City Council

Wendy Hird, TAFE SWSi

**Apologies:** Aimee Freimanis, Parramatta City Council  
Anne Waller, UWS Connect  
Antony Lewis, ParraCAN   
Ben Artup, Penrith Business Alliance

Berice Anning, Badanami Centre for Indigenous Education University of Western Sydney

Bernadette Raid, Penrith City Council

Darren O’Connell, TAFE SWSi (returned to Illawara TAFE)

Donna Rattenbury, Blacktown City Council

Debra Gersbach, North West Disability Service

Eric Sidoti, Whitlam Institute

Eric Brocken, Hawkesbury Earthcare Centre (HDRA)

Greg Whately, UWS College (Blacktown)  
Ian Knowd, Hawkesbury Harvest  
Jim Robinson, Hawkesbury Community College

Judith Bruinsma, WSROC  
 Keith Brandwood, Cumberland Bird Observers Club

Mark Samaha, TAFE WSi

Melissa Williams, Officer of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment and Engagement UWS  
Peter Flottman, Greening Australia

Rachel Bentley, TVS  
 Sharon Kerr, WSI TAFE  
 Steve Body, Brewongle Environmental Education Centre

Zhan Patterson, EcoEducator

**Invitees:** April Browne, School of Science and Health UWS

Chris Vella, School of Science and Health UWS

Debra Blakely, Blacktown Learning Community

Debra Keenahan, School of Social Sciences and Psychology UWS   
Kumara Ward, School of Education UWS  
Om Dhungel, CEO of Settlement Services International  
Zoe Sofoulis, Institute for Culture and Society UWS

1. **OPENING**
   1. **Purpose**  
      Meeting was called between the RCE Greater Western Sydney partners to discuss project progression with the RCE working groups.

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

1. **MATTERS ARISING**
   1. **Outcomes from Meetings**
      1. RCE-GWS welcomes Margaret Somerville as the new chair. Geoff Scott will remain as the International Advisor for RCE-GWS
   2. **New Members**
      1. Looking to update and set criteria for new memberships on [website](http://uws.edu.au/rcegws/rce/our_partners/joining_rce-gws). Floor was open to RCE members to suggest possible membership or criteria
         1. associated members and executives (2 tiers)
         2. need to be able to get mutual benefits
         3. need to be of benefit to Western Sydney communities and sustainability
         4. need to bring their services and knowledge

**ACTION:** Helen and Margaret to work on new criteria

* 1. **International**
     1. International UNESCO conference in Japan, November. Geoff paper on RCE-GWS will be presented. Key areas for meeting include teacher education, water & energy and food security
     2. Geoff meeting with Tony, international director for global health, in July to discuss RCE-GWS
     3. Geoff writing piece of higher education for the New Yorker about our current graduates losing our way with work ready. Need graduates that are sustainability literature, 21st century agenda – work ready plus.
  2. **Workshop**
     1. Opportunities for the set up of new groups or update existing groups. Groups had to identify a leader, partners, what the working group wants to achieve and in relation to Greater Western Sydney, required resources and a timeline of events. The following groups were proposed:
        1. **Business Sustainability Group** - Liz (leader), Andrew, Aimee,Kerry, Antony, Dan and Jen. This group aims to facilitate Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs) sharing their business sustainability success stories with positive and/or economic outcomes.
        2. **Cultural Sustainability Group** - Debra leader, Margaret, Geoff, Om, Judith, Sallhan, Jen. This group aims to support the development of small groups though grass root initiatives for capacity building.
        3. **International Youth Engagement Group** - Mike leader, Mark, Brittany, Annie, Michael (climate change). This group aims to develop projects and program connection between Australasian RCEs and selected international RCEs with a focus on EfS and youth engagement.
        4. **Education for Sustainability in Schools Group**- Damien (leader), Bert, Debra, Peter, Sophie, Suzanne. This group will work towards developing a Sustainable model for schools across the Department of Education and Communities school education sector. Concept still being developed
        5. **Agricultural and Food Security Education Group** – April and Chris (leaders), Wendy. This group is a network of communication between UWS, TAFE, industry and schools to encourage student engagement with ‘big picture’ agriculture and food security in a cross curricular forum
        6. **Community and Communication** **for Sustainability** **(Nirimba) Group** - Greg (leader), Mark, Jen. Refocusing concept.
  3. **Other Business**
     1. PICSE program at UWS to encourage students to think more broadly about agriculture. One project ‘Agvocate’ with RAS - camp style experience for year 10 kids to open there eyes to Agriculture at UWS Hawkesbury and Easter show. Contact Chris or April UWS for more information.
     2. Green Army - Federal funding for environmental action projects. Open to community and local government. Contact Greg TAFE WSi for more details.
     3. Ecofest in Parramatta in October with possible ‘food, family and farming’ theme. Contact Annie ParraCAN for more details.

1. **STANDING ITEMS**
   1. **RCE Website**The RCE-GWS website is a resource of all our members to provide, present and share information with our members and to share with the wider community. To keep this resource up to date it is important that each partner submits regular updated information, including your contact details and any images you may have.

For a simple and effective way to share your important event is through the [RCE website](http://www.uws.edu.au/rce) homepage. Please note content must first be approved by a moderator and when filling out the events form ensure to add as much detail as possible.

* 1. **RCE-GWS E-Newsletter**

The RCE-GWS e-newsletter is a resource of all our members to provide, present and share information with our members and to share the wider community. Our bimonthly newsletter will next be released in the New Year.

**ACTION:** Members to send article, photos, information and web links to Brittany for inclusion on the website or in the newsletter.

1. **NEXT MEETING**

Our next meeting will be held in June 2014. More details will be advised closer to the date.

Minutes confirmed by: 

RCE-GWS CHAIR

5/3/14

DATE