

Myrtle Rust 2018 Governance Meeting Minutes

Date	30 November 2018
Time	1:30 - 4:30pm
Venue	Pastoral House – Meeting Room 14.3
Members in attendance	John Sanson (Acting Chair, MPI), Hilary Aikman (DOC), Matthew Dolan (NZPPI), Phil Brown (Auckland Council), Melanie Mark Shadbolt (Te Tira Whakamātaki, (TTW), Joris De Bres (Project Crimson Trust), Haami Piripi (Iwi Chairs member)
Observers	Paula Loader (MPI), Kim Morgan (DOC), Fiona Thomson (DOC), Naomi Parker (MPI), Lorin Lima (MPI)
Apologies	Mike Slater (DOC), John Walsh (Chair, MPI)

Summary of Actions	Section	Responsible	Date	Status
1 Share information on the UK nursery accreditation programme with Rebecca Martin.	6	Melanie Mark-Shadbolt	01/08/18	30/11/2018 Ongoing
2 SSAG to be asked to provide a quick rundown on what the science programmes are, how we are monitoring the impacts and the time horizons are at the next meeting.	4	SSAG	26/10/18	30/11/18 – Ongoing. The science group is collating a science stocktake for the MR Symposium and an update will be provided to the Governance group after this
3 SSAG and programme team to come back to governance in next meeting on how we are going to manage and share the research information and outcomes.	5	SSAG MPI/DOC	26/10/18	30/11/18 Ongoing
4 All organisations to identify ways to improve information sharing with one another.	5	Governance	26/10/18	30/11/18 Ongoing
5 MPI to provide a copy of the strategy marked 'For Regional Council BioManagers Information Only' to Phil Brown to circulate to BioManagers.	2	MPI Phil Brown	30/11/18	
6 Haami to talk to iwi chairs forum on their support of to help facilitate myrtle rust hui.	3	Haami Piripi	30/11/18	
7 MPI to update strategy to reflect feedback from governance - circulate updated strategy to the working group and governance for consideration.	4	Paula Loader	30/11/18	Updated and circulated to WG 4/12/18

Items under discussion

1 Welcome, introductions & apologies

Apologies from John Walsh (Chair) and Mike Slater (DOC). Hillary Aikman (DOC) is attending in Mike Slater's place. John Walsh asked John Sanson to chair the meeting. Apologies also from Melanie Mark-Shadbolt and Matt Dolan who both arrived 30 minutes late.

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.

- Previous action item 'Package of refreshed messaging...'. The messaging is ready and the refresh is timed to coincide with the launch of the new website in January.
- Previous action items 4 & 6 on the outline of science programme and SSAG programme team collaboration - The SSAG are pulling together information for the Symposium in mid-December where an update will be provided.
- Previous action item 5 'All organisations to build on our mechanisms for sharing information with one another.' – Members noted that the marked in confidence status of documents makes this difficult to do.

Action: MPI to provide a copy of the strategy marked 'For Regional Council BioManagers Information Only' to Phil Brown to circulate to BioManagers.

3 Joint dashboard report (attachment 2)

MPI and DOC spoke to the dashboard noting changes to the compensation reporting and other key points.

- Discussion followed about the purpose of a Myrtle rust research hui with Ngati Porou in early November. This was a scene setting hui and researchers will follow up by interviewing key respondents identified as being involved with myrtle rust on the East Cape.
- It was noted there is a need to hold hui at times that allow iwi members to attend. Some representatives were unable to attend this hui due to other commitments. Every effort is made to collaboratively plan hui to suit the key local people who need to be involved and avoid overburdening busy people in the community who are often balancing other demands on their time. (e.g. Kauri Dieback or Te Tau Ihu). The programme team has extended the offer to support and plan hui in other areas, but only a few have taken up this offer. Haami volunteered to share this information with the iwi chairs forum to spread the word.
- MPI indicated that the next research hui may be held in Te Tau Ihu. There are plans to present an engagement plan to the governance group in the New Year.
- Clarification was sought on the Rangitoto Island bird monitoring programme. DOC clarified that they are in the beginning stages of setting up the programme to monitor any ecosystem impacts if myrtle rust were to arrive on the island.

Action: Haami offered the support of the Iwi Chairs Forum to help facilitate myrtle rust hui.

4 Final draft long-term strategy and action plan (attachment 3 & 4)

MPI and DOC provided an overview of the process for developing the strategy and outlined the main changes since the previous draft was presented to governance in September. The main changes made were:

- Further clarification of the purpose and addition of a section on scope.
- Addition of Principles.
- Added section 4.2 Maori cultural value.
- In line with feedback from the September governance meeting an additional objective was added - Objective 5: Whanau, hapu and iwi are supported to exercise their responsibilities as guardians of their natural and cultural resources that may be affected by myrtle rust.
- Addition of a new objective to reflect that other environmental factors can impact a plant and or ecosystems (i.e. pest animals) - Objective 6: The resilience and integrity of ecosystems vulnerable to myrtle rust is enhanced.
- Changes to the section seven 'Key Risks' table reflecting previous governance feedback.
- Collaboration was included as a key activity in section eight.
- Two new appendices have been added setting out the known hosts of myrtle rust in New Zealand.

Governance feedback

The strategy was presented to the governance group as a working draft and stimulated a good wide-ranging discussion at the meeting. Overall, the governance group members present indicated that they are happy with progress made in developing the strategy and provided some suggested changes and edits. The key suggestions were:

- The strategy needs an introduction with a clear outline of who the strategy is for (the people of New Zealand) and how it aligns with Biosecurity_2025 (Ko Tātou, This Is Us).
- The principles should be amended and brought to the front of the document
- The scope section needs to be expanded and spell out what the strategy covers and how this fits within the broader biosecurity system.

- The economic impacts on the nursery industry should include changes in consumer behaviour i.e. reduced demand for myrtle plants by the general public and organisations undertaking annual planting plans. Nurseries face increasing management costs including fungicide treatments.
- Haami noted that Maori interests are contemporary as well as traditional and include commercial interests. Alternative wording was offered for objective 5 and the word 'traditional' has been removed.
- Further risks were suggested.
- Discussion followed about the value of taking more activities to monitor the long term spread or intensification and impacts, as well as identification of plants showing some resistance to myrtle rust. How will this be captured in the strategy?
- Regular review of the strategy to be included, e.g. if the science programme delivers new tools there may be an opportunity to undertake more active management of the disease in local areas and this may require a change to the strategy
- Include information on how the impact of the strategy will be measured and reported
- Strategy to also note need / benefit of preparing for other potential strains and the need for a contingency plan should circumstances change from that predicted.

Governance members were also provided with a copy of the draft action plan (for information only) and made aware this is still a work in progress. Governance members indicated that a strategy on a page would be useful alongside the strategy. The next iteration of the strategy will be provided to both the working group and governance members for consideration out of session with the option for a governance group teleconference (potentially on 12 December) if further discussion is needed.

Action: MPI to update strategy to reflect feedback from governance - circulate updated strategy to the working group and governance for consideration.

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

5.1 Myrtle rust symposium

Naomi Parker provided an update on the myrtle rust symposium (13-14 December). The agenda for the symposium has been set and circulated to attendees. Day one will consist of updates from researchers on what we currently know about myrtle rust, how we can use this knowledge to better manage myrtle rust, and looking at research gaps and critical science areas. Day two will be a continuation of identifying science needs and most critically identifying clear priorities as a key message for participants.

Naomi sought ideas from Governance regarding issues for discussion at the symposium. Governance suggested looking into what we need to know for the worst case scenario.

5.2 SSAG Meeting Outcomes (November)

There has been a change in membership with Geoff Pegg replacing Jo Luck as the international representative. A representative for the plant pathologist membership is in discussion with a few candidates.

5.2 Latest science funding

Minister Woods recently announced a funding increase of \$5 million over three years as a strategic science investment fund platform to be delivered under the BioHeritage Nation Science Challenge for research into myrtle rust. The SSAG will work with BioHeritage on identifying and prioritising the research.

Curious Minds New Zealand has recently announced the funding of \$30,000 for a citizen science project 'Understanding rusts – fungal invaders of Aotearoa.'

6 Citizen science

Governance received a presentation on the citizen science training modules and website development and indicated they were enthusiastic about the progress in both areas.

The training modules will initially be focused on two groups – the general public and technical experts. The modules will also be available in Te Reo Maori. Governance suggested also developing modules for school aged children.

It was noted that the new website is likely to go live in January 2019. It was suggested by the acting Chair that the strategy could be launched at the same time, and this was supported by governance, noting this would be just before the high risk period for myrtle rust.

7 Next meeting

The group decided that the next meeting would be a teleconference if needed to go over anything further, e.g. finalise and sign off on the strategy. 12 December was flagged as a potential date for a teleconference.

Meeting closed at 4:25PM.

Minutes taken by: Kendal Ratcliffe