

MEETING SUMMARY

The second meeting of WHA's Committee of Management (Board) took place on 3 June 2015 at the Sydney Institute of Marine Science, Chowder Bay.

Members of the Management Committee are:

- Mark Schipp, Australia's Chief Veterinary Officer (Chair)
- Hume Field, individual member elected by the Individual Members (Deputy Chair)
- Ian Roth, CVO NSW, Nominee of the Animal Health Committee
- Three organisations elected by the organisational members:
 - Andrew Peters, Wildlife Disease Association Australasian Section Chair
 - Chris Hibbard, Zoo Aquarium Association Executive Director
 - Pam Whiteley, Wildlife Health Surveillance Victoria

The meeting included WHA staff and participants: Rupert Woods (CEO), Karen Magee (Public Officer), Tiggy Grillo (National Coordinator), and Emma Homes (Marketing and Communications).

The purpose of the meeting was to continue induction of the Board in the areas of marketing and communications and risk management, develop an approach to strategy development, set priorities for 2015/16 and update everyone on progress to date.

Implementation of the WHA Marketing and Communications strategy is well underway including media training of staff, production of a quarterly newsletter for members and inclusion of WHA into the National Biosecurity Network. Future planned activities include a member survey, sponsorship of the Wildlife Diseases Association International Conference in July, and a membership drive. WHA's National Coordinator (and Australia's OIE Wildlife Focal Point) Tiggy Grillo briefed the Board on progress with two activities relating to the "Smarter Surveillance" area of the WHA strategic plan: recent learning outcomes from her attendance at an international Wildlife Surveillance Satellite Symposium held in Amsterdam, and the implications for Australia and progress with assessing the feasibility of incorporating Australian universities into Australia's

general wildlife health surveillance arrangements. The key messages from the Satellite Symposium were that all countries face the same challenges in implementing national surveillance strategies and that Australia is doing a very good job in a very complex environment. The universities feasibility study is progressing well with investigating the wildlife caseloads that Australian universities see and the ability of Australian universities to provide these data to the National Wildlife Health Information System. A workshop, which will be hosted by Melbourne University, is planned for August to discuss the findings and consider next steps. WHA strategy development included setting priorities in the short term through review of the WHA business plan and developing an approach to updating the WHA business case and longer term planning. In order to better help them achieve their missions, WHA will review its strategic plan to better align its key performance indicators with those of the Australian Government Departments of Agriculture, Environment and Health. The Board was briefed on how WHA manages risk within the organisation and the first meeting of the WHA Audit and Risk Committee held. Other business included ratification of a number of policies and procedures developed by the WHA Interim Management Committee as part of the move from AWHN to WHA, consideration of new membership applications and progress with matters arising for the previous Management Committee meeting.

In all it was a very useful meeting with the Board now having addressed most of the immediate requirements associated with the handover from the WHA Interim Management Committee. This now allows the Board to turn its focus to planning, member needs and the future for the organization moving forward.

For more information on the meeting please contact your representative on the Board, or contact the WHA CEO or Public Officer, Rupert Woods (0438 755 078) or Karen Magee (02 9960 3386) respectively.