

MEETING SUMMARY

The first meeting of WHA's Committee of Management (Board) took place on 3 and 4 March 2015 near their offices at Georges Heights, Mosman.

WHA is an incorporated association and extends the work of the Australian Wildlife Health Network, which was established in 2002.

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: Rupert Woods CEO, Karen Magee Public Officer, Tiggy Grillo, National Coordinator, Keren Cox-Witton, Senior Project Officer, Sam Gilchrist, Project Officer.

The first day was spent on governance training (conflict of interest, making good decisions, the duties of officers and directors), which was presented by the Governance Institute of Australia, the peak body for governance in Australia. The WHA National Coordinator, Tiggy Grillo then outlined WHA work on the Pigeon Paramyxovirus outbreak in 2011 as a case study to demonstrate WHA's role in assisting Australian governments during emergency disease outbreaks involving wildlife. We heard about Keren Cox-Witton's work with bat groups and Sam Gilchrist's progress with the Universities Focus Group, both projects aimed to improve national wildlife health surveillance.

The formal management committee meeting was held on the second day. As prescribed in the constitution, a process was agreed for election of a deputy chair for WHA and the individual member representative, Dr Hume Field was elected unopposed. The constitution was discussed and a number of recommendations for amendments to better enable the management committee to discharge its duties and support the membership identified. These suggestions will be brought to the membership for consideration at the next AGM. A skills audit was performed to identify

skills sets present in the management committee. It was clear that the MC has strong technical skills and significant experience across most areas required for the smooth running and future growth of WHA. Areas were also identified where additional input could improve the management committee's ability to deliver on the mission of WHA. These findings will be important in the context of the two additional discretionary positions available on the management committee.

An audit and risk committee was formed and a process for managing risk within the organisation discussed. Future sustainability was identified as an important issue and it was agreed that the WHA Marketing and Communications Strategy would be further discussed at the next management committee meeting. WHA's vision, mission, principles, charter and strategic plan were reviewed. The strategic plan now focuses on three main areas: Smarter Surveillance; Preparedness and Response, and; Research and Knowledge.

It was a very busy and productive meeting as the new management committee commenced its responsibilities in governing on behalf of the membership. Both days provided a good opportunity for the new committee members to learn more about WHA, get to know each other, and learn about their role and responsibilities as members of the first Management Committee of WHA.

For more information on the meeting please contact your representative on the committee, or contact the CEO or Public Officer, Rupert Woods or Karen Magee respectively.