

MEETING SUMMARY

The eleventh meeting of WHA's Committee of Management (Board) took place on 8th November, 2017 via a face to face meeting.

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)
- Charles Milne, CVO VIC, Nominee of the Animal Health Committee
- Three organisations elected by the organisational members:
 - Pam Whiteley, Wildlife Health Surveillance Victoria.
 - Andrew Peters, Wildlife Disease Association Australasian Section Chair
 - Chris Bunn, Australian Veterinary Conservation Biology, a special interest group of the Australian Veterinary Association

This was a routine quarterly meeting of the WHA Management Committee and included WHA staff: Rupert Woods (CEO), Karen Magee (Administration Manager/Public Officer) and Tiggy Grillo (National Coordinator – for items discussing analysis and approach to environment and environmental biosecurity).

- An update was provided by the CEO on the transition to a new, cost-shared funding model for WHA. A paper seeking to finalise contribution from jurisdictions is being considered by the National Biosecurity Committee, and formal notice of the outcome is imminent.
- Following completion and independent review of the University Based Wildlife Disease Surveillance pilot project, the MC identified the importance of strategic engagement with Australian universities, and have requested additional information on the potential value of universities to Australia's biosecurity system.
- The increase in analysis of disease events and data that is being integrated into WHA activities by WHA staff was reviewed. The National Coordinator (Tiggy Grillo) was congratulated on her efforts. It was, however, identified that there is still much work to be done and a number of suggestions were made as to how this area could be further improved.
- A perceived lack of WHA activities targeting biodiversity and environment was discussed. WHA works in a large number of areas relevant to environmental biosecurity, and is well placed to assist National Biosecurity Committee in their efforts to improve this area for Australia. However, WHA needs to work to raise its profile. This is largely a capacity issue and there are many opportunities for WHA to assist in future should additional funding be secured. Risk assessment may help in guiding investment and priorities.

For more information on the meeting please contact your representative on the Board, the CEO (0438 755 078) or WHA Public Officer, Karen Magee (02 9960 6333).