

## MEETING SUMMARY: 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

The thirty eighth meeting (BM38) of WHA's Board took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 via virtual meeting.

Members of the Board are:

- Cameron Bell (Acting Chair), Funding Member, Agriculture Victoria
- Sharon Kolek, Funding Member, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- Michelle Campbell-Ward, Individual Member Representative elected by the Individual Members
- Andrew Pearce, nominee of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DCCEEW)
- Michelle Rodan, Animal Health Committee Representative
- Three organisations elected by the Organisational Members:
  - Leanne Wicker, Wildlife Disease Association Australasia (Apology)
  - Julien Grosmaire, Australian Veterinary Conversation Biologists
  - Nicola Craddock, Zoo and Aquarium Association
- Rodney Vile, Invited Member, Environment Agency
- James Newman, Invited Active Observer (Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water).

This was the first meeting of the year and was a routine meeting. Along with routine business, the board considered two strategic items:

- Priorities for the year ahead
- Replacement of the Chair.

At the start of each calendar year, the board considers the strategic priorities for the year for the organisation. The board identified as the highest priority a focus on advocacy, marketing, engagement, and communications to show WHA to be the solution to national needs and interest relating to wildlife health issues across the One Health spectrum. It was recognised that marketing, communication and engagement strategies are already in place and would be reviewed in the context of a dedicated project plan to address this priority. Also of importance, but of secondary priority, are planning and delivery of WildPLAN 2 (to bring clarity for the future), and delivery of the current strategic vision (to continue to address previously identified priorities of key funders and stakeholders in the original WildPLAN).

At the end of 2023, Peter Bridgewater, resigned from the Chair position and the future of the role was discussed. The board will consider the preferred requirements of an incoming Chair, in alignment with the organisation's position in the current planning cycle, alongside the agreed strategic priorities for the year ahead. The role will be externally advertised to encourage a broad and diverse range of applicants.

A board representative from the Public Fund Working Group provided a report on the WHA Public Fund expenditure for this financial year to date. Recipients of the Public Fund include:

- Identified 8 wildlife clinics to donate the book Medicine of Australian Mammals. Books were provided to Clinics identified through a carers conference.
- Funding to AMMRIC, for education material to be translated from English into Central Indigenous Language to ensure key messages and education about how effective control of domestic and feral cats supports wildlife. An Animation translation script has been completed, and when the animation is complete will

include WHA acknowledgement and logo. In addition to this, special educational resources have also been produced to support AMMRIC's classroom-based education programs around cats.

- Funding to Currumbin Wildlife Hospital for purchase of a humidicrib.

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