

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING CCC28**

16 September 2003  
John Curtin House, Canberra

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jenni Mack (Chair), Ben Cole, Andrew Duncan, Alison Brinson, Anne Stanton, Jane Fuller. Liz Hanna, Sid Cowling

**APVMA OFFICERS PRESENT**

Joe Smith (part), Eva Bennet-Jenkins, Tim Dyke (part), David Loshcke (part), Dennis O'Leary (part), Colin Byrnes (part) Kathleen Allan, Peter Dagg (part), Phil Reeves (part).

**APOLOGIES**

NIL

**AGENDA ITEM 1 – WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Chair welcomed members and APVMA staff.

Acting Chief Executive Officer, Dr Joe Smith addressed the meeting. Dr Smith advised members that Dr Alison Turner, former CEO had recently been appointed as the inaugural General Manager of the National Blood Authority. Joe acknowledged Alison's efforts over six year's with the APVMA and wished her well in her new role. The APVMA Board has appointed Dr Smith as Acting CEO while a CEO is recruited. Joe introduced Dr Eva Bennet-Jenkins, Acting Program Manager – Pesticides.

**AGENDA ITEM 2 – ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The Chair advised members that the agenda would be rearranged to accommodate the various staff presentations and that of our guest Mr Andy Nicholls.

Members adopted the amended agenda.

**AGENDA ITEM 3 – MINUTES OF CCC27**

The minutes of CCC27 were accepted as tabled.

**AGENDA ITEM 4 – ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**4.1 CCC Planning Document**

An updated CCC planning document was provided to members with CCC28 papers.

## 4.2 Action sheet

All matters that do not appear in the agenda below were being satisfactorily progressed.

## AGENDA ITEM 5 – REPORTS

### 5.1 Member Reports

#### 5.1 CCC Activity

Members were asked to briefly summarise their CCC activity since CCC27 and to nominate the top three issues of importance to member networks.

#### *Sid Cowling*

- Disappointed with the lack of feedback from constituents regarding the APVMA spraydrift proposal.
- The Organic Producers Association of Queensland recently held a regional conference which was well attended and very successful. The Organic Federation of Australia is holding the second National Organic Conference in Adelaide in early October. The APVMA has been invited to speak on post-harvest treatment of farm produce”.

#### *Alison Brinson*

- Victorian chemical user training issues
- Recent restructure of the Chemcert national board
- Held discussions with raspberry industry representatives regarding residue testing issues.
- E-bulletin valuable

#### *Liz Hanna*

- Disappointed with a lack of feedback on issues
- Held a community meeting with regards to agvet chemical exposure
- Is concerned with the lack of understanding and awareness of rural health industry. PHA is seeking funding from NHMRC and farming industry to establish partnerships for dissemination of relevant information.

#### *Anne Stanton*

- Met with Peter Raphael and Peter Dagg re the establishment of an advisory panel of health experts to advise on AERP matters. Anne has sent 18 letters to potential members.
- Anne is interested in identifying key health indicators to illustrate chemical injury
- Concerned that the APVMA does not hold chemical use information and the effect this may have on assessment of AERP's.

*Ben Cole*

- AERP consultation
- Spray drift consultation
- Issues surrounding the use of diuron in North Mackay
- Media issues associated with CCA

*Jane Fuller*

- Lack of interest from network groups re APVMA activities

*Andrew Duncan*

- DrumMuster – Andrew advised members that he had received a number of comments from people concerned about products/containers which are not included in the DrumMuster program and therefore do not qualify for DrumMuster collection. The problem appears to be with smaller manufacturers who say that the cost to be involved in DrumMuster is quite prohibitive.
- Increased chemical use as a result of genetic modification and the potential for increased resistance to chemicals (see 5.3.4)
- Andrew advised that there are ongoing problems associated with the durability and readability of label batch numbers. It is therefore difficult for users to determine whether product remains suitable for use. Andrew asked that the issue be addressed by the APVMA during the labelling review.

## **5.2 Constituent Details**

Liz Hanna provided members with a brief overview of the role and history of the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA).

(See attached slides.)

## **5.3 Member issues**

### *5.3.1 Farm chemical user training (Alison Brinson)*

- a) National consistency*
- b) Course standards*

The above issues are addressed at item 7.5. Members will be provided with a copy of the Board paper on the issue.

***Action 28.1 Members to be provided with a summary of the Board paper on pesticide training.***

### *5.3.2 Product labels and safe use (Alison Brinson)*

The above issues are addressed at item 6.5.

### *5.3.3 Supply of unapproved labels (Alinson Brinson)*

Alison sought an explanation of the recently issued permit PER6868.

Eva advised that the permit has been issued to alleviate the need for product manufacturers to seek approval for a selection of administrative label changes. The only changes permitted are purely administrative such as the inclusion of a drumster logo, or a change in address etc.

### *5.3.4 GM products and resistance management (Andrew Duncan)*

Andrew advised members that in Western Australia there is significant concern surrounding the increased use of herbicides on GM crops and the potential this may have on development of resistance to important chemicals. Andrew asked whether the APVMA considers this issue when assessing products and use patterns for registration.

Eva confirmed that these issues are considered when products are being assessed for registration.

## **AGENDA ITEM 6 – PROGRESS OF WORK PROGRAM ITEMS**

### **6.1 AERP Discussion Paper (Ben Cole)**

The Chair welcomed Peter Dagg to the discussions.

Peter provided an update on the program activity since the last meeting. Peter advised members that it was now intended to have the program operational by December 2003. The APVMA aims to have an advanced draft of the proposal on the website for public comment by the end of September with a final draft by end October for consideration by the APVMA Board.

Members sought clarification on a number of issues. Peter confirmed that upon completion of reports, persons making the report will be contacted and provided with appropriate details. Full details may not be supplied as compliance or review action may be involved.

Members were interested in the amount and nature of industry consultation that have been conducted on the proposal and any issues that may have been raised, particularly whether the issues raised are similar to those raised by the CCC. Members also wish to see a summary of comments received from other community/industry groups.

CCC Members expressed interest the possibility of interaction with other APVMA committees on certain issues.

Members expressed concern that medical experts appear to be involved at a later stage when reports are evaluated rather than at the risk definition stage.

Members agreed that promotion of the AERP is critical. Peter mentioned that a publicity strategy for the AERP would be developed and input into the strategy by CCC members would be sought.

*28.2 APVMA to provide a summary of the comments received on the AERP proposal.*

*28.3 APVMA to provide a copy of the final program proposal when available.*

## **6.2 Communication/Consultation/Feedback with community networks**

Jenni congratulated Anne on the draft e-bulletin and thanked her for her efforts.

It was agreed that the development of an e-bulletin is one aspect of developing effective communication between community networks and the APVMA.

Members discussed the production and distribution of the e-bulletin. It was agreed that a bulletin be generated as an e-mail with links to appropriate documents, websites etc. The e-mail would include a table of contents at the top, which would be linked to the relevant part of the e-mail. Members are then free to send the e-bulletin to constituents as appropriate. The e-bulletin, pending clearance of content by the APVMA, could also be made available on the APVMA website (which is being reconfigured to include a “community” gateway) and be sent to people who have subscribed to the relevant APVMA list server.

*28.4 APVMA to establish a “community interest” subscription list on the APVMA website list-server.*

*28.5 CCC to develop an advanced draft of the e-bulletin.*

## **6.3 Spray drift risk management**

Jenni invited David to address the members with regard to progress of the development of spray drift risk management registration requirements.

David advised members that few comments had been received to date. David also advised that as comments are not due until 15 October 2003, it is proposed that a full response to CCC comments along with a summary of all community comments will be provided at the 20 November meeting.

Members asked if local groups with spray drift issue had been targeted for comment. David confirmed that this has been the case. Members also stated that it is important that growers have a tool available that they can use to identify spray drift risk and management techniques.

Members wishing to provide feedback from constituents should provide comments to Ben Cole via e-mail for preparation of a consolidated CCC response on the proposal. This will be forwarded to the APVMA.

David briefly addressed the issues raised by members and stated that the APVMA is committed to considering comments received and incorporating as appropriate.

***28.6 Members to seek comments on the APVMA spray drift proposal and provide feedback to Ben Cole for preparation of a consolidated CCC response.***

***28.7 APVMA to respond to CCC comments and provide members with a summary of community comments to the proposal.***

#### **6.4 Urban Chemical User Accreditation (Andy Nicholls)**

Jenni invited Mr Andy Nicholls, Project Officer - South Australian Environment Protection Agency, to address the group.

Mr Nicholls provided a summary of a training program that is operating in the Mt Lofty Ranges area of South Australia aimed at reducing pesticide use amongst urban users but importantly teaching correct usage techniques.

(See attached slides.)

Mr Nicholls made the following observations from the project about urban chemical use:

- education campaign has significantly raised community awareness about chemicals in the environment
- urban chemical users have low chemical and land management skills however are generally intelligent and therefore receptive
- products labels are grossly deficient for urban use especially with regards to calibration instructions and application amounts.
- additional issues surrounding chemical users of non-English speaking backgrounds

Jenni thanked Andy for his attendance and asked him to stay for the labelling item.

#### **6.5 APVMA Labelling Proposal (Colin Byrnes – Manager, Fungicides)**

Jenni welcomed Colin Byrnes, Manager of the Fungicides team within the APVMA Pesticides Division.

Members NOTED the paper provided at item 6.5.

Colin provided background information to the APVMA major review of agvet chemical labelling. Product labelling was last reviewed in 1985. Since this time there have been issues raised related to the quality of product labels. Compliance is often difficult because of label deficiencies.

There are three labelling principles:

1. communication
2. enforcement
3. warnings

Consultation on labelling has indicated that information would be better grouped in accordance with s14 criteria that are assessed for each product (environment, trade, health, efficacy etc). The APVMA has developed a concept label based on the above principles. Members were provided with a copy of the concept label.

Members nominated a number of issues associated with current labels. These included:

- label needs to be easy to understand
- accuracy of emergency numbers
- categorising product visually according to risk (health)
- storage variability and affect on expiry date
- greater use of symbols (easy to understand)
- more detail about appropriate PPE
- details regarding compatability and suitability for IPM.
- label use pattern consistency

Members were invited to seek feedback from constituents and provide comment to the APVMA via Kathleen. It is proposed that the new guidelines and requirements for product labelling will be finalised by mid 2004.

***28.8 Members to seek comments on the APVMA concept label and provide comments to the APVMA via Kathleen.***

***28.9 CCC to maintain involvement in the APVMA labelling project.***

## **7 APVMA Reports**

### **7.1 Registration**

Members NOTED the Registration Programs' Report.

Members asked that in future trend information and details of any significant registrations be provided.

***28.10 APVMA to amend registration report to include trend information and details of significant registrations.***

### **7.2 Chemical Review**

Members NOTED the Chemical Review Report.

Members asked that any new reviews be highlighted in the report. Members asked that more specific review status detail be provided for the following reviews; 1080, 2,4-D, CCA, atrazine, chlorpyrifos, diquat, diuron, endosulfan, maldison, methiocarb, paraquat and virginimycin.

***28.11 APVMA to amend review report as requested***

### **7.3 AERP**

Members NOTED the AERP (Vet) Report.

Members suggested that it would be useful to have information on a trend analysis from the reports. Members were also interested in a case study of a serious issue to assess the operation of the scheme.

***28.12 APVMA to present an AERP Vet case study to CCC to demonstrate program process and management.***

#### **7.4 Quality Assurance and Compliance**

Members NOTED the Quality Assurance and Compliance reports.

#### **7.5 Report from 12/9 APVMA Board Meeting**

Dr Smith provided a summary of the key issues discussed at the 12/9 APVMA Board Meeting held in Sydney.

The Board has nominated three key themes that will underline future APVMA activities.

1. Operational excellence – efficient and effective completion of core daily business
2. Stakeholder confidence – what we do, how we do it and how we interact and communicate. The APVMA has developed a revised communication strategy including the development of an account manager concept to ensure stakeholder interaction.
3. Informing policy – the APVMA is uniquely placed to influence the policy development process for agvet chemical management.

The Board also considered the following items:

- revised AERP (Ag) documentation
- the need for regulatory impact statements (RIS) in certain situations and the effect on APVMA consultation processes.
- chem review progress
  - o Virginiamycin – comments currently being assessed
  - o Endosulfan – draft report for consideration at Nov meeting followed by public consultation
  - o CCA – overview of media reaction, draft report for Nov meeting
- implementation of a new scheme for the approval of active constituent which will be based on approval of a quality standard for active constituents rather than the site of manufacture. All actives will be required to meet a published standard.
- financial statements – ANAO reported an unqualified audit
- CEO recruitment process
- label approval process in line with the legislative amendments to come in to effect on 9 October 2003

Tony de la Fosse (Program Manager – Corporate Services and Chemcert Board member) presented a paper to the Board regarding training issues associated with

agvet chemical use. APVMA's overall regulatory role and its recognition of training competency was discussed. The Board indicated that the APVMA should be involved in providing information and getting feedback but that it should not get involved in sorting out differences in or quality of training. The APVMA does not have the expertise or resource to drive this.

The APVMA has been in discussions with NFF about a combined project on user accreditation however lack of support for a National program has stalled progress. The user accreditation policy framework is being developed by the Product Safety and Integrity Committee (PSIC).

*28.13 Members to be provided with details of the role and function of the PSIC.*

*28.14 Members to be provided with a copy of the proposed APVMA Communication Strategy.*

## **AGENDA ITEM 8 – OTHER BUSINESS**

CCC Information Sheet – The Chair asked members to provide comments to Kathleen about the information sheet.

## **AGENDA ITEM 11 – NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the CCC (CCC29) will be held from 8.45am to 1pm on 20 November 2003. This will be a short meeting so that members can attend the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities.

## **AGENDA ITEM 12 - CLOSE**

The Chair thanked members and staff for their attendance.

Meeting closed at 4pm.

Signed

Jenni Mack (Chair)

Kathleen Allan (Secretariat)