

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING CCC34**

3 March 2005

John Curtin House, Canberra

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jenni Mack (Chair), Liz Hanna, Anne Stanton, Andrew Duncan, Sid Cowling, Sam Beechey, Jo Immig and Alison Brinson

APVMA OFFICERS PRESENT

Eva Bennet-Jenkins, David Loschke, Dennis O'Leary (part), Kathleen Allan, Sara Broomhall (part), Phil Reeves (part), Colin Byrnes (part), Paul Thomas (part).

APOLOGIES

Jane Fuller

AGENDA ITEM 1 – WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed members and APVMA staff and advised that CCC member Jane Fuller was an apology. The Chair acknowledged that this was to be Jane's last meeting and thanked her for her contributions to the committee. The Chair read an email from Jane wishing the APVMA and members all the best for the future.

The Chair apologised for the lateness of meeting papers.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The draft agenda circulated with the meeting papers with the addition of Item 9.3 CCC Chair report to APVMA Board 2 December 2004 was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – MINUTES OF CCC33

The minutes of CCC33 were accepted as a true and accurate record of CCC meeting 33 (2 December 2004) with a minor amendment to Item 9.3. The paragraph relating to member concern about staggered appointment to the CCC was deleted, as it was not the shared view of the committee.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – CORRESPONDENCE

The meeting noted the summary of correspondence In/Out.

Members noted that a letter had been sent to Mr Tinker in response to his correspondence. The meeting also noted the letter received from APVMA Chairman Dr Kevin Sheridan thanking the committee for their work on the review of the APVMA Chemical Review Program.

The Chair advised members that the management of inwards and outwards correspondence needs to be considered including how best to create an identity for the CCC as separate to the APVMA. This was to be addressed as part of the work program review agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Secretariat noted an additional action from the last meeting. The action is in relation to increasing the Committee's awareness of MCS and inviting OCS and a medical expert to give a presentation on the issue to the committee at a future meeting.

5.1 Liquid fertilisers used as carriers/diluents for pesticides (update)

Members noted that the APVMA's Registration Liaison Committee considered the issue at a teleconference in December 2004. RLC was asked to consider the extent of the issue and whether a requirement for labels to carry mandatory restraint statements was warranted. The APVMA advised that the RLC position on the issue was that mixing liquid fertilisers with pesticides is not considered Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) and should not be done unless a label states that it is acceptable to do so. The RLC did not support a requirement for blanket restraint statements on labels. However, the RLC did agree that general warning statements could be considered as part of the labelling review project. The APVMA clarified that all statements on labels are considered instructions and should therefore be followed however each State has different control of use legislation and enforcement strategies. Members expressed the need for a nationally harmonised control of use scheme.

It was noted that a Western Australian liquid fertiliser manufacturing company was actively promoting the practice of mixing liquid fertilisers with pesticides.

Action 34.1 APVMA to follow up by contacting liquid fertiliser manufacturer associations.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – MEMBER REPORTS

6.1 CCC Member Activity

- Andrew Duncan
 - All issues addressed as part of the meeting agenda
- Sam Beechey
 - A procedure for tranquilising large sheep prior to shearing has been developed in conjunction with the Australian Sheep Veterinarian Association and the Department of Primary Industries
 - Interested in the status of the diazinon review (particularly in relation to worker exposure post treatment) and the input received from Australian Wool Innovation and the National Farmers Federation
- Liz Hanna
 - Considerable amount of time spent dealing with the St Helen's pesticide incident

- Member of the Stockholm Treaty Implementation reference Group – has noticed a general lack of understanding by the health profession in relation to this treaty and its implications
- Anne Stanton
 - Redeveloped the NTN website
 - Significant involvement in the Tasmanian aerial spraying issue
- Alison Brinson
 - Attended the APVMA Data Protection seminar in Melbourne- observed that veterinary manufacturers are not satisfied with the regime
 - APVMA seminars on particular issues is a good model and would encourage the APVMA to conduct more
 - Minor use happenings - communication strategy, stand alone website for minor use and an annual minor use forum
 - Recently worked with the HAL minor use coordinator about being proactive in relation to organising permits for exotic disease or pest incursions prior to them occurring
 - Users noting some good outcomes from the APVMA's recent operational reforms for minor use.
- Sid Cowling
 - disappointed with industry feedback on issues relevant to the committee
 - has received some feedback relating to the Tasmanian issue
 - advised members that the Organic Federation of Australia (OFA) produces a regular newsletter that can be readily distributed to CCC members
- Jo Immig
 - Has been approached by the Organic Gardener Magazine to prepare an article about pesticides for inclusion in a future edition
 - Local group, Residents Organised Against Roundup (ROAR) – opposed to ongoing use of glyphosate – claiming contamination of waterways, breakdown to dangerous chemicals that remain active for 100 days and is dangerous to children
 - Emerging issue in the local shire surrounding the rapid expansion of the macadamia industry and the increase in endosulfan use as a result – odour, water quality, spray drift

6.2 CCC Member brief

Item deferred till next meeting when new members would be on board.

6.3 Member issues

6.3.1 Process for passing community issues to the States

Members of the committee have repeatedly expressed concern about the gap in understanding of the roles of the APVMA and individual State and Territory regulators and how this can affect community input to the National Registration Scheme. The meeting agreed that this is a significant issue and a strategy to consider the issue should be developed. This would be done by the same working group that was looking at aerial spraying in Tasmania chaired by Jo Immig.

Action 34.2 Working group chaired by Jo Immig to develop a strategy for consideration by the committee to devise the most appropriate mechanism for passing community feedback to the relevant Authority within the National Registration Scheme.

6.3.2 Aerial spraying in Tasmania

Members noted the APVMA's paper in relation to this issue, in particular the role of control of use in aerial pesticide application in Tasmania. Members agreed that this was a significant issue and that it should be included on the committee work program.

A working group was established to look at what the Committee could usefully do in regard to this issue. The working group was to bring back to the next meeting a strategic approach in relation to this issue and other related control of use issues. The working group is to be chaired by Jo Immig. Anne and Liz expressed interest in being involved. All members were willing to provide input to any draft paper the group prepared.

Action 34.3: Jo Immig to develop a strategy document for consideration by the CCC in relation to this issues and if possible seeking to tie together all the control of use concerns raised by the committee.

6.3.3 APVMA role in the management of pesticide use in GM crops

Members NOTED the background paper provided. The Chair invited the APVMA to address the questions raised. The APVMA highlighted that the role of the APVMA is to regulate the herbicide only. A product to be used in a GM crop situation is evaluated in the same way as any other product ie in accordance with the legislative framework where the use of the product must be safe and effective for the intended purpose. The PVMA does not get involved in regulation of the crop. That is the responsibility of the OGTR.

The APVMA provided members with a copy of the registration conditions for Roundup to be used on Roundup Ready Canola. Members NOTED that there is currently no supply of the product due to the State moratoriums on GM crops. The use of chemicals in trial GM plantings is covered by an APVMA permit.

The meeting discussed the pesticide resistance risk management strategies for pesticides used in GM crops. The meeting also noted that it was not legal to use generic products on GM crops in the absence of the use on the approved label. Members agreed that glyphosate resistance in general is a significant issue and if commercial GM crop plantings occur in the future a review of the availability of glyphosate should be conducted.

The APVMA agreed to provide a written response to the questions raised in the paper.

It was noted that members were free to ask the APVMA for written responses to questions at any time. Questions and answers would then be copied in the following meeting's papers.

Action 34.3 APVMA to provide a written response to questions raised as part of agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM 7 – PROGRESS OF WORK PROGRAM ITEMS

7.1 Review of APVMA Chemical Review Program

The APVMA distributed copies of the Authority's response to the CCC's recommendations for the Chemical Review Program. The APVMA Board considered this paper at its meeting on 25 February. Members agreed to consider the paper and any outcomes at CCC35.

7.2 Agvet chemical container management – revised label concepts

Members noted the background paper prepared for this item.

The Chair invited Mr Colin Byrnes to update the meeting in relation to the label review project. Members noted that the APVMA and State regulators had conducted an extensive assessment of product labels. A new concept label (concerned mainly with layout, formatting and grouping of instructions etc) has been developed. The CCC was consulted on this in 2004. The APVMA is interested to see these new labelling concepts applied and has developed five labels of real products in the new style. The APVMA would like feedback from the community re the usability of these new labels.

The Chair reiterated that this was the first time that labelling concepts had been reviewed and a valuable opportunity to seek change. Members felt that market research especially with those most difficulty in understanding product labels (eg people of non-English speaking background) to gauge the effectiveness of the labels was an important part of the process for effectively changing product labelling. Members were encouraged to seek feedback from their constituents on the new labelling concepts and provide comments to the secretariat by mid April.

Action 34.4 Secretariat to provide members with the details of the link for the revised labelling concepts.

Action 34.5 Secretariat to seek feedback from members about the revised label concepts. Members to consult constituents. Comments to be received by mid April 2005.

7.3 Annual review of committee operations and work program

Members held a closed session to discuss committee operations and progress of the work plan.

The full meeting discussed progress of the annual work program and identified a number of new priorities for 2005. The Chair noted that it was important to ensure that the work program consisted of projects that the committee could achieve and were in the realm of the APVMA's operations. She expressed some concern that many of the items were outside the APVMA's remit. It was noted that these may be able to be grouped together

The revised CCC work program is at Attachment A.

8 APVMA Reports

8.1 Pesticides program

The meeting NOTED the Pesticides Program report

8.1.1 CCA review update

The APVMA advised that the Board made the final regulatory decision for the review of CCA timber treatments at its meeting on 25 February. The meeting noted that there were still certain steps to go through to fully implement the review's outcomes eg. changes to the Building Code and Australian Standards to ensure that issues that are not the responsibility of the APVMA get passed on to the community. The APVMA will issue a permit to allow the supply and use of product with old label instructions while the new systems are being implemented. Members noted that the affected companies have 28 days to appeal the decision.

8.1.2 1080 review update

The Board considered the draft review report for 1080 and has asked that some minor amendments be made. The APVMA hopes to release the draft report for public comment in early April.

8.1.3 Spray drift update

The Chair invited Dr David Loschke to provide an update on the APVMA development of spray drift risk management procedures and requirements in relation to the registration and label approval of pesticides. The meeting noted that spray drift was a significant issue important to the broad community. The APVMA receive a number of comments on the July 2003 proposal. The APVMA has recently held meetings with industry and State regulators to discuss key issues. The APVMA has observed a diverse range of views in relation to the need for regulation of spray drift risk.

The APVMA is currently redrafting the technical requirements and will conduct another round of consultation in May and June 2005. After that, the APVMA will consolidate the feedback received and develop an implementation plan. The APVMA stated that there is a need for an overarching transparent risk assessment and risk

management approach including control measures for spray drift. The APVMA hoped for greater community input this time and noted the need for feedback to be relevant to its role.

Members noted they had not be able to adequately address this issue alone last time and were concerned that the APVMA should not solely rely on the committee for its community feedback. It needed to consider other strategies.

Suggestions included targeting dissemination of consultation documents towards communities effected by spray drift such as Gunnedah, Shepparton and mango areas of North Queensland.

Members were asked to identify possible contacts for the APVMA to consult with in relation to spray drift. It was noted that the APVMA may have to do some outreach in relevant communities to identify contacts. Useful places to start would be local environment and health groups and local newspapers.

Action 34.6 Secretariat to email members seeking ideas/contacts for spray drift consultation.

8.1.4 Atrazine review update

The Chair invited Dr Sara Broomhall to provide the meeting with a brief update on the atrazine review. The meeting noted that the atrazine review was extended and additional assessments conducted because of claims linkage atrazine use to increased incidence of cancer and impact on frog populations. The additional assessment have highlighted when used according to label instructions, atrazine is not carcinogenic nor is it likely to adversely affect frog populations.

8.2 Veterinary medicines program

The meeting NOTED the Veterinary Medicines Program report.

8.2.1 Virginiamycin review update

The APVMA advised that the Board made the final regulatory decision for the review of virginiamycin at its meeting on 25 February. The Board agreed to vary the product labels in accordance with the review findings. The meeting noted that a manufacturer has commenced proceedings in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) and as a result the outcomes of the review will not be implemented until those proceedings are finalised.

8.3 Quality Assurance and Compliance program

The meeting NOTED the Quality Assurance and Compliance Program report.

8.4 Board meeting – 25 February

The APVMA Board met in Tasmania on 25 February 2005. The agenda was divided into; strategic issues, chemical review, program reports and other items. The major

strategic issues considered by the Board at this meeting were the fees review legislation reflecting the proposed new cost recovery framework and the mid-year budget review. The Board also considered a number of initiatives for minor use reform. The reviews of 1080, CCA and virginiamycin were also discussed. The Board also considered the recruitment of new CCC members as well as the CCC review of the Chemical Review Program.

8.5 CCC input to APVMA Operational Plan

Members were invited to provide input to the APVMA's Annual Operational Plan.

Action 34.7 Secretariat to send an email to members seeking input to the APVMA Annual Operational Plan.

8.6 Committee matters

This related to the need to create a distinct identity for the CCC Secretariat (separate from the APVMA) when dealing with external stakeholders. Item considered as part of the Work Program review.

ITEM 9 – OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 2005 meeting dates

The meeting agreed on the following (amended) meeting dates for 2005. Thursday 2 June, Thursday 25 August and Wednesday 30 November

9.2 CCC member recruitment update

The meeting noted that the Board considered the APVMA's recommendations for appointment to the CCC at its meeting on 25 February. The Board has agreed to three appointments and has asked the APVMA to pursue a nomination from someone from experience with pesticide use by people from non-English speaking backgrounds. Members agreed that this was a good idea. Sam Beechey has been reappointed to the committee for a further three years. The chair congratulated Sam on his reappointment. The APVMA advised the meeting that there were 20 high quality nominations.

9.3 CCC Chair report to APVMA Board – 2 December 2004

Members noted the Chair's report from her presentation to the APVMA Board meeting.

CLOSE

The Chair thanked members and staff for their attendance. She particularly thanked Alison and Andy who were attending their last meeting. She noted the valuable contributions each had made individually but also the invaluable contribution from community-based chemical users. Both Alison and Andy had brought many important issues before the committee, in particular the container management project

which was now the major item on the workplan. There may be opportunities for them to brief new members, helping them to carry on the good work.

Meeting closed at 4.30pm.

Signed

Jenni Mack (Chair)

Kathleen Allan (Secretariat)