

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING CCC41**

29 November 2006

18 Wormald Street, Symonston ACT

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jenni Mack (Chair), Sam Beechey, Peter Cone, Liz Hanna, John Temperley, Neville Prowse-Brown, Jo Immig, Julie Buckley

APVMA OFFICERS PRESENT

Eva Bennet-Jenkins, Tim Dyke, Simon Cubit, Antonia Exposito (part), Les Davies (part), Alan Norden (part), John MacDonald (part).

APOLOGIES

Joe Elbustani

AGENDA ITEM 1 – WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed members and attending APVMA staff.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The proposed agenda was accepted.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – MINUTES OF CCC38

While there was some discussion on the wording of action 40.6 (discussed in more detail at agenda item 5) the Minutes of CCC40 were accepted as true and accurate record

AGENDA ITEM 4 – CORRESPONDENCE

No new correspondence has been received since the last meeting. It was noted that there was some correspondence that did not appear on the register. Copies to be forwarded to Public Affairs for inclusion on the register by next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Chemical review

- Atrazine – meeting is planned for early 2007. Jo Immig and Eva Bennet-Jenkins to organise.

Pesticides in schools

- It was confirmed that this is to be a resource publication similar to the termiticide materials. Initially publication is likely to be web-based. It is being tested with Canberra focus groups. It is for others to develop into brochures. A second draft will be produced next year and includes comments previously provided by CCC members. The second draft will be distributed to CCC for further comment once finalised.
- It was noted that while copies of the Safer Solutions document had been dispatched they had not been received by the APVMA.

Action 41.1: CCC members to contact Les with any additional comments.

Action 41.2: Jo Immig to forward Safer Solutions booklets to APVMA who will distribute to committee members.

Action 41.3: John Temperly to provide APVMA with child safety resource materials from Child Safety on Farms project.

Action 41.4: APVMA to put a link to Farm Safe Australia web site to be put on the CCC web page.

AGENDA ITEM 6 - MEMBER MATTERS

6.1 Member activity since CCC40

Neville Prowse-Brown

Members NOTED Neville's written report including:

- (i) Nominated by the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, to attend the recent International Landcare Conference in Melbourne.
- (ii) Addressed the Monash Medical students at the School of Rural Health Bairnsdale Hospital, where there is a strong interest in any programme they can deliver to school Children. There is a strong awareness of the Cathy Prendergast's programme.
- (iii) Significant work has been done on IPM programs to reduced the usage of chemical products and advances in technology are also having an impact.
- (iv) Meetings attended include: Landcare, VFF District Council, Redgum Plains Conservation Management Network, Tree health Grup (Australian Landscape Trust) & Monash School of Rural Health.

John Temperley

- (i) Related an incident in which the use of a pesticide according to label instructions negatively impacted on the health of two workers.

Julie Buckley

- (i) Responding as required to CCC documentation with feedback and edits
- (ii) Sent out e-bulletin and other information to stakeholder network
- (iii) Drew the attention of the Committee to the Eureka prize awarded to researchers trialling the use of human lung cells grown on a membrane as an alternative to animal testing. Information on the award was distributed to members in their papers.
- (iv) Noted external interest in the APVMA's Pest Management in Schools document

Peter Cone

- (i) Noted continuing personal interest and activity in addressing perceived gaps in chemical training. These included seeking to persuade Queensland state authorities to introduce mandatory training for chemical users, getting trainers and users to consider all the elements of the spray drift equation (including the important issue of meteorology) and getting more women involved in chemical training.
- (ii) Been involved on a subcommittee flowing from the labelling workshop which has designed a new label using the existing endosulfan label as a base.
- (iv) Expressed concern that in these very dry times farmers are seeking alternate sources of feed for their stock and may get into residue issues through the use of contaminated feed.
- (iv) Reported that the cotton industry had funded the development of a book on birds commonly found in cotton growing areas as a way of raising awareness in cotton growers about the needs of birds. Distributed a copy of the book to members.

Liz Hanna

- (i) Involved with Peter Cone in the labelling working group.
- (ii) Reported the delivery of a paper at a conference in Geneva on corporate governance and engaging civil society and spoke of the efforts of NICNAS to engage stakeholders in different parts of the country.
- (iii) Expressed the view that the APVMA is beginning to have a profile among health professionals.
- (iv) Spoke of the way her presentation to the Public Health Association Conference was misrepresented in the media leading to significant work in seeking to redress the errors.
- (v) Providing input to NChem activities as well as the DEH in the development of a monitoring database (library of monitoring activities in Australia).

Jo Immig

- (i) NTN recently had its AGM and Jo is helping rebuild the NTN website on which Jo Immig hopes to re-establish links to the APVMA and especially the AERP.
- (ii) Working as a consultant to the joint NSW Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC)/Total Environment Centre (TEC) Safer Solutions project. In this role she has produced a 'Detox Your Home' booklet, a pocket guide to shoppers. There are plans to produce a 'Chemicals in the Garden' and a 'Chemicals in Renovation' booklet.

- (iii) Been working with DEC/TEC on advancing pesticides notification regulations
- (iv) Written an article in the Byron Child Magazine on children's greater exposure to chemicals which met with a positive response.
- (v) Been involved in discussions in local area about the role of organic agriculture in reducing greenhouse emissions.
- (vi) Reported an email complaint about references to her from a Chemcert trainer
- (vii) Noted an article in the last edition of *National Geographic* on everyday chemicals in the human body.

Sam Beechey

- (i) Noted that Victorian Worksafe and NSW WorkCover are working together to harmonise regulations and requirements.
- (ii) Noted that farmers are increasingly reluctant to give up 2-3 days to go to chemical use training. Emerging view that rural women might be interested in undergoing training.
- (iii) Noted community concern about greater regulation of security sensitive chemicals. [In this context alerted CCC to a forthcoming Government announcement on this issue].

6.1 International Matters

Nothing to report on this occasion.

AGENDA ITEM 7 - WORK PROGRAM

7.1 Community Engagement Strategy

Simon Cubit, Manager Public Affairs, gave a presentation on the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy he is developing.

By way of introduction he outlined major changes in society that impact on the way government is perceived and spoke specifically on changing paradigms of government in western democracies.

He drew the Committee's attention to the:

- APVMA Stakeholder Management Objectives
- Stakeholder Communication and Consultation Framework
- recommendations of the Report of the Review of Consultative Committee

The Strategy, he suggested, would build on the Framework, respond to the issues arising from the User's Forum (recommended in the Report of the Review of Consultative Committees), clarify issues that have arisen in recent times such as

disability access, improving the quality of the website, community access to consultative forums and pursue enhancements to existing consultative processes that will deliver improved outcomes.

The outcome of the strategy, he suggested, would be a written, publicly accessible document that defines how the APVMA communicates and consults.

Discussions concerning the approach was generally positive. Peter Cone observed that some definitions of community are exclusive rather than inclusive. There was support for an 'opt-in' approach which is overtly invitational. Comments were also made that consultation needs to include meetings and phone discussions and not just be paper driven. Julie Buckley suggested that if we were planning for the future we needed to engage technologies such as blogs and wikis with which Gen Y and others were familiar.

Action 41.5 CCC members to contact Simon with any additional comments.

7.2 New Ways of Thinking About and Assessing Chemicals

UK Royal Commission on Crop Spraying and Health of Residents and Bystanders
This item was deferred to the next meeting.

7.3 Indicators of Relative Harshness of Pest Control Solutions.

There was open discussion on how to approach this topic which has application to a number of projects. The aim was to develop base line information for a range of community information sheets to facilitate consumer choice in the market place.

The APVMA suggested that a useful starting point may be the information that is already put on labels. This information has a legislative and regulatory basis.

In the discussion it was agreed that it may be possible to develop a way of characterising a chemical on the basis of a number of label-derived 'values'. These values could be measures such as need for personal protective information, poisons scheduling, residue information and so on.

It was agreed that domestic pesticides should be the initial focus with a pilot project on non-aerosol type products (especially where these were associated with AERP reports).

Action 41.6 : Eva Bennet-Jenkins to compile a library of labels for a group of products.

Action 41.7 : Sub-committee of John Temperley, Liz Hanna, Neville Prowse-Brown, Julie Buckley and Jenni Mack to meet with APVMA at 3 pm on 21 March to discuss next steps in this project.

7.4 Work Program 07/01 (for approval)

The meeting resolved to adopt the 2007/2010 work plan as set out in the papers.

It was noted that the state of the nation report would focus on identifying the challenges and opportunities in chemical-based agriculture as well as international trends and emerging risk management methodologies and technologies. It may be that items two and three are combined into a single document. For example, the state of the nation report also covers new ways of thinking about and assessing chemical impacts on future generations.

Action 41.8 : The meeting agreed to explore funding options for this project. Julie Buckley, Liz Hanna and John Temperley to report back to the next meeting on possible funding options.

7.5 Reduced Risk Criteria Project Update

Alan Norden of the APVMA and John Macdonald of the Minor Use Liaison Office (MULO) in DAFF presented.

The working arrangements of the Minor Use Liaison Office were explained. There is a Steering Committee comprising industry, states and users. The Office is working with a number of horticultural industries and a number of permits have been issued.

Work is progressing with companies to ensure that permits can progress to labels.

At the national level, a minor use forum is planned for the middle of 2007.

The US and Canada are keen to get involved with joint projects with Australia

Action 41.9: Alan Norden to progress work orders with DEH/OCS and consult CCC sub-committee

Action 41.10 : Members to think more about uses of reduced risk criteria once developed.

7.6 Spray Drift Update

CCC noted the update on spray drift as detailed in the Pesticides Program report and that the APVMA is currently assessing the public comments received.

7.7 AERP Ag Update

The Program Manager Quality Assurance & Compliance provided a status report on the development of a guideline for registrants on mandatory information submission requirements. An overview of ongoing work to map current feedback mechanisms to the APVMA with a view to how these can be strengthened was also provided. CCC noted that the APVMA plans to further develop links with the Poisons Information Centres, to publish AERP information in medical practitioner journals and to introduce on-line reporting for AERP Ag.

7.8 Chemical Review

Updates on ectoparasiticides, 2,4-D, diazinon
Held over to next meeting

AGENDA ITEM 8 - APVMA REPORTS

8.1 Pesticides Program

8.2 Veterinary Medicines Program

Members noted the Pesticide and Veterinary Medicines Program reports.

8.3 Quality assurance and compliance program

Members noted the Quality Assurance and Compliance Program report.

The APVMA advised that a presentation on appeals mechanisms would be given at the March 2007 meeting so that CCC could be better informed about delays in regulatory outcomes.

9. AGENDA ITEM 9 - 2007 MEETING DATES

The following dates were agreed :

22 March, 17 May, 16 August & 5 December with the APVMA Christmas function at 4 pm on 5 December.

[Please note that August 16 is also a Board meeting date. Suggest either 14 or 15 August.]

CLOSE

The Chair thanked members and staff for their attendance.

Meeting closed at 4.00 pm.

Tour of new building 4:30pm

Stakeholder Xmas Function 5:00pm

Signed

Jenni Mack (Chair)

Simon Cubit (Secretariat)