

Community Consultative Committee

Minutes of Meeting 43 – 22 June 2007

18 Wormald Street, Symonston ACT 2609

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jenni Mack (Chair), Joe Elbustani, Peter Cone, Liz Hanna, Jo Immig, Sam Beechey and Neville Prowse-Brown.

APVMA OFFICERS PRESENT

Tim Dyke, Simon Cubit, Les Davies (Item 4.1) and Antonia Exposito (Secretariat).

APOLOGIES

Julie Buckley and John Temperley.

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 CCC42

Action 42.2 should read: Julie will produce a draft of the CCC e-bulletin relating to CCC 41.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – CORRESPONDENCE

Dorothy Bowes emailed CCC about her concerns on the AERP. A response was sent to Ms Bowes on 12 June 2007 thanking her for her correspondence and inviting her to provide further feedback on the AERP Ag.

Agenda Item 4.1 – Warren Godson – Chromium-VI

The committee considered the correspondence from Mr Godson.

In the APVMA review of CCA it was suggested that 'registrants be required to submit specific worker exposure data to address concerns associated with Arsenic and Chromium-VI'. Mr Godson has also written to the APVMA expressing concern that little progress has been made to implement this 'critical Health & Safety review recommendation'.

The APVMA advised the head of Chemical Reviews had spoken with Mr Godson and informed him that the International Chemical Assessment Document (IPCS) is currently reviewing Chromium-VI. A draft monograph is being drafted and is likely to be published in 2008.

Mr Godson was also advised that the use of CCA for treating timber was not the only industry process leading to occupational exposure to Chromium and that any consideration for an occupational exposure study or establishment of an updated national exposure standard would also involve other authorities, including the Australian Safety & Compensation Council (ASCC) and State/Territory agencies involved in regulating workplace safety.

It was noted that any Australian assessment would need to await publication of the results of toxicity studies on Chromium-VI, currently being conducted by the US National Toxicology Program (NTP).

Action 43.1: Chair to draft reply to Mr Godson. Les Davies to provide technical information on Chromium-VI.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – BUSINESS AND ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Chair noted that there were a considerable number of actions arising from CCC42 resulting in significant work for members and APVMA staff. A good achievement was noted with only three actions carried over to the next meeting.

It noted that Board members had not been invited to participate in CCC43 given that the CCC meeting was being held in the last few days of the Board's operation. The Board Chair felt it would be better to defer to the new advisory Board, once in place.

The new Advisory Board has not yet been appointed. Members asked what areas of expertise the new Board would be expected to have. The APVMA advised that the new Board's expertise would basically mirror the existing one but that their terms of reference had been expanded to include the addition of expertise in the areas of public health and occupational health and safety, agricultural and veterinary chemical industry and environmental toxicology.

A copy of the Bill that proposes changes the corporate governance structure of the APVMA will be distributed to members out of session.

Action: 43.2: APVMA to distribute copy of Bill out of session.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – MEMBERS REPORTS

6.1 - Members activity since CCC42

Neville Prowse-Brown

Members NOTED Neville's written report. Neville outlined his activities in promoting the AERP. Forwarded AERP letter to constituents inviting feedback. Feedback noted and discussed.

Some activity into packaging and labelling of spray packs. Neville expressed his concern of the packaging of certain spray guns and the safety information on the label. Tim advised these hand held spray guns would contain a very low concentration of chemical and the safety warnings on the label are reflective of this.

Liz Hanna

Members NOTED Liz's activity report summarising her activities since CCC42.

Jo Immig

Members NOTED Jo's activity report summarising her activities since CCC42.

Jo also provided copies of 'Safer Solutions for Safer Renovations' produced by the Total Environment Centre.

Joe Elbustani

Joe has met with AUSVEG and has spoken at length with various commodity groups. The major concerns were the lack of information accessible to small-scale farmers, especially in the areas of minor use, inconsistencies of chemical use, breaches of chemical use, alternatives and lack of education/information.

Joe showed members a poster on 'safe chemical use' that has been translated into Arabic. Joe thought it would be useful to have this information translated into other languages and made available to non-English speaking farming communities.

Peter Cone

Activities with DrumMuster - anticipating the first 1 million drum collection in August. Peter added that ChemClear has started to take off with their new chemical waste disposal program. ChemClear encourages any holder of unwanted rural chemicals to register their unwanted products on their online booking. Unwanted chemicals are collected at no charge.

Attended the PSIC workshop. Peter advised that NCHEM had developed environmental risk assessment and environmental control standards manuals. Copies of these manuals, whilst promised, have not yet been made available.

Sam Beechey

Sam advised that the AWU has been working with the Department of Sustainability and Environment, Parks and Reserves in Victoria to reduce worker exposure of CCA treated timber by shifting to use of plastics instead. The AWU has also taken steps to alert workers to the dangers of dust from treated timber and has insisted on full face breathing apparatus for workers.

Item 6.2 – Labelling Committee

No further activity on labelling committee.

Item 6.3 – International Developments

No further activity on international developments.

AGENDA ITEM 6.4 – PISC

The PSIC workshop was held on 17 May 2007 in Canberra. CCC members Jenni Mack, John Temperley and Peter Cone were in attendance.

The workshop covered four main topics, the scope of products regulated by APMVA, performance of the agvet regulatory system, national framework for chemicals management and user accreditation for higher risk chemical products. One of the outcomes was the endorsement of the chemical system performance measurement framework (copy included in papers). The chair encouraged members to read this and to provide her with feedback.

Action 43.3 – Members to send their ideas through to Jenni. Jenni to compile and forward on to Jenni Ritchie.

AGENDA ITEM 7 – WORK PROGRAM

AGENDA ITEM 7.1 – STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK (PROPOSED STRATEGIES)

At CCC 42 members indicated that they could add value to the stakeholder engagement framework being developed by the APVMA. A copy of the proposed stakeholder engagement framework was included in the papers.

The committee brainstormed ideas of the different characteristics of the community stakeholder groups; what the positive and negative characteristics might be and the implications for engagement. There were numerous ideas exchanged over definitions of different groups for eg. what is community and what is a user and what would be the appropriate vehicle to communicate with these different groups.

Action 43.4 – Simon Cubit will consolidate comments/ideas from the meeting and distribute to members.

AGENDA ITEM 7.2 – STATE OF NATION REPORT

At CCC 42 it was proposed that Jo Immig, John Temperley and Liz Hanna form a working group and develop a scoping document. Members were requested to provide content or ideas about the project to Jo. Jo advised that she had not received any content to date. Jo agreed to draft an outline and circulate to the working group and then committee for comment for consideration at the next meeting.

Action 43.5 – Jo to develop draft scoping document and circulate for comment..

AGENDA ITEM 7.3 – REVISION OF WORK PROGRAM PREAMBLE

Members to provide Jenni with their comments out of session.

AGENDA ITEM 7.4 – REDUCED RISK CRITERIA PROJECT

Due to Alan Norden's unavailability items 7.4 and 7.4.2 were carried over to the next meeting

AGENDA ITEM 7.4.2 – IPM ASSESSMENT DETAILS

AGENDA ITEM 7.5 – HARSHNESS INDICATORS PROJECT

Outcomes of the Harshness Indicators Project were included in papers. The next step will be for the APVMA to progress work on the development of a domestic label key.

AGENDA ITEM 7.6 – AERP Ag

At CCC42 the Chair indicated that the APVMA Board had expressed concerns at the low levels of AERP Ag reporting and asked the CCC for its views on the program. As a first step, the APVMA prepared a consolidated report of AERP references from previous CCC minutes for members (included in papers). Members have also written to their constituents inviting them to provide feedback on the program.

A brainstorming session was conducted at the meeting. Members exchanged ideas of how the AERP could be better promoted. Members raised the question of mandatory reporting and what action could the APMVA take. APVMA advised that our legislation states that companies must report adverse experiences. However, without any knowledge of a report existing the APVMA cannot take action.

Action 43.6 – Jenni to collate ideas from the meeting and feedback into a draft report and circulate for comment ahead of consideration at the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 7.7 – CHEMICAL REVIEW

A three hour atrazine forum to be held at close of CCC meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 8.1 – PESTICIDES PROGRAM

Members NOTED the Pesticides program report.

AGENDA ITEM 8.2 – VETERINARY PROGRAM

Members NOTED the Veterinary program report.

AGENDA ITEM 8.3 – QA&C PROGRAM

Members NOTED the QA&C program report.

AGENDA ITEM 8.4 – BOARD SUMMARY

Members NOTED the Board summary

AGENDA ITEM 8.5.1 – RLC

Members NOTED minutes of the RLC

AGENDA ITEM 8.5.2 – ITC

Members NOTED the minutes of the ITC

AGENDA ITEM 8.5.3 – ILC

Members NOTED the minutes of the ILC.

AGENDA ITEM 8.6 – CHEMICAL ISSUES

AGENDA ITEM 9 – NEXT MEETING

CCC44 will take place on 12 September 2007. This meeting is planned to be held in Sydney at Joe Elbustani's farm. This is likely to include field trips to local farms and other consultations with local farmers.

AGENDA ITEM 10 – OTHER BUSINESS

Simon Cubit indicated there had been a few instances where members had not cancelled or advised CCC Secretariat that they no longer required existing accommodation and/or airline bookings. Members were reminded that these bookings are still invoiced to the APVMA and paid with CCC allocated funds.