



Bee Industry Council of Western Australia

**MINUTES**
**General meeting held at Capilano Bayswater  
11.15 am Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019**
**In attendance:**

Present:

(TB) Tiffane Bates  
 (LL) Leilani Leyland – Chairperson  
 (MB) Michael Bellman - Secretary  
 (BF) Brendon Fewster  
 (MW) Mat Welch  
 (WR) Wayne Ridley  
 (SH) Soren Houlberg  
 (ES) Eileen Stark

**Member Body represented**

APC Beekeepers Committee  
 WA Farmers Beekeepers  
 WA Farmers Beekeepers  
 WA Farmer Beekeepers  
 WA Beekeepers Assoc  
 WA Beekeepers Assoc  
 WA Apiarist Society  
 WA Apiarist Society Alternate

Observers/ Guests: Ken Dods – Chem Centre – Liz Barbour - CRC

Visitors: 11.30am – G World: Grant Shaw (GWorld group); Ray Stewart (GWorldGroup),

DPIRD – Andrea Johnson, Sonia Broughton

Apologies: Tristian Campbell APC, Stephen Fewster – AHBIC/ WAFF

Meeting opened at 11.15am

**1 Minutes of Previous Meeting: 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018 – Moved MW, SH**

All agreed

**2.1 BUSINESS ARISING AND ACTIONS FROM MINUTES 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

Meeting Section	ITEM	WHO	ACTION	COMPLETED
	DBCA Apiary General Conditions	LL/ MB	Waiting for DPIRD to comment With their legal teams  Follow up with MK/ SK on other concerns Clearing permits Replacement for Caz Stonier? Plans to resource accordingly	Still to complete
	Conference/ Conference speakers		Conference Committee Other info addressed in minutes Suggestions to be forwarded Additional funding for Christine - \$ 300 paid from BICWA account	Ongoing See below

	APC request for funding, confirm changes to legislation and request for meeting Other funding options	MB/ Tiff	Funding Charter Proposal for funding Ingrid?  All registered BK to be polled and agreed	Follow up
	Clearing Permits	MK	With general conditions Following up DPIRD	Not complete
	CRC – project 15	MW	Meeting to have with Chem Centre on how we can deliver the Testing and other requirements Need to have TA test up and running for next Bee informed	Follow up
	Biosecurity	WR. AJ	<b>Small hive Beetle- North west - update - Information gathering exercise to be done:</b> o Number of BK? o What are they doing? o Any loss of hives.	T.B.A
	Native Title	MW/ TB	Plan	Feb
	Training	SH	Soren to take back to the WAAS committee for BICWA to assist with helping with training. APC meeting advised that they support BICWA being funded for training.	

### 3. REPORTS

#### 3.1 CHAIRMAN REPORTS

You have all heard from Grant from G World I attended a meeting at Dumas House on 10/12 and then a follow up with the Government people (and Chemcentre) 20/12 at DPIRD (without Grant). DPIRD was concerned that it is a push from the entrepreneur not the industry, there is support for more research in this area of technology advancement though just unsure how the Government will be part of this.

Facebook Varroa posting. I've kept you all updated with progress on this.

Stephen Fewster and BBO were to check hives Friday, this didn't occur but believe it has now. I have requested that it is asked all beekeepers do a sugar shake in their hives as a check. As compliance at DPIRD say it is only allegations and hearsay it cannot go to the police. After I rang Andrea again this morning, she advised she has asked their legal team to pursue more due to the anomalies between his 'misunderstanding' explanation and the original posts.

Media release went out on Fracking, but this wasn't picked up by anyone. We need to get a media person on side that wants to present our case without the WA Farmers 'flag'.

Media release on burning is going out via WA Farmers so hopefully will get better uptake.

Sincere condolences to Brendon on passing of his mum Olga.

If anyone knew and didn't know, John Springall passed before Christmas and Bill Stevens the WA Farmers President in 1980's has also passed recently.

I remain positive that we can make some inroads into all this continuous repeat, repeat approaches that we seem to be having. Clearing Permits, Stephanie rang me to say that the DWER are in support of the clearing permits also, but it requires a change to legislation, she is hoping to meet with Peter Kiss before this meeting and should be able to update at 1pm.

#### 3.2 DPIRD

Sonia Broughton and Andrea Johnston – discussed DPIRD issues

Cameron Withers situation: clarification of social media statement and retraction i.e. "varroa mite in Dwellingup", "Chinese queen bee imports" and identification of 'suspect' beekeeper and apiary location...

- Noted concerns by BICWA and beekeepers of no police involvement by DPIRD; reiterated advice received at time that this was not an option
- Legal advice sought today for follow up of initial statement with police assistance (none provided by COB 21.1.19, I will send through update when received)
  - Timeline and critical window for review regarding police involvement (pending advice)
- Varroa incursion rumour/ hoax
  - Repercussions
  - Legal team
  - Implement capacity to get it.
  - No EPPRD until actual detection (Plant health Australia)
  - Action was implemented regarding inspection of hives/ team to follow up
  - Immediate training – ILO – response teams
  - [Letter to Minister Alannah McTiernan re Biosecurity- ramifications – Fed Ag minister](#)
  - Danial Martin to do additional training
- Registration brand office – after 3 years – how do we follow up payment etc, how do we police it.
  - Review registration form
  - Requirements to be updated
  - Information for new BK - plastics
  - [Follow up WALGA re registrations](#)

- Follow up Ministers regrading shires
- Andrea happy to attend APC BK meetings if required.
- Emergency response – list – LL to send to MB

#### NBPSP

All surveillance and analysis have been clear to date for exotic pest detection from all current sentinel hives and catch boxes. Surveillance completed December 2018 and January 2019.

**High risk ports - Thank you to Brendon Fewster (BF) and David Leyland (DL) have been donating queens for these port hives Fremantle (5 queens still required – TB)**

5/6 sentinel hives out, one being nurtured to go out in next three weeks

3 catch boxes out and monitored at locations, 7 more to be approved by Port Authority (due to union and other factors)

**Bunbury (6 queens still required BF/DL)**

6 sentinel hives out

10 catch boxes out and monitored

**Geraldton (2 queens still required BF/DL)**

3 sentinel hives out, 3 yet to go out

10 catch boxes out and monitored

#### Medium risk ports

##### **Esperance**

6 sentinel hives out

**Derby (3 queens after March 2019 – BF/DL)**

4 sentinel hives out

**Kwinana (2 queens still required – BF/DL?)**

2/4 hives out, 3<sup>rd</sup> hive to be relocated and 1 being nurtured to go out shortly

#### Unknown risk ports

**Perth Airport (1 queen still required - TB)**

4 + 1 other sentinel hives out

**Albany (6 queens still required – Roger Tschabator agreed to supply and mentor two operators)**

No sentinel hives out

**\*Noted all sentinel hive operators were keen when floated with the idea of learning about queen breeding and to attend a work experience/observation day with expert beekeepers Brendon Fewster or David Leyland.**

#### **American foulbrood (AFB)**

- Due to recent unseasonal weather, and article in Beeinformed, reports of AFB infected hives have been trickling in.
- DPIRD provides management advice to beekeepers and where possible have requested they bring in a sample of AFB infected frames. Upon receipt, the frames are inspected for signs of AFB and stored securely to assist UWA with AFB research.
- Raised issues facing non-commercial beekeepers in metropolitan area and town centres who are unable to dispose of infected hives during fire ban season, treatment, storage and potential transport issues until able to be destroyed. With view to informing all beekeepers of obligations and options if AFB present during registration process. Suggestions:
  - Ken Dods suggested SARDI and commercial providers (he will send contact info) for disposal and transport
  - **AJ to follow up costs of other disposal options and possible APC contribution i.e. biohazard, crematorium, quarantine facility, incinerate (Red Hill?)**

#### **Other:**

DBCA Site conditions – priority for DPIRD

#### **AJ to follow up**

Outcomes from PHA bee prepared exercise including preparedness training with beekeepers interested in assisting in the event of an incident

- cost sharing to be discussed with APC
- Daniel from Victoria approached and prepared to deliver training

Reporting of unregistered beekeepers as raised by Liz Barbour. Advised this information is passed onto Compliance for follow up and action i.e. removal, destruction, notification

**AJ to contact Rockingham City Council (RCC) regarding beekeeping:**

Contacted James, Environmental Health Officer at RCC who advise that beekeeping will no longer be exempt from 1 February 2019. James confirmed that only registered beekeepers will be permitted to keep bees with restrictions i.e. water source, location on property etc.

Ravensthorpe beekeeper issue raised by Wayne Ridley

- This matter was followed up at time query received by DPIRD (November 2018), report requested from actioning officer and will be forwarded to APC.

### **3.3 TREASURER Balance of account -12/01 \$ 11,964.72**

-Includes \$ 5000 loan from Honey Promotions account held in trust at WAFarmers for Conference planning. To be repaid post conference.

### **3.4 WAHDRG UPDATE – Ken Dods/ Matt Welch**

Ken Dods gave a brief overview of project, Ken attended majority of meeting.

- Ken to allow Committee members to have hands on input into projects.
- Close to finalising a NATA approved TA test
- Close to identifying the causal agent that triggers the antibacterial response in the honey.
- Follow up meeting minutes.
- G Force follow up see below for further information
  - o Chain of custody
  - o Directive from Alannah McTiernan
  - o Chem centre in principal - eliminate rhetoric – wants it to be a BICWA driven.
  - o Consumer driven
  - o Good knowledge
  - o Ken to interact as per BICWA
  - o Need China government approval for all
  - o Training for new Beekeepers

### **3.5 RESEARCH UPDATESs - KD/ LB**

The WAHRDG report is above.

CRC update attached.

### **3.6 DBCA - did not attend**

- **Need to follow up with Stephanie on:**
  - o **General conditions**
  - o **Clearing permits**
  - o **Permanent replacement for Caz**
  - o **Sites in National parks**
  - o **WALGA**

### **3.7 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

Conference location: Mandoon estate winery: Dates: - May 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> 2019

Has received some seed funding \$ 5k

Sponsorships sent out - Nuplas confirmed

#### Suggested speakers

- Chris Hyatt from Hyatt Honey Company is the Vice President of American Bee Association. He has accepted our invitation to present. Runs about 20.000 hives moving between California, Washington and North Dakota.
- Dr Katja Hogendoorn – planting melliferous plants
- Canadian BK – Ian Stepler Definitely
- Agronomist to talk on pesticides - Graham Laslett (Mark Rhodes suggested) Confirmed
- NZ speaker – Varroa -
- DBCA district Officers to be invited, a meet and greet (rather than present)
- CSIRO
- CIBER
- Neil Bennet – MWB – Climate change
- WA Co-op person
- Queen talking
- Bee Venom
- Royal Jelly
- Kingsley Dixon
- Forest alliance

### 3.8 TRAINING UPDATE David Currey

New Cert 3 - units – transport of hives to sites etc

Assessment conditions

Minister of Education – funded traineeship – get commercial BK

Sub-committee meeting

- Industry needs
- WAAS to keep amateur needs-101 course
- Skillset
- Traineeship to be funded
- Y Hub – administration/ input costs etc
- Total

Need employable trainees

Structured course – overarching course - how do we make it happen?

BICWA approved traineeship – BICWA to approve

Master beekeeper course

**Liz to send oy first draft to BICWA committee – send out comments back to Liz by the close of next week**

**then if OK to send out groups**

### 3.9 NATIVE TITLE UPDATE

Mat sending a letter to Jacinta Overman at DBCA regarding the Ngadju Native Title issue. (distributed to committee)

Meeting planned for February 2019

Further details after this meeting

4 Correspondence IN / OUT		20 mins
DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY WHOM
20/11/18	Emails re. suggestions on funding Admin Assistant	LL FWD to all
19-21/11/18	Liz Barbour email on Black cockatoos and honey bees	FWD to all
20/11/18	Emails discussing number of hives registered vs actual	FWD to all
22/11/18	DBCA response to Western Honey Supplies on Prescribed burns	FWD to all
	Ann Maree Approval to run workshops on Strategic Planning May 19	FWD to all
23/11/18	WR – WA Round Table Summary Report July 18	FWD to all
	JS DPIRD Article for Bee Informed	FWD to Bee Informed Editor
	Request from WAFarmers for copy of CRC Project Report	Replied confidential only BICWA committee. Update at Conference
28/11/18	WAFarmers proposed meeting with WALGA re changes to land management	FYI Will be meeting with WALGA and DBCA soon
	Request from DPIRD for update of BICWA reps	Letter fwd to Sonia B advising This then sent to KF at APC
30/11/18	CRCHBP Project 19 Variation to sign off Shannon Holt travel time	LL signed and returned
	Invitation to attend Jarrah honey traceability trial - meeting with Minister and tech entrepreneurs G World on Block chain tech chips embedded (10/12) then another 20/12 with government people only	Email update sent to all 11/01 Grant from GWorld to attend meeting 21/1.
3/12/18	Soren – email re petition fracking ban lifted and outcomes	Fwd to all
5/12/18	Showgrounds advice that BICWA will cancel agreement for Conf	Advised Showgrounds
7/12/18	LL send reminder email to beekeeper database to do health survey	FWD to database
	CRCHBP Annual report to CRC	FYI FWD 11/01
	Emails re. Social media ranting re. paying FFS and who has to pay	FWD to all
10/12/18	Email to MK at DBCA re. Wild dog fence repair at Esperance	Advised details of contact person
11/12/18	BQual Newsletter	FWD to all
	Bee Aware newsletter	FWD to all
12/12/18	AHBIC to advise BICWA new contact for Conference	LL sent
	Email to APC asking beekeeper and hive numbers	
13/12/18	CRCHBP cc letter to Minister following G World meeting	LL fwd to comm 11/01
14/12/18	Fwd email by WR PHA Varroa Simulation exercise report	To come end January
19/12/18	Email WR Agenda item AHBIC constitution	Fwd to all 12/01
	Reply S Dawson acknowledging Strat Plan	FYI
21/12/18	Email to all members re. Beekeepers not notifying DBCA placement of hives on Karri sites.	Sent to all. DBCA followed with letter to all
24/12/18	Jack Beewise enquiring if his membership up to date	Advised can't be an indiv member but through one of the groups can
02/01/19	Kate WAFarmers - meeting with WALGA availability and should Matt King be present	LL advised yes and can go
09/01/19	PHA – Quarterly Minutes of NBBP Confidential	FWD to all committee
10/01/19	Reply from ABK re request to update WA Assoc list	Will be done for next issue
11/01/19	Prescribed Burning media release	WAFarmers sent out

## 5. GENERAL BUSINESS

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### 5.1 STRATEGIC PLAN

A copy of the Strategic plan has been sent to respective Government ministers with letter of receipt.

**MB to follow up with each Department.**

Suggest we also approach the Premier regarding resource management.

Looking at organising a Strategic plan follow up sub committee to look at areas that need to be addressed.

### 5.2 APC FFS

\$1.20 per hive and \$25 Admin.

How to enforce now that it is separate for the 3-year brand charge.

BICWA to review with APC charter and why it is not enforcing the collection of money from all hives in WA

### 5.3 Food Labelling.

Beekeepers packing and selling honey on social media unlabelled.

Education/ Communication is the key through WAAS and social media - Just monitor – limited resources to police

### 5.4 Sub committees

**Protocol with decision making and need for BICWA Exec approvals.**

**Moved by LL**

**Seconded by WR**

### 5.5. CRCHBP Project 15

GPS and Floral and pollen data. Email 6/12/18 from Liz.

**Ok – MB to send letter to LB**

### 5.6 AHBIC Constitution

Proposed changes at AGM June 2019

### 5.7 DER Clearing Permits -

Discuss points in WR email 12/01/19.



## 5.8 Adulteration

### G World- presentation

#### Inspur

Pilot program on Jarrah honey

Take an all of industry approach – Government approach

Digitation

Industry pilot

Chain of custody

Value of program

Supply chain constraints

Protecting our brand

Ethics?

Across china silk road

Sentinel hive information

Impact on local industry

Validation to industry

China - Rest of world

Compliance, Cost, Marketing, Tourism

B Qual

Time frame

Workshops – next 12 weeks

Minister

Government to government

From packer to customer

What do they want:

- Technology to enable traceability
- Hardware/ skills
- Customer – Inspur
- Pilot – to inform what is required
- What is that cost
- Who does what and who is paying???

BICWA to write

- Letter of support for pilot trial
- Industry to retain control
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WA honey to be one of the first products

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## OTHER GENERAL BUSINESS

Brendon Fewster raised the following:

- Pollination – realistic value of hives and cost of future Manuka extraction and impact on honey production
- Ongoing issue with District officer in the South, especially Walpole
- District priorities over Beekeeping – spraying, roads, burning etc

### MB to forward letter to Matt king

WABA submitted a communication proposal

- Brand WA
- You Tube Videos
- Student project
- Funding

### MB to confirm that BICWA endorses in principle the project, based on funding

## **Actions from meeting 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019**

### **Biosecurity**

Small hive Beetle- North west – update

Follow up Varroa exercise

Who: AJ – DPIRD      Follow Up - WR      Deadline: Feb

### **Native Title**

Meeting with affected Beekeepers and HRD in Feb??

Who: MW/ TB      Follow up      Deadline: Feb

### **Training**

Liz to send oy first draft to BICWA committee –

Send out comments back to Liz by the close of next week, then if OK to send out groups

Who: All    Follow up with: LB      Deadline: Feb

### **Funding**

Andrea to put in proposal for BBO funding

Plus, proposal for funding for Admin/ research assistant

MB to do budget and proposal – clause M

Who: Tiff/ MB    Follow up: MB      Deadline: FEB

### **Clearing Permits**

DER to change regulations – Stephanie DBCA to advise

Who: MB      Deadline: February?

### **Prescribed Burns**

Invite Keith Lowe replacement Katie McWilliams to next meeting

Who: MB

**Next Meeting: 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

**Meeting Closed at 2.10 pm**