

*“Please be advised that these minutes have been officially approved by the Chairman of The Stable Fly Action Group, but are subject to confirmation at the 2009 Annual General Meeting.”*

## **THE STABLE FLY ACTION GROUP INC**

### **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT THE GRANVILLE CIVIC CENTRE, GINGIN ON 24 SEPTEMBER 2008**

#### **PRESENT**

Hon Grant Woodhams MLA, Member for Moore; Cr Wayne Fewster, President, Shire of Gingin; Cr G Gifford, Cr D Roe, S Fraser, CEO Shire of Gingin; W Harris, PEHO Shire of Gingin; Mr L Brajkovich, President, WABGA; Mr D Peckitt (DOH), Mr Bob Paulin, (DAFWA); SFAG Chairman B Wilson, Secretary/Treasurer J Ottaway; SFAG Committee members A Sibbel, K Goh, R Beale, R Withnell, B White, B McCarthy; CWAG Representatives L Kelly and J Longman; D Ottaway, M Carlton, F Sibbel, C Campbell, R Kestel, S Neville, F Fewster, M Fewster, S Vallance, A Wilson, E de Burgh, S de Burgh, V Royle

#### **APOLOGIES**

F Alban MLA, Member for Swan Hills; L Withers (DOH); G Foord and D Ellement (VWA); G Snook; D Rosling (Co-ordinator Environmental Health Development Services, City of Swan); C Devereux (SEHO City of Wanneroo); A MacTiernan, K & E Cameron, W & S Cail, S & G Grant, G & D Edgar, S & A Clifton, M & P Harris

#### **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES 2007 AGM**

R Beale, 2<sup>nd</sup> B McCarthy

#### **AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT**

Given by Treasurer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by B White

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Given by SFAG Chairman Bob Wilson. Copy attached.

#### **ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

Conducted by Shire President, Cr Wayne Fewster.

Chairman: Bob Wilson (nom R Beale, 2<sup>nd</sup> R Withnell)

Deputy Chairman: A Sibbel (nom R Withnell, 2<sup>nd</sup> B Wilson)

Secretary/Treasurer: J Ottaway (nom B McCarthy, 2<sup>nd</sup> B Wilson)

Committee: A Sibbel, K Goh, R Withnell, R Beale, B White, B McCarthy all accepted re-election.

## GENERAL BUSINESS

### Membership Fees

Chairman B Wilson advised that the Committee recommended the membership fees remain at \$10 per person for 2008/09. All in favour.

### Other General Business

- Limesand addition to raw poultry manure – C Campbell stated that he had experienced success with the addition of limesand to turkey litter. R Kestel reported the poultry industry had conducted experiments with limesand with mixed results. B Paulin stated he was of the opinion limesand treated poultry manure would still breed flies under the right conditions. He also commented that an alkaline product, such as limesand, would not be acceptable to all vegetable growers.
- B McCarthy stated that flies breed in numerous organic materials, including in a cattle feedlot situation and vegetable crop waste. This was acknowledged by those present.

### GUEST SPEAKER LEN BRAJKOVICH, PRESIDENT, WABGA

Chairman B Wilson invited L Brajkovich to address the meeting. Mr Brajkovich spoke on

- the raw poultry manure/stable fly debate had been going on for over 14 years
- the difficulties being faced by the poultry industry in obtaining local and state government approval for a site for its waste disposal initiatives
- the poultry industry's preferred system would be pyrolysis, rather than incineration, of poultry manure
- pyrolysis (a gasification process) is more environmentally sound, can be used to generate renewable energy, and produces an end product known as Bio Char, which can be used as fertiliser
- lack of a decision by the outgoing Minister for Planning, A MacTiernan, regarding the scheme amendment pertaining to the poultry litter fired power station at Muehea, so this project remains in abeyance

Chairman B Wilson invited responses from the floor to Mr Brajkovich's address.

B Paulin responded that he had confidence that the committee chaired by Mr Roger O'Dwyer (DAFWA) would be able to resolve some of the most pressing issues. D Peckitt advised this committee had met on two occasions over recent weeks, that he had been present, and that a report was to be forthcoming. He undertook to investigate the progress of the report.

B Paulin advised that in his opinion stable fly management regulations covered by the BAM Act are still a long way off, as the people working on the drafting of the regulations are more concerned with biosecurity issues.

B Paulin was queried on the progress of the Waste Management Board's Waste Management Strategy, which was intended to address the problems of organic waste management faced by the State. B Paulin responded that it appeared to have been shelved, and conceded that this could be through a lack of resources.

D Peckitt stated that in his view it was imperative that the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) become more proactive in this regard as waste management comes under that Department's jurisdiction. He recommended that the SFAG Committee write and request a meeting with the new Minister for Environment and Conservation, and the new Minister for Agriculture, and lobby them for more action to solve the waste management problems faced by the State. He also advised the Department of Health is facing problems with the City of Wanneroo condoning illegal storage of raw poultry manure, and problems with the logistics of manure disposal during this years banned period, and onwards to 2011. He was of the view the SFMSG would need to be reconvened in the near future to address these issues.

Chairman B Wilson asked the new Member for Moore, Grant Woodhams, to address the meeting. Mr Woodhams recommended the SFAG Executive meet with the new Minister for Agriculture, Terry Redman, to familiarise him with the history of the stable fly problem and the work done to combat it, and current issues. He volunteered to liaise with the SFAG Chairman re a meeting date as soon as this could be arranged.

#### LIQUID DIGESTERS

R Kestel informed the meeting that a liquid digester pilot project for treatment of poultry manure had been set up south of Gingin. The digester ties up heavy metals, is odour neutralizing, and has an end product of liquid fertilizer. A trial of the liquid by product was being carried out on a horticultural property near Lancelin. Other sites at Carabooda and Broome were being investigated.

He expressed a need for other sites of approximately 25 acres in the proximity of a power grid for digester developments, and called for assistance and encouragement from local government for commercial enterprises to start up.

#### CENTRAL WEST ACTION GROUP

Chairman B Wilson invited Central West Action Group representative Lana Kelly to address the meeting. L Kelly presented the CWAG's publicity brochure and spoke on the lobbying and monitoring being done by the Group regarding the Water Corporation's biosolids sludge storage facility at Koojan, in the Shire of Moora. She also advised that well known entomologist, Dr Ian Dadour from UWA, had carried out a study on biosolids and found that it does breed flies.

#### SFAG WEBSITE PRESENTATION AND LAUNCH

SFAG Committee member K Goh presented the SFAG's new website on screen and asked for comments and suggestions for improvements. All those present expressed their unanimous support for the website's launch on the world wide web. R Kestel suggested that as updates are made, positive, good news items are included. D Peckitt suggested that Dr Ian Dadour's study of fly breeding in biosolids be included. Meeting in favour.

#### CLOSE

Chairman B Wilson declared the meeting closed at 10.30 pm and supper and informal discussions followed.