

**THE STABLE FLY ACTION GROUP INC**  
**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**at**  
**THE GRANVILLE CIVIC CENTRE**  
**on**  
**Tuesday 26 September 2006 at 7.30 pm**

**PRESENT**

B Wilson, R Withnell, J Ottaway, R Beale, R Kestel, Cr G Gifford (Shire President) Cr D Roe, L Withers (Dept of Health), R Nussey (Dept of Agriculture & Food), L Brajkovich (President, WABGA), W Harris (PEHO Sh of GG), A Sibbel, F Sibbel, M McKnight-Carlton, D Ottaway, A Wilson, G Edgar, M Borwick, C Borwick, S Neville, W West, M Greville, W White

**APOLOGIES**

Hon G Snook MLA, Hon K Chance MLC, CEO S Fraser, J Silvestro, B Paulin, D Peckitt, C Philpott, D Ellement, M Rudd, T Coussens, B Leeson, S & E de Burgh, K & F Jankovic, G & S Grant, P Murphy, B McCarthy, D Edgar, B Roe, A & L Hill

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 2005 INAUGURAL GENERAL MEETING**

R Kestel, 2<sup>nd</sup> D Ottaway

**AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT**

Presented by Treasurer J Ottaway. Bank Balance at 30 June 2006 \$462.34. Books audited by Gingin Postmaster Mr B Gresele and found to be a true and correct record. 2<sup>nd</sup> by R Beale.

**CHAIRMANS REPORT**

Given by Chairman Bob Wilson. Copy attached.

**GUEST SPEAKERS**

i) Mr Len Brajkovich (President WA Broiler Growers Association and poultry growers representative on the SFMSG)

Mr Brajkovich spoke on the history and latest developments with the Poultry Litter Fired Power Station proposal. He provided a copy of the Blair Fox Generation Project Summary dated February 2006, which contains a 16 point history of the Project to date. He also provided statistical information on the chicken meat industry in Western Australia; the substantial financial contribution made to the power generation project by the industry; as well as pollution management, environmental approvals, nature of the public consultation, opposition by the Chittering Shire Council and members of the public, benefits such as employment and value adding, and worlds best biosecurity practice, for the power generation project.

Elsewhere in the world, such as Europe and Japan, raw poultry manure is successfully used in power generation. It was very disappointing and frustrating for the chicken meat industry that the power generation plant had not been supported.

The industry was continuing to carry out experiments with gypsum and sawdust added to raw poultry manure to ascertain if this is successful in killing bacteria and arriving at a pathogen free material that does not breed stable flies and could be safely used in horticulture. Dust has proved to be a consideration with this initiative.

Mr Brajkovich advised the meeting that, in spite of the failure of the power generation project to come to fruition to date, that the chicken meat industry was still committed to helping to solve the disposal problem created by raw poultry manure, and would support the development of a composting industry should the Minister for Planning finally decide that the power generation project should not be approved. He indicated that the Minister for Planning was understanding of the problem faced by the chicken meat and livestock industries, but appeared to be no closer to making a decision regarding the Muchea site.

SFAG Chairman thanked Mr Brajkovich for his most interesting and informative presentation.

ii) Mr Robin Nussey, Policy Development Officer, DAFWA

Mr Nussey addressed the meeting in place of Mr Bob Paulin, who was unable to attend. He provided the SFAG with notes he had compiled with B Paulin on Minimum Standards for Organics applied to Land. He spoke on the WA Waste Management Boards Draft Organics Strategy and Interim Standards for Organics Applied to Land, which have recently been released for public comment. However, agricultural wastes, such as manures, are currently outside the WMB's charter and, as such, the Standards do not address their fly breeding potential. Also, at this stage, the Standards are intended to be voluntary, not regulated. A Workshop on the draft documents was held at Perth Zoo on 29 August 2006 and was attended by SFAG Deputy Chairman R Withnell and Shire of Gingin Environmental Health Officer Wayne Harris, as well as DAFWA representatives. It was strongly recommended by these attendees that the Standards are regulated, and take into consideration all organic wastes, including agricultural wastes.

Mr Nussey advised that May will be removed from the Health Regulations for 2007, and the use of raw poultry manure will be banned after September 2011. In the interim, his department, along with the Department of Health, will assist the VWA in finalising their Protocols and Code of Practice for the use of raw poultry manure.

The Minister for Agriculture has advised the DAFWA that he is currently pursuing the possibility of the proposed Biosecurity and Agricultural Management (BAM) Act being used to manage use of manure on agricultural and horticultural land.

Mr Nussey advised that the cost of composting is a concern for both the horticultural industry and the chicken industry, as is the lack of certainty regarding supply and the cost of the raw material.

He also expressed his departments concern that over regulation for farmers recycling their own waste could impose unnecessary costs on agricultural industries.

Those present expressed their appreciation to Mr Nussey for his informative address.

## **REPORT ON SFAG MEETING WITH MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE ON 19 SEPTEMBER**

R Withnell reported that SFAG representatives R Withnell, B McCarthy and J Ottaway had attended this meeting with B Paulin and D Peckitt to discuss the VWA Protocols and Code of Practice, and the recommendations of the SFMSG at their meeting on 16 June.

Also discussed were transferring management of the stable fly issue from the Health Department to the Department of Agriculture and Food, and the Biosecurity & Agricultural Management Bill currently being drawn up and how management and control of raw manures could be addressed within this Act.

The meeting with the Minister had been very encouraging and it is hoped some positive action results from it. Mr Nussey indicated that this appeared to be the case.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

Conducted by Shire President, Cr George Gifford.

Nominations :

Chairman – *B Wilson (nom D Ottaway, 2<sup>nd</sup> R Beale) B Wilson elected.*

Deputy Chairman – *R Withnell (nom R Beale 2<sup>nd</sup> B Wilson) R Withnell elected.*

Secretary/Treasurer – *J Ottaway (nom A Wilson, 2<sup>nd</sup> R Withnell) J Ottaway elected*

Committee – R Kestel, R Beale, B McCarthy, W White.

The Chairman undertook to contact Shane Clifton to invite him to join the Committee.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### Membership Fees

After discussion, D Roe moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> D Ottaway, that membership fees remain at \$10 per person for 2006/07. Carried unanimously.

### SFAG Inc Policy on supporting development of viable composting industry

After discussion, the meeting indicated its preference for the main focus of the SFAG Inc being on the control of stable flies. There was general agreement that the SFAG should be able to promote the benefits of any number of solutions to the stable fly problem as they arise. General consensus was that supporting any one solution could be counter productive, and other opportunities for solving the problem should not be lost.

### Regular Monthly Reporters

The meeting favourably received the concept of SFAG Regular Reporters, who would provide stable fly data on a standardised form on a monthly basis to the Shire Health Department from a number of different localities, including Bullsbrook. It was hoped this initiative would provide support and assistance to the Shires Health Officer and Pest Control Officer in the carrying out of their surveillance and would provide important information that could prove useful.

#### *Monthly Reporters for 2006/07*

Anne Wilson (Lancelin), Guy Edgar (West Gingin), David Roe (Beermullah), Bernard McCarthy (South Gingin) and Margaret McKnight-Carlton (Bullsbrook). Shane Clifton (Caraban) will also be invited to be a Reporter.

### Other general business

Chairman B Wilson advised the meeting that the Central West Reference and Action Group (which includes the Yuat people) invites the public to a Community Meeting regarding Biosolids Concerns at the Moora Performing Arts Centre (the Town Hall) on Wednesday 4 October at 7 pm.

### **Close**

SFAG Chairman Bob Wilson thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 10.30 pm.

Supper and informal discussions continued after the meeting.