

THE STABLE FLY ACTION GROUP INC

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

GRANVILLE CIVIC CENTRE, GINGIN

13 October 2020

WELCOME

Chairman Bob Wilson welcomed all those in attendance, in particular the guest speakers Donovan Farrell, Luke Wheat and Hon Darren West MLA.

PRESENT

28 members and supporters as per attendance list, including Hon Martin Aldridge MLA, Shire of Gingin President Cr Wayne Fewster, Councillors Linda Balcombe and James Morton, and R Hawes from the WA Horse Council.

APOLOGIES

Hon A MacTiernan, Minister for Agriculture, Hon Shane Love MLA, Member for Moore, Shire of Gingin Councillors F Johnson and J Court, G McAlpine (Perth NRM), and M Carlton.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 2019 AGM

Confirmed.

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Given by Treasurer. Confirmed.

CHAIRMAN'S SREPORT

Given by Chairman Bob Wilson. Copy attached. Bob received applause for his comprehensive report, which set out the main achievements of SFAG over the past 15 years and acknowledged the work of the SFAG Committee and supporters.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Conducted by Shire of Gingin President Cr Wayne Fewster. Cr Fewster thanked the SFAG for their efforts throughout the year, and encouraged the Committee to continue to carry out their lobbying activities. He expressed disappointment that the change to SFMP 2019 that allowed the use of untreated poultry manure under certain conditions had led to its misuse in the irrigated horticultural industry in the Shire, causing stable fly breeding problems, and this needs to be strongly policed. All Committee members were returned. Re-elected Chairman Bob Wilson thanked Committee members for their commitment, and invited others to volunteer their services.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Increase in membership fees –

The Committee put forward a proposal to increase the membership fee to \$20/individual, \$30/family to cover rising costs. Meeting voted in favour.

Re-visiting pyrolysis for raw poultry manure conversion to energy –

George Grant (GG) asked WABGA President R Kestel (RK) if the broiler industry would consider re-visiting the Poultry Litter Fired Power Station project as a means of disposing of raw poultry manure and creating renewable energy. RK responded that although the original proposal had ticked all the boxes it was unlikely the poultry industry would commit to such a project again. Most of the poultry manure produced was going out to the wheatbelt for dryland agriculture, but there was some that was transported and used locally in irrigated horticulture against the SFMP 2019 regulations and this needed to be policed and offenders prosecuted.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Donovan Farrell from Go Organics gave a presentation on his composting business, which uses green waste from the metropolitan area, some local vegetable crop residue and some poultry manure in its processes. When asked if local horticultural operators were interested in his composted product he responded in the negative as, according to them, their level of production requires more immediate results than provided by compost.

Luke Wheat from Future Green Solutions gave a brief update on the commercialisation of his black soldier fly business, which is progressing well.

Hon Darren West MLA spoke on the questions provided to him in advance by SFAG (copy attached). The responses to the questions had been provided by DPIRD as he had not had the opportunity to research them himself. He advised the meeting that the Minister had given him the job of fixing the stable fly problem.

Various attendees expressed their opinions on a number of matters, including –

- The minister's 'transitional period' of two years to evaluate SFMP 2019
- The role of DPIRD in enforcing the regulations of SFMP 2019
- The role of local government in monitoring, control and prosecution, and the availability of government funding to assist
- The suitability of the BAM Act legislation to deal with the stable fly problem
- The dichotomy of communities being affected by a problem not of their making, caused by two industries unaffected by it not taking any responsibility

In order to once again try to find a strategic solution to these problems, it was agreed that a meeting of key stakeholders, ie Hon D West MLA, Shire of Gingin, SFAG, WABGA and the VWA be convened in the coming weeks.

CLOSE

Chairman Bob Wilson thanked all the guest speakers and attendees and closed the meeting at 9.30 pm. Treasurer Jo Ottaway reminded members that membership fees, as amended, are now due.

Supper and informal discussions took place after the meeting.

