

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC



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MINUTES – EXECUTIVE MEETING

Date: 19 February 2021
Time: 10am - 12pm AEDT
Location: Zoom Meeting

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Trevor Weatherhead (TW) Chair	Life member of the Queensland Beekeepers Association Inc, Member of the Goodacre Memorial Award Committee
Stephen Fewster Deputy Chair (SF)	Kuyan Apiaries, WAFarmers Beekeepers Section President
Leilani Leyland (LL)	Manager, Bees Neez Apiaries
Peter Barnes (PB)	TBA
Therese Kershaw (TK)	Partner - Sterling Kershaw & Co; Treasurer - NSWAA - Southern Tablelands Branch; Trade Show Coordinator - NSWAA
Ben McKee (BMck)	COO Hive + Wellness, Chair HPMAA, Executive AHMA, Board member CRC for Honey Bee Products

Caution:-

AHBIC requires that participants at this meeting must not enter any discussion, arrangement or understanding that may, in any way, infringe applicable competition laws. In particular, members and participants must not:

- discuss or agree on production limits or strategies, prices (including rebates and discounts), marketing territories, bids or tenders;
- discuss or agree on dealings with customers or third parties, including trading terms and conditions;
- exchange any non-public or commercially sensitive information relating to
 - purchasing, production and supply chain strategy or capacity,
 - marketing or advertising strategy, or
 - profit, costs or revenues.

Such topics must be avoided both in the formal meetings and in any informal discussions before, during or after meetings. Please keep discussions within the scope of the set agenda items as off-topic discussions may represent a compliance risk. Participants are encouraged at any time to challenge any discussions that might contravene this statement.

1. CHAIR – OPEN, ATTENDEES, APOLOGIES

The Chair, Trevor Weatherhead opened the meeting, welcomed all, confirm attendees and apologies.

Present:

Trevor Weatherhead (TW), Chair

Stephen Fewster (SF), Deputy Chair

Leilani Leyland (LL), Executive Committee member

Therese Kershaw (TK), Executive Committee member

Ben McKee (BMck), Executive Committee member

Peter Barnes (PB), Executive Committee member (entered the meeting at 10.59am)

Helen Goodall (HG), CEO and minute taker

No apologies

2. CAUTION

Recommendation: that the caution statement be taken as read

Moved: LL Seconded: BMck Carried

3. MINUTES OF MEETING 17 DECEMBER 2020

Recommendation: to accept the minutes of the Executive meeting 17 December 2020

Moved: SF Seconded: LL Carried

Recommendation: the minutes as circulated of the Executive meeting 17 December 2020 be adopted

Moved: LL Seconded: TK Carried

4. FINANCE

4.1 The finance reports were noted. Bank balances as at 15 February 2021:

AHBIC working account \$151,941.79

AHBIC debit card \$316.58

AHBIC term deposit \$57,991.19

AHBIC term deposit \$34,505.01

AHBIC term deposit \$82,801.37 – matures on 3 March 2021

PCF working account \$44.98

PCF term deposit \$429,211.56

4.2 The Friends of AHBIC comparison by state was noted.

Recommendation: to accept the financial reports as presented

Moved: TK Seconded :LL Carried

5. GENERAL BUSINESS –

5.1 Constitutional changes

The Executive considered the proposed constitutional changes and agreed for them to be an agenda item at the AHBIC AGM in July 2021.

ACTION: Proposed constitutional changes be presented to the AHBIC AGM in July 2021.

5.2 Submissions:

5.2.1 Agvet

The Executive were advised that the Agvet submission is due by the 26 February 2021 and a call for comments from Council members had been undertaken.

5.2.2 Amitraz

The Chair advised that comments have been received from Council members on the AHBIC Amitraz submission, which included removing the last paragraph of the submission and the inclusion of the sentence that the AHBIC members passed a motion for no MRL for Amitraz in Australia.

5.2.3 Glyphosate

A letter from HPMAA was circulated to the Executive by BMcK via email on 18 February 2021. The letter supports the establishment of an MRL for glyphosate in honey at 0.2 mg/kg (200 ppb). This follows the Council members meeting of the 4 February 2021 where the following recommendation was carried: that AHBIC submit a submission to Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) recommending a MRL glyphosate of 0.05mg/kg (50ppb). The deadline to submit a proposal to FSANZ for the setting of a new MRL of 0.2mg/kg for glyphosate in honey is the 16 March 2021.

The Executive agreed the HPMAA letter was to be circulated to AHBIC members and a meeting to be called to discuss. BMcK to obtain approval from HPMAA to circulate the letter.

ACTION: BMcK to obtain approval from HPMAA to circulate the letter to AHBIC members. Once approval is obtained, letter to be circulated and a meeting called.

5.3 Beeswax/honey testing and complaints with ACCC

The Chair provided an update. Two samples of beeswax foundation were tested which were purchased from Kogan and E-Bay, in addition to a block wax sold by Spotlight. The results show adulteration. Complaints have been forwarded to ACCC however generic responses have been received.

Spotlight have requested a copy of the test results. It was agreed that the results can be forwarded to Spotlight.

In addition, Australia Maple Honey (Australian Maple Blossom) sold at markets in Queensland has been tested as adulterated. Queensland Health and ACCC have been notified.

ACTION: Provide testing results to Spotlight.

5.4 Communications

An update was provided on the status of the communications work. A successful communications company has been selected however AgriFutures are still in negotiation and the contract has not been signed. Consideration is being given for the communication work to include reviewing and updating of the Beeaware website currently held with Plant Health Australia.

5.5 Insurance

TK raised the issue that insurance does not cover the loss of bees only the hives themselves. The Executive will undertake further follow up on what is covered with insurance companies for discussion at the next Executive meeting.

ACTION: Executive to follow up with insurance companies on whether bees are covered. To be discussed at next Executive meeting.

Peter Barnes joined meeting 10.59am. The Chair provided an overview of what has been discussed at the meeting.

5.6 World Bee Day

TK advised that investigation is being undertaken for a commemorative coin and/or stamp for World Bee Day 2022.

The Executive were provided with an update on the celebrations in Canberra for World Bee Day 2021, which includes embassy's holding events. This is being managed through When Bee Foundation. It was noted the events will occur at the same time as the NSWAA Conference in Tamworth and consideration will need to be given to who can attend the Canberra celebrations.

TK will question with NSWAA whether conference dates could be changed in the future, as to not conflict with other World Bee Day events.

5.7 WA Conference

AHBIC's logo currently appears on the WA Conference website and LL has been asked if it should be removed. It was agreed for LL to question why the request to have it removed. AHBIC has no concerns with it remaining.

ACTION: LL to follow up as to why it has been requested to remove the AHBIC logo from the WA Conference page.

5.8 Reporting at conferences

Currently AHBIC Executive attendance at state conferences is as follows:

- WA Conference: LL, SF and TK will be in attendance. It was noted that the Chair is still considering whether he will attend this conference
- QBA Conference – PB, BMcK
- NSWAA – TK will be in attendance for the trade show
- VAAA – All Executive

The Chair and HG will attend the state conferences. HG to write to all states to confirm AHBIC presentation time.

ACTION: HG to write to all states to confirm AHBIC presentation time.

5.9 ABC rural report

The Chair raised the ABC rural report regarding the bee deaths in Dalby due to fipronil. The Chair received a call from the Adam Kay, CEO from Cotton Australian regarding the incident. The issue with fipronil is it cannot be used within 28 days of flowering which is indicated on the label and bees should not be placed near crops that have been treated with fipronil during this time. The Beeconnected app was discussed and there is still some resistance with beekeepers using the app. It was noted that the Beeconnected app was updated in December 2020 for improved useability. In addition, beekeepers who do encounter an experience should fill out an Adverse Experience Report, so there is a record of the incident.

5.8 Letter of support

An email was circulated to the Executive on 17 February 2021 requesting AHBIC to provide a letter of support for travel exemption into Australia for a honey research PhD student. It was agreed that AHBIC was not in the position to comment on the candidate's suitability or the project itself, the methodology or the expected outcomes. AHBIC could not support access for one PHD student, when the whole of industry is in desperate need of foreign workers and would like to see exemptions placed on workers being able to enter Australia to support the industry. In addition, consideration was given that there are many Australians who are unable to return home due to the current restrictions.

ACTION: Respond that AHBIC could not support access for one PHD student

6. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held in May before the NSWAA Conference.

7. CLOSE

Meeting closed at: 11.27am