



February (Summer) 2012, 5 pages

DIAA 15th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, May 2011

Deer Industry Association of Australia Reports

Minutes of the 15th Annual General Meeting

Held on Saturday 14th May 2011 at 2.00pm
Quality Hotel, Tullamarine, Victoria

Present: Jim Moir, Milton Stevens, Gordon Carter, Dawn Evans, Andrew Hansen, Solange Shapiro, Nola Anderson (Chair RIRDC/DIAA Advisory Committee), Andrew and Marika McKinnon, Andy Cowan, John and Katrina Delaine, Ross Lawrence, Henry Shapiro, Deirdre Green, Kevin and Kerry Wilkie, John and Renee Thonard. NZ visitors - Rodney and Dawn Dixon.

Apologies: Steve Lamplough, Ray and Allison Kestle, Richard Coffin.

Proxies: Ian Dowsett, Rod Faulks, Tim Hansen, Adrienne Shaw, Allan Gourley, Nigel Barry, Mark Huisman, Paul McMaster, Brett Henke, Clyde Sefton, Robert Hare, Wayne and Anne Pelgrave, Daryl and Jacque Schultz, Doug Clark, Chris Tuckwell, Graham Edyvane.

The President, Andrew Hansen, welcomed everyone to the AGM.

1. APOLOGIES & PROXIES

It was moved Deirdre Green and seconded Andy Cowan "That the apologies and proxies as read out be accepted".

CARRIED

2. DIRECTORS AND OFFICE BEARERS

2.1 OFFICE BEARERS

It was moved Henry Shapiro and seconded Nola Anderson "That the following Executive positions are approved by this AGM".

President	Andrew Hansen
Vice President	Milton Stevens
Secretary/Treasurer	Marika McKinnon

CARRIED

2.2 DIRECTORS

It was moved Nola Anderson and seconded Andrew McKinnon "That the following be confirmed as Directors of the Deer Industry Association of Australia Inc".

Jim Moir VIC	Dawn Evans QLD
Andrew Hansen	NSW Jeff Varcoe SA
Mark Huisman	WA Gordon Carter (DAL)
Milton Stevens (DAL)	

CARRIED

It was moved Andy Cowan and seconded Nola Anderson "That the following be confirmed as Directors of Australian Deer Horn & Co-Products Pty Ltd".

Jim Moir	Diane Lawrence
Nigel Barry	Andrew Hansen

CARRIED

All Directors were thanked by acclamation.

3. MINUTES OF THE 14th AGM

It was moved Ross Lawrence and seconded Milton Stevens "That the minutes of the 14th AGM held on the 8th of May 2010 in Melbourne and published in the Summer 2010 ADF Magazine were an accurate record of proceedings and that they be approved with corrections".

CARRIED

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

4.1 PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS

The Treasurer, Solange Shapiro, presented the Audited Accounts which were printed in the ADF Magazine. The DIAA, as a total body, was in a good financial position thanks to the hard work of Dawn Evans and her generous donation of the Red Deer Society funds to the DIAA.

The Treasurer also explained that due to the transfer of RIRDC Project funds into a totally separate bank account operated by the Research Officer, as well as increasing costs and a reduction in memberships, there could be a \$30,000 deficit this financial year.

It was moved Solange Shapiro and seconded Dawn Evans "That the audited accounts as presented be received and adopted".

CARRIED

4.2 ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Gordon Carter commented that in the 2010-2011 financial years, the membership fee paid was less than those paid 8/9 years ago. In view of the very favourable venison and velvet returns to farmers and the possible deficit the DIAA will find itself in this year, it was necessary to increase the 2011-2012 membership by a bit over \$1 per week.

Keeping the accounts balanced is extremely important considering the possible shortfall in the NRS accounts.

It was moved Gordon Carter and seconded Milton Stevens "That the Full Membership subscription for the 2011-2012 year be \$275 inclusive of GST".

CARRIED

It was moved Milton Stevens and seconded Nola Anderson "That the Associate Membership fee for the year 2011-2012 remain at \$88 inclusive of GST".

CARRIED

4.3 NVAS ADMINISTRATION FEE

The NVAS Administration Fee is currently set at \$198.

It was moved Gordon Carter and seconded Milton Stevens "That the NVAS Administration fee for the 2011-2012 season be increased to \$275 inclusive of GST".

CARRIED

NOTE: Members of the DIAA are not required to pay this as it is included in their membership.

4.4 COMPANY SEAL

It was moved Solange Shapiro and seconded Dawn Evans "That it be noted that the DIAA Company Seal has not been used since the last AGM".

CARRIED

5. ANNUAL REPORT

The President, Andrew Hansen's Annual Report has been printed in the "Autumn 2011 (April)" edition ADF magazine.

It was moved Andrew Hansen and seconded Henry Shapiro "That the Annual Report published in the Autumn 2011 ADF Magazine be received and accepted".

CARRIED

6. NOTICES OF MOTION

A proposed Notice of Motion was lodged by Solange Shapiro as a result of a decision by ASIC, where not-for-profit entities with less than \$250,000 annual revenue no longer need to have their financial accounts audited. The issue was discussed at the Directors meeting with the view that \$2,500 - \$3,000 could be saved by not using an auditor.

The Notice of Motion was published in the April 2011 issue of ADF. To achieve this, two small changes needed to be made to the Constitution. These were incorrectly printed in the ADF, unfortunately, omitting the changes that needed to be corrected.

It was moved Solange Shapiro and seconded Jeff Varcoe "That the motion as presented and agreed to by the board be accepted."

CARRIED

7. RIRDC REPORT

The written report by Julie Bird was tabled. The following projects are currently funded by RIRDC:

Project 002508. Communication and Information for the Australian Deer Industry.

S Shapiro. This project is for the publication of the RIRDC Newsletter quarterly as well as the update of the DIAA website www.diaa.org.

Project 003775. Defining the Australian Market for Velvet Antler Products. G Dryden.

This project is now completed and has passed to the Deer R&D Advisory Committee for comment before publication.

Project 004052. Website Maintenance and Information for the Australian Deer Industry.

S Shapiro. The project will finish in 2012.

Project 004358. Deer Velvet Antler-Research Quality & returns through the Pools.

R Lawrence.

The Chairman of the joint RIRDC/DIAA Advisory Committee answered questions about the various projects.

It was moved Nola Anderson and seconded Solange Shapiro "That the RIRDC Report as written by Julie Bird be received and accepted."

CARRIED

8. NATIONAL RESIDUE SERVICE (NRS)

Andrew Hansen reported on the background of the NRS situation. On the 10th of July 2010, the levies reverted back to what they were in 2007. Subsequently, a survey was conducted, asking farmers who wanted to have a say on further discussions on the levies. A letter was then sent to the Minister asking for levies to be reduced to those of 2007. This was agreed to but only for a period of 2 years. In this time a survey had to be conducted which asked deer farmers their view on this issue. A submission with the results was sent to the Minister who rejected this survey because not all deer farmers were consulted. They believed that the survey only took account of those who wished to be consulted. Subsequently, a second survey was conducted of ALL deer farmers. The 530 letters sent out yielded the following results:

- 2 disagreed
- 76 agreed
- 5 advised us they no longer farmed deer
- 22 were returned mail
- 425 no replies

A revised submission will be forwarded to the minister following the AGM.

Jim Moir reported that the NRS has asked that levies to be increased to 6 cents per kg as there were not enough funds available to pay for EU testing. This increase was only possible by legislative change. It was then discovered that a larger number of tests were being conducted than the EU required with a request being made to the EU to accept a smaller number of tests for the deer. A decision is yet to be made by the EU.

John Delaine raised his concerns regarding the NRS component of levy proceeds from venison processed for the local market as there were no testing requirements, therefore no NRS costs.

John Delaine also expressed his concerns regarding wild shot deer being sold in South Australia, raising the issue that 90% of the so-called "wild shot" deer come from a registered deer farm. Wild shot game harvested for human consumption is exempt from levies, putting the deer farmers at a disadvantage.

Andrew Hansen confirmed a letter has been sent to the minister regarding the issue of wild shot deer and the matter will be pursued.

It was moved Jim Moir and seconded Dawn Evans "That the report presented by the DIAA president be received and accepted".

CARRIED

9. AUSTRALIAN DEER HORN & CO-PRODUCTS PTY LTD REPORT

The Manager of the Company, Ross Lawrence gave a verbal report on the activities of the company to date.

- The original deposit paid for pool 1, November 2010 had to be forfeited as the buyer was not finalising the transaction.

- Total of 7.15 tonnes of velvet was received by the pools at an average price of AU\$69.20. If it were not for an unfortunate spike in the AU / NZ exchange rate, the price would have been higher.

- ADH charge was \$5 per kg.

Jim Moir, having just returned from negotiations with a velvet processing company in China, reported that motions were underway for direct selling to China by the coming velvet season.

He has been working on simplifying the grading system for approval by China, who currently show preference for short cut velvet. This new method of direct selling will generate increased returns for farmers and eliminate the many hurdles the ADH has been experiencing with the "middle men".

It was moved Jim Moir and seconded Jeff Varcoe "That the Australian Deer Horn & Co-Products Pty Ltd report be received and accepted".

CARRIED

10. ADF MAGAZINE

Andy Cowan presented a verbal ADF Report. He sincerely thanked Solange for all her help with the magazine and the meeting of deadlines.

It was moved Nola Anderson and seconded Jim Moir "That the ADF Verbal Report as presented by Andy Cowan be received and noted".

CARRIED

11. NATIONAL VELVET ACCREDITATION SCHEME REPORT

The NVAS report by Dr Sue Joubert NVAS Chairperson published in the Autumn 2011 ADF magazine was presented.

The issue of accreditation of new members was raised as there are currently not enough new farmers entering the industry to make courses viable. Other methods of accrediting new farmers are being investigated.

Jim Moir reported that after AQIS approved the statutory declaration for selling velvet, they advised the DIAA that Korea will no longer accept any velvet without appropriate tagging. Currently there are enough velvet tags for this coming velvet season. Alternative sources are being looked at for coming years.

A suggestion was brought up by John Delaine that after refresher exams, a letter be sent out with exam results to farmers/vets, confirming continued accreditation.

It was moved Marika McKinnon and seconded Dawn Evans "That the NVAS Report be received and accepted".

CARRIED

12. GENERAL BUSINESS

12.1 AGM 2012

The next AGM will be held in Melbourne on the Saturday 5th May 2012. The Directors meeting will be held on Friday 4th and Saturday 5th of May 2012.

12.2 6th WORLD DEER CONGRESS

The 6th World Deer Congress is to be held in Kazakhstan in 2014. After the successful and most enjoyable trip to the last congress in China, it is highly recommended we all start saving our pennies.

12.3 Thank You and Farewell

Andrew Hansen expressed a very special "Thank You" to Jim Moir and Solange Shapiro for the many years of dedication and hard work they have given the DIAA as President and Secretary/Treasurer. A gift was presented to each in show of appreciation.

MEETING CLOSED AT 3.45PM

