



February (Summer) 2013, 5 pages

DEER INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

16th Annual General Meeting

Saturday 5th May 2012 at 2pm

Quality Hotel Melbourne Airport
265 Mickleham Road
Tullamarine
Tel: 03 9338 3222
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MINUTES

Present: Jim Moir, Milton Stevens, Jeff Varcoe, Dawn Evans, Andrew Hansen, Mark and Keeva Huisman, Solange Shapiro, Nola Anderson - Chair RIRDC/DIAA Advisory Committee, Andrew and Marika McKinnon, Andy Cowan, John and Katrina Delaine, Ross and Dianne Lawrence, Deirdre Green, Stan Brown, Clyde Sefton, Richard Coffin.

Visitor: Luca Bernasconi.

Late Arrivals: Zonk and Peta Repinac.

Apologies: Rod Keath, Alex Braham, Brett and Leanne Henke.

Proxies: Ian Dowsett, Rod Faulks, Tim Hansen, Adrienne Shaw, Allan Gourley, Nigel Barry, Paul McMaster, Wayne Pelgrave, D and J Schultz, Doug Clark, Chris Tuckwell, Graham Edyvane, David and Rose Laird, Gordon Carter, John DeBruin, John Thonard, Renee Thonard.

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

1. APOLOGIES AND PROXIES

It was moved Milton Stevens and seconded Dawn Evans **“That the apologies and proxies as read out be accepted”**.

CARRIED

2 DIRECTORS AND OFFICE BEARERS

2.1 DIRECTORS

It was moved Clyde Sefton and seconded Ross Lawrence **“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
Milton Stevens D.A.L. Gordon Carter D.A.L.

CARRIED

2.2 OFFICE BEARERS

It was moved Andy Cowan and seconded Stan Brown **“That the following Executive positions be approved by this AGM”**.

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

CARRIED

2.3 AUSTRALIAN DEER HORN & CO PRODUCTS

It was moved Ross Lawrence and seconded Dawn Evans **“That the following be confirmed as Directors of Australian Deer Horn & Co-Products Pty Ltd”**.

Andrew Hansen Nigel Barry Andrew Cowan

CARRIED

All Directors were thanked by acclamation.

3. MINUTES OF THE 15th AGM

It was moved Jim Moir and seconded Milton Stevens **“That the minutes of the 15th AGM held on the 14th of May 2011 in Melbourne and published in the Summer 2012 ADF Magazine were an accurate record of proceedings and that they be approved with corrections”**.

CARRIED

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

4.1 PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS

Treasurer Marika McKinnon presented the accounts, which were printed in the Summer 2012 edition of the ADF Magazine. It was noted that due to the transfer of RIRDC Project funds during 10-11 into a totally separate bank account operated by the Research Officer, as well as increasing costs, there was, as predicted, a \$28,683 deficit for the 10/11 financial year. The DIAA as a total body was in a good financial position with net assets of \$306,000, however there is a concerning trend of continuing annual losses for head office.

It was moved Marika McKinnon and seconded Solange Shapiro **“That the 2010-2011 accounts as received from the accountant and published in the Summer 2012 ADF magazine be accepted and approved”**.

CARRIED

4.2 ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

It was moved Marika McKinnon and seconded Solange Shapiro **“That the Full Membership subscription for the 2012-2013 year be \$275 inclusive of GST and the Associate Membership fee for the year 2012-2013 be \$88 inclusive of GST”**.

CARRIED

4.3 NVAS ADMINISTRATION FEE

It was moved Marika McKinnon and seconded Solange Shapiro **“That the NVAS Administration fee for the 2012-2013 season remain at \$275 inclusive of GST”**.

CARRIED

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

4.4 COMPANY SEAL

It was moved Marika McKinnon and seconded Solange Shapiro **“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 “Summer 2012” edition of the ADF magazine.

It was moved Solange Shapiro and seconded Milton Stevens **“That the Annual Report published in the “Summer 2012 ADF Magazine be received and accepted”**.

CARRIED

6. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no Notices of Motion received.

7. NATIONAL RESIDUE SERVICE (NRS)

The latest NRS interim financial statement obtained by Andrew Hansen shows an industry budgeted closing balance of \$6063.00 for the 30th June 2012. This is in contrast to their previous figures showing a considerable shortfall for 2011-2012 and concern has been raised that a possible error has occurred. If the figures are correct, the DIAA has succeeded in achieving a major bonus for deer farmers. EU testing is still being done at the reduced rate with no comments regarding this from the EU.

As of 1st July 2012, the NRS levy component will increase from 4 cents/kg to 6 cents/kg with the NRS cap of 10.5 cents/kg being approved by the government.

It was moved Nola Anderson and seconded Mark Huisman **“That the report presented by the DIAA President be received and accepted”**.

CARRIED

8. 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 (ADF) quarterly. The magazine is a major communication tool between RIRDC and the industry and it goes to ALL levy payers.

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

There has been continual upgrading and some major changes to the deer industry website and Solange presents some very positive usage statistics for the first 2 months of its operation under the new name www.deerfarming.com.au.

Project 004358 Deer Velvet Antler Research, Quality and Returns through the Pools.

R. Lawrence

This project will finish in May 2012.

Nola Anderson comments on the latest development regarding the “freezing” of industry funds by the government.

All levies collected under a certain legislation (which includes R&D) are held in a government account which shows up in the government’s financial figures, with any release of industry levy monies being regarded as expenditure. RIRDC applies to the govt. 3-4 times a year for funds to pay for project costs. The DIAA is also due for another 5 year R&D plan with RIRDC. This usually costs around \$20,000 and it has been suggested that someone in the DIAA write the plan to save funds. Adequate industry consultation (possibly a questionnaire) needs to occur before the format of an existing 5 year plan can be adjusted for the next term.

It was moved Nola Anderson and seconded Andrew McKinnon **“That the RIRDC Report as presented by Nola Anderson Chairperson of the DIAA/RIRDC Advisory Committee be received and accepted.”**

CARRIED

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

The Chairman of the Company, Jim Moir, gave a verbal report on the activities of the company to date.

A letter received from the Levies Department advised of an inspection (audit), which had been carried out, and all was found to be in order.

- Total volume of velvet sold by pools in the 2011-2012 season was 3.8 tones down from 7.15 tonnes the previous year. The average price of A\$65.20 per kg was achieved, lower than expected due to a large amount of HH being received. Pool charges were \$2.00 per kg.

- Jim Moir reports the difficulties in continuing to run the pools with constantly declining velvet volumes. There are sufficient funds in the system to run one pool next season, which would be all that was needed for the small volumes coming in.

- Despite a lot of work having gone into establishing the pools to help farmers and keep prices honest, it is believed that the velvet pool has served its working life and the industry needs to consider other options such as possible local area pooling / collections. Should the velvet pools cease, the growers need to be notified of their responsibilities to pay the levies. The meeting acknowledged all the hard work done by Ross and Dianne Lawrence in running the pools and thanked them for their efforts.

It was moved Dawn Evans and seconded Nola Anderson **“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 Dr Tony English for all his input to the website. Andy once again informed the meeting that input from members was needed for different articles – things farmers would be interested in reading.

He also reported on some difficulties that were being experienced with the printers.

Nola Anderson suggested velvet buyers be approached to advertise in the Magazine.

It was moved Jim Moir and seconded Nola Anderson **“That the ADF Verbal Report as presented by Andy Cowan be received and accepted”.**

CARRIED

11. NATIONAL VELVET ACCREDITATION SCHEME REPORT

The NVAS report by Dr Sue Joubert NVAS Chairperson published in the Summer 2012 ADF magazine was presented.

It was moved Milton Stevens and seconded Solange Shapiro **“That the NVAS Report be received and accepted”**. **CARRIED**

12. GENERAL BUSINESS

12.1 *Australia Post Deer Stamps*

Andrew Hansen reports that after several requests, he was advised that deer were not native to Australia and would not be considered important enough to feature on Australian postage stamps. It was decided a notice can be put into deer magazine / website inviting anyone interested in pursuing this matter.

12.2 *Wild Deer Shot for Human Consumption in South Australia*

A letter from the SA Government has been received advising that numbers of wild shot deer for human consumption were not available as they were commercial in confidence. Andrew Hansen replied disputing this claim as figures are available to the public in both VIC and NSW and that the DIAA was considering using FOI legislation to obtain the information. A second letter has since been received stating SA has no legal requirement to collect such information and therefore the requested figures are not available.

A similar letter was sent to the QLD Government with the same response – there are no statistics kept on tonnage of wild deer harvested for human consumption, however it is known there are a small amount of accredited harvesters who are involved in the “intermittent” harvest of wild deer.

Amanda Hill of FSANZ is also trying to obtain these figures and will let the DIAA know should she succeed.

Regarding the proposed FSANZ Processing Standards for Minor Meat Species and Wild Game, it was decided there was no difference in the processing procedures of deer and sheep / cattle and therefore farmed deer should not belong in the same category as “wild game”. It is important that the DIAA emphasize to FSANZ the quality and safety systems that are in place for farmed deer (QA – best practice procedures, NRS testing, transport code of practice) in comparison to wild game, which has no chemical residue testing, no traceability and no accountability.

John Delaine explains as FSANZ was trying to push through the country of origin on labels, should this be extended to “feral deer” to identify to the end consumer the origin of the meat.

Andrew Hansen requests John Delaine to write a short submission regarding labeling and traceability to help put our case forward.

12.3 *TGA – Approval of NZ Application for Velvet Slices and Powder*

Since the approval by TGA of velvet products from “NZ born and bred” animals, Jim Moir has been in contact with Rhys Griffiths in NZ, who had verbally agreed to let the DIAA use its data and the regulatory Consultant in Sydney (Forbes) to have velvet products from Australian animals be included in the TGA approved list of ingredients. Costs for the use of regulatory consultants would be incurred but possible funding from RIRDC could cover this.

12.4 *DIAA Restructure*

Concern has been raised regarding the current DIAA structure of a Company Limited by Guarantee with there being a trend of continual annual losses, especially the possible repercussions and legal liabilities faced by directors should things go seriously wrong. Current memberships have fallen to below 100 and although it is holding steady for now, unless there are newcomers to the industry or non-members re-join, it is envisaged that membership numbers could drop further. Costs have been reduced but a new way of controlling costs must be found. The other issue is that currently only one state complies with the Constitution (VIC), which states that branches must have 35 members and this non-compliance adds to the directors liability risk. The proposal is to change the “company” structure to a state based “association”; this would remove the legal liability cloud from the directors and also save about \$3000 in directors insurance. The following points are a suggestion of possible re-structure and need to be considered:

- The association would be registered in the state of the secretariat
- There would be a president and secretary/treasurer and state based representatives forming a committee.
- All accounts / income / expenses would be amalgamated into one, generating extra income from interest earned.

A position paper will be prepared and mailed to members only at least 3 months prior the next AGM, when the matter will be voted on.

Andrew McKinnon questions if there would be other cost savings and this is an issue to be investigated in the position paper.

12.5 China Delegation

Professor Wang Quankai requested an invitation to come to Australia to visit deer farms and meet with the DIAA in June, the total delegation possibly being around 5 members. They indicated that they would cover all their own costs.

12.6 2013 AGM Date and Venue

The next AGM and Directors meeting is scheduled to be on the 3rd and 4th of May 2013 in Melbourne. Katrina Delaine suggested a change in venue and was asked to source possible alternatives in SA for 2014.

12.7 2014 World Deer Congress

The 6th World Deer Congress will be held in 2014 in Kazakhstan.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Andy Cowan questioned if there were any levies on wild shot deer – the answer being yes, but it is set at 0%. The meeting is informed that the request for levy amounts must come from individual industries and that consultations with the wild shot representative in SA indicated that they would comply and pay levies and AQIS fees.

John Delaine mentions there are some kangaroo shooters going onto registered deer farms to shoot animals for human consumption.

Luca Bernasconi, a deer researcher from Italy gives a presentation on his research projects on deer and their feeding preferences in the wild.

MEETING CLOSED AT 3.45PM