

AFB PMP Management Agency Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 7 June 2018

Location: Board Room, ApiNZ Offices, Level 4, 187 Featherston Street, Wellington

ATTENDANCE

Present

Mr John Hartnell (Chairman)
Mr Gabriel Torres
Mr Jason Ward
Ms Kim Poynter
Mt Russell Marsh
Mr John Sanson (Ministry for Primary Industries Representative, morning only)
Mr Clifton King (National Compliance Manager)

Apologies

Mr Geoff Gwyn Ministry for Primary Industries

Guests

Mr Chris Rodwell Ministry for Primary Industries (items 1 and 2)
Mr Mike Harre Ministry for Primary Industries (item 4)
Mr Ian Govey Ministry for Primary Industries (Item 4)

1. Meeting opening

1.1. Chairman's welcome

John welcomed the Board to the meeting. Chris Rodwell was introduced to the Board. Chris is the Acting Director Readiness and Response, as Geoff Gwyn is now full time on the *Mycoplasma bovis* response.

1.2. Apologies

Geoff Gwyn. It was noted that Geoff is likely to continue to be an apology for some time because of the *Mycoplasma bovis* response.

Kim is now not arriving until 10:30am because of AirNZ cancelling her flight.

1.3. Director conflict of interest disclosures

Kim advised that she has stood down as chair of the Waikato ApiNZ Hub

1.4. Previous Minutes

1.4.1. Confirmation

The Board confirmed that they did agree to changing the radius for TXT alerts to 2km.

John Hartnell moved that the April 2018 minutes be accepted. Gabriel seconded, and the motion was carried.

1.4.2. Action list

Clifton updated the Board on the status of actions arising from the last meeting (see updated action register). Key points of note included:

- John and Clifton had advised AQ of the intention to transfer the supervision of inspections and audits in-house. They were waiting for AQ to provide an updated service schedules and to discuss the transfer arrangements
- AQ had advised that there were significant opportunities for them to improve their internal communications with auditors collecting honey
- The Board commented that they didn't have sufficient clarity over how AQ prioritised apiaries for inspection. Clifton commented that he thought the current method was unnecessarily complex, and that simpler approaches may be more effective. The effects of migratory beekeeping were discussed, and how to best use the information available to the Management Agency to address this risk factor.

2. National Compliance Managers Report

Clifton presented the National Compliance Managers report. Decisions and actions arising from the report are listed as follows:

Northland Helicopter Surveillance

Clifton to follow up on Northland progress/results

Clifton to contact [REDACTED] to investigate the cost advantages of conducting aerial surveillance using fixed wing aircraft.

[REDACTED] Sustainable Farming Fund Project

Clifton to follow up with [REDACTED] to obtain confirmation of exactly what support for the project he is seeking from the Management Agency

Sustainable Farming Fund Clean Hive Project

This project was funded in the 2017 funding round and is underway. The Board confirmed the \$10,000 of funding for the project contingent on the inspection validation methods meeting Management Agency requirements.

Clifton to write letter confirming Management Agency funding.

Russell to arrange to for Clifton to attend next discussion group and meet [REDACTED]

Complaint

The Board discussed [REDACTED] complaint and confirmed that should volunteers be used to clean up apiaries in the future, those volunteers will be working under the supervision of a Management Agency Authorised Person.

Clifton to contact [REDACTED] and advise her of the complaint investigation findings.

3. 1st draft of Levy Order Discussion Document

Clifton presented the levy order discussion document to the Board section by section. Key aspect of the Boards feedback to inform the development of the next version of the discussion document are captured below:

Overall

Use plain English and terminology that it will be easy for the beekeeper audience to understand.

Part 1 – Problem, Scope and Context

- Highlight the industry growth context
- Highlight the increase in AFB since 2015. Use numbers (numerator/denominator) to describe increase in AFB instead of percentages
- Present specific helicopter survey results
- Make the linkage between beekeeper non-compliance and insufficient Management Agency resources clearer.
- Highlight the importance of access to overseas markets (50% of honey is exported)
- Highlight the radical change in how and where honey is sold, e.g. high value honey products vs bulk honey sales to Germany
- Highlight the market advantages NZ honey enjoys because antibiotics are not used to control AFB.

Part 2 – Review of current American foulbrood control in New Zealand

Design of national disease control programmes:

- (second operating model) add “at field level” after “...lower degree of control over the implementation of disease control activities.”

Identification and registration of susceptible hosts (honey bees)

- Provide the specific aerial survey results.
- Clarify that the competing demands for Management Agency resources is occurring at the field level.

Surveillance to detect American foulbrood

- Refer to DECA holders not Certificate of Inspection Exemptions
- Clarify the 8% of apiaries in New Zealand are inspected under the COI programme.
- Remove the ‘transparent’ from the disease control decisions as transparency is not the issue. Its consistent evidence-based decisions.

Elimination of the infectious agent

- Make a positive statement that this is working and will continue.

Prevention of the spread of infection

- Consider how to best describe clause 31 of the AFB PMP as it is not practically enforceable as drafted.
 - Check the legal obligations under clauses 52 and 53 of the Biosecurity Act
- Remove the word “substantive” from “substantive set of legal instruments”
- Highlight that the Management agency is limited using voluntary approaches due to resourcing.

Part 3 Proposed American foulbrood control in New Zealand

Identification and registration of the susceptible hosts (honey bees)

No changes requested

Surveillance to detect American foulbrood

- Change “Make it easier” to “Make it simpler”
- Add research into other research methods (in addition to PCR)
- Highlight that the honey samples collected will be from both export and domestic honey

Elimination of the infectious agent

No changes requested

Prevention of the spread of infection

- Include ‘refresher’ courses

Implementation of the American foulbrood disease control programme will cost the Management Agency considerably more to deliver

- Calculate the budget based on current numbers of beekeepers and apiaries and perform a sensitivity analysis to assess how costs change when the number of beekeepers and apiaries change.

Part 4 Levy Options

The Board had a robust discussion about the levy options, with a focus on what represented a fair approach to charging the levy to hobbyists. The Board was satisfied that while the current apiary and beekeeper levy option was not perfect, it represented the most realistic option available. The key reasons for continuing with the apiary and beekeeper levy are listed as follows:

- Management Agency AFB control costs increase as additional apiaries and beekeepers are added to the system, noting that there is a lag time between expenditure and revenue return which has an immediate impact on cashflow.
- Full implementation of the AFB PMP was a priority for the Board, and it was important to ensure that the levy structure would continue to provide sufficient funding despite unforeseen changes in the industry structure – such as strong growth in the number of non-

commercial beekeepers, industry rationalisation within the commercial beekeeping sector or price/market shock fallout.

The Board agreed that the current approach of classifying the apiaries of registered beekeepers with less than 11 beehives and fewer than 4 apiaries as one apiary for levy purposes should continue despite the negative impact this has on budget and operational cash flow.

Appendices 1, 2, 3, and 4

- Check that the levy and budget total reconcile with each other
- Add commentary explaining why the level of activity is expected to increase, and where it should decrease because of improved compliance
- Add CPI increases to Management and Administration budget line item
- Recalculate the allocation of indirect expenditure to the levy as a ratio of the direct costs
- Complete a sensitivity analysis to check that the proposed levy is still viable if there is a dramatic shift in the ratio of hobbyists to commercial beekeepers (both ways)
- Remove the growth projections for beekeepers, apiaries and hives.

4. Plan to amend the Levy Order

Clifton advised the Board that both the programme brief and the stakeholder engagement plan were scaled down versions of the plans presented to the Board in April to amend both the Plan and Levy Orders. He also advised that the timelines proposed in the programme brief were ambitious, but necessary to achieve notification in the Gazette by the end of February 2019.

The Board approved the programme brief and stakeholder engagement plan.

5. Meeting finalisation

Next meeting 13 – 14 September 2018 (Note date subsequently changed to 24 25 September)

Meeting closed 4:00pm Thursday 7 June 2018.