

NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND (INC.)

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 24 September 2002 at the offices of Federated Farmers of NZ (Inc.), 12 Johnston St, Wellington commencing at 9.10am.

1) Welcome and present

Don Bell	President	Gerard Martin	Executive
Jane Lorimer	Vice President	Bob Blair	Executive
Lin McKenzie	Executive	Tim Leslie	Executive Secretary
Philip Cropp	Executive		

President Don Bell welcomed all to the meeting and made special mention of new member Bob Blair from Auckland. Terry Gavin will join the meeting at lunchtime to discuss the exotic surveillance programme.

2) Minutes

"The minutes of the Executive Meeting held 13 August 2002 as published be accepted."

LMcK/GM carried

"The minutes from the Executive Committee teleconferences held 22 August 2002 and 29 August 2002 be accepted."

LMcK/GM carried

"The minutes of the teleconference of the PMS Operations Committee held 18 September 2002 be accepted by the Executive."

LMcK/GM carried

2.1 Matters arising and actions:

Actions meeting 07 of 24–25 June 2002.

Action 01 In hand

TL to consult the NBA's auditors for advice on write off policy with regard to the current levy collection policy.

Action 02 On hold due to restructure

That the branch funding policy be reviewed in light of what the branches have in reserve and circulate a draft policy to branches for comment.

Action – 04 In hand (Terry Gavin dealing with MAF).

The Executive Secretary write to Roger Poland and Derek Belton (MAF) and thanks them for the opportunity for industry to be involved in putting together this programme. Also ask about review dates as the NBA is anxious that this programme remains current and relevant and does not become out of date.

Action – 05 Pending

The Executive Secretary write to Glenn Dixon and point his out. Copy draft letter to Executive for comment before sending.

Action 06 In progress

JL to follow-up with MAF Food and ask the Environment Committee for industry guidelines based on MAF's recommendations.

Action – 07 Pending. Discussing with NZFSA

"NBA write to Director General of health and advise that the NBA is concerned about the gap allowing hobby beekeepers to escape the requirements for declarations and non collection around tutu area and attach the Feb 2002 article to the letters."

3) Correspondence

Inwards

From	Re
Canterbury Branch	Copy of letter to Minister of Agriculture
Waikato Branch	Movement Control Line

Agriculture ITO	Training issues
Philips Fox	Opinion re expiration of Levy Order
AgriQuality	Quote for remaining part of financial year
R & D Committee	Opinions re Honey Trust Applications
Arataki Honey Rotorua	NBA Restructure
Hort Research	Contract 1/08/02 – 31/12/02
F O'Brien	Honorarium
MAF Policy	Rural training
Biosecurity Strategy Development Team	Update
Honey Trust	Copy of correspondence
Waikato Branch	Question regarding accounting
A McCaw	Resignation from NBA Sub committees
Crombie Lockwood	Insurance update
Expanding Options Project	Van Vuuren report
VPManager	Bee shifting issues
NZFSA	AFB PMS Audit Terms of Reference
MAF	Review of Biosecurity Surveillance Systems
PMS Op's	Draft letter for branch inspections
SNI Branch	Copy of letter to Minister Agriculture
Waikato University	Revised agreement
R McCammon	Movement Control

Outwards

To	Re
Honey Trust	Applications and recommendations
North Island Branches except Nthlnd and Far Nth	Movement control issues
Banches	Minutes and Coroners report
PMS Op's	AgriQuality Quote
Crombie Lockwood	Insurance issues

“The inwards correspondence be accepted and the outwards correspondence approved.”

JL/DB carried

4) Financial

4.1 Slow & bad debts.

Executive Secretary updated Executive on the current status. Solicitor has sent letters to ?? slow payers. There is still an issue though with some beekeepers in that the information on the membership database does not match what beekeepers filed on their ADR.

“The NBA allocate up to \$2,000 to update and reconcile the NBA's database to a standard that means the NBA can confidently recover these debts and the Executive Secretary report to the October meeting.”

GM/JL carried

4.2 Issues from Waikato Branch

A letter from Waikato Branch raising a question about signing authorities and the payment of Honorarium to Fiona O'Brien was discussed.

The executive secretary apologised for the error with Fiona. He had instructed the accounts people to pay the half-ear honorariums and had never made it clear that Fiona was not part of the Executive any more.

“The Executive Secretary to check with the accounts section in Hamilton to ascertain how the return of the O'Brien honorarium was coded and the tax issues resolved for the last year and this year.”

JL/PC carried

“The current policy for account authorisation be reviewed by the Treasurer and Executive Secretary

and a recommendation be made to the next Executive meeting.”

GM/PC carried

“The Executive write to Fiona and thank her for the return of the Honorarium.”

PC/JL carried

5) Reports

Varroa Management Group – Jane Lorimer

Below, the notes of the teleconference held 12 September 2002.

“Recommendation 1

The existing movement control line (with minor modifications where appropriate) will be retained until 30 April 2003. At this point all movement controls within the North Island will be removed, unless there is some form of long-term management programme in place (or close to being implemented), which has the ability to impose and maintain movement controls. The existence of a management programme does not guarantee that the Line will be retained.

Majority decision that the line should stay. Should be reviewed at April 2003.

Discussion on Long term management programme:

*The chair then pointed out the wording used in this recommendation in relation to the long term Varroa management Plan - “At this point all movement controls within the North Island will be removed, **unless there is some form of long-term management programme in place** (or close to being implemented), which has the ability to impose and maintain movement controls.”*

Recommendation 2

The Northern Boundary Area (10km strip) immediately north of the MCL will be removed, along with its specific permitting conditions.

Majority – the northern 10km boundary area goes.

Recommendation 3

Minor modifications to the existing MCL will be considered by the VMG where this can be done without significantly increasing the southward spread of varroa, to facilitate access to apiaries by beekeepers north of the MCL.

Recommendation 4

Treatment of varroa-infested hives in the Buffer Zone will be the responsibility of the hive owner. The Varroa Management Group may impose restrictions on or around infested apiaries detected south of the MCL if considered appropriate.

Agreed that we try to get treatment materials supplied to beekeepers on new finds in the buffer zone, as long as we do not compromise other areas of varroa funding.

Recommendation 5

Some elements of the beekeeping industry support the establishment of an additional movement control line separating the Hawkes Bay-Wairarapa areas on the East Coast from the western regions of the North Island. To seriously consider implementing such a line, MAF would require evidence that the proposers of such a line have identified and consulted all affected parties within the beekeeping industry, and can show a very high level of support from them. Beekeepers in the affected regions should be advised of the potential for undetected varroa infestations to be present in areas currently considered by beekeepers to be 'varroa-free'.

Consensus of opinion of those affected by the formation of this line – should not be formed at this point in time.

Recommendation 6

The VMG may make recommendations to beekeepers in the lower North Island on voluntary adoption of practices to slow the spread of varroa.

Poverty Bay, Hawkes Bay and Southern North Island to get together at a later stage to talk about voluntary controls to minimise spread, and how to promote them to members of the branch.

Other discussion

Discussion on the amount of money spent on South Island surveillance. Felt by beekeepers it would be better to do targeted surveillance, and encourage beekeepers to do own surveillance on hives.

Need more money spent on re-enforcing the natural barrier of Cook Strait, and other means of moving of risk goods to South Island eg freight goods from other ports. Could be better to employ people at ports to spray vehicles – i.e. bees lodged in radiators.

Motion

That more money be spent on stopping Varroa getting to the South Island, and less on South Island surveillance.

John Berry/Milton Jackson Unanimous

Discussion on the South Island incursion response: Would eradication be attempted. It was noted that the Industry had asked for the criteria under which eradication would be attempted – on several occasions, and it had not been supplied.

It was felt that enough data should now be available for the technical experts to stipulate when eradication would be attempted in the south island.

Motion

MAF to produce the criteria for eradication when varroa found in the South Island, what their recommendations will be to Government under the various scenarios.

Russell Berry/Lewis Olsen carried with one abstention

“The Executive endorse the resolutions of the teleconference held 12 September 2002.”

JL/LMcK carried

Meeting broke for morning tea at 10.45am and returned at 11.00am

Telford and beekeeper training – Philip Cropp

Telford and the Agriculture Industry Training Organisation (AGITO) are working revising and renewing a set of Unit Standards for apiculture training. Philip has been involved with the meetings to get this up and running.

“The Executive accept the resignation of Allen McCaw as a member of the Telford Advisory Committee with regret.”

PC/LMcK carried

“The Executive inform branches that there is a vacancy on the Telford Apicultural Advisory Committee and is asking for expressions of interest to fill the vacancy.”

PC/LMcK carried

4) Financial (con’t)

The Treasurer and Executive Secretary presented the statement of financial position ended 31/08/02.

“The financial statements for the period ended 31 August 2002 be accepted.”

GM/JL carried

5) Reports (con’t)

Exotics – Gerard Martin

The committee has been discussing EFB issues and is looking at the possibility of sending someone to Australia to gain some knowledge from their experience.

“The Exotic Committee submit a proposal for assistance from the NBA in organising and funding a study trip to Australia to study EFB so that the NBA can make application to appropriate funding agencies for assistance.”

GM/LMcK carried

Expanding Options Project – Lin McKenzie

The contract for the benchmarking project has been let to Agriculture New Zealand. They will interview up to 10 beekeepers around New Zealand.

The tour of Sharon Gibson, USA beekeeper seems to have been well received. Beekeepers appreciated hearing from a practising beekeeper. Mr Dickinson’s report on the tour will be posted to the NBA website and sent to branches.

Communications – Lin McKenzie

The Executive discussed recent magazine issue content.

“Lin McKenzie to address the issues of content at a meeting with the publishers on September 27 2002.”

PC/GM carried

Meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.30pm and returned at 1.20pm.

Exotics – (Con’t)

Terry Gavin reported that the new programme/contract for exotic surveillance for this season is about to be negotiated with MAF. MAF will fund two NBA representatives to any meetings. Terry will be advocating that branch representatives (probably branch disease coordinators pick up samples to help keep cost down. Terry to keep Exec informed of progress.

6) Honey Trust applications

Executive received the reports/opinions from the Research and Development Committee.

“The Executive reaffirms the recommendations from the R&D Committee in that the applications from Hort Research, Industrial Research and Dr Donovan can not be supported.”

GM/LMcK carried

“The application from Moria Haddrell Honey to the Trust for assistance with computer programme development be referred to the R & D Committee.”

PC/LMcK carried

An application from Telford to assist with costs of writing Beekeeper Training Unit Standards was considered.

Philip Cropp to discuss with Telford and report back to the next Executive meeting.

7) Resignations

A letter of resignation from all NBA committees by Allen McCaw was received.

“The Executive accept with regret Allen McCaw’s resignations and write to him to echo these sentiments.”

JL/LMcK carried

8) Restructure

Gerard Martin and Lin McKenzie updated on progress.

A committee comprising and chaired by Steve Lyttle met on September 3. It is calling for submissions from branches and interested individuals and will met on October 3 to discuss these and develop a paper for the Executive.

The committee will met with the Executive on October 10 and from there the Executive will make some recommendations to the membership for a special meeting to be held in Wellington on 21 November 2002.

9) PMS

9.1 Contract/Service Order

A Contract and service order to cover the PMS until 31 December 2002 were considered from AgriQuality NZ Ltd and Hort Research respectively

“The NBA accept the contract from AgriQuality NZ Ltd.”

PC/LMcK carried

“The NBA revisit the Hort Research Service Order with Hort Research and ask them not to sample the frozen samples from last year and reduce the number of samples for the period to 200 with a review on 1 January 2003.”

PC/JL carried

9.2 Branch Audits

A draft letter to branches from the PMS operations Committee was discussed. It was agreed that Philip Cropp discuss the letter with Ian Spence to add in a points about funding and rationale for reduced inspection for the period.

9.3 PMS Operations Committee Contact

It was agreed that Ian Spence be the contact for the committee for the immediate term. The Executive Secretary will inform branches and ensure an article is put in the magazine.

9.4 Authorised Persons

It seems that there has been no follow up since the recent South Island training. The Executive Secretary will follow up with Murray Bush and Tony Roper (AgriQuality) to ensure the names are lodged with MAF for the issue of warrants.

9.5 Half Term Review of PMS

A letter will be drafted for sign off at the next Executive meeting to send to the Minister informing of the NBA's timetable.

10) Biosecurity Levy Application

A revised timetable was discussed.

*“01/10/02 Revised Proposal with Executive
Summary sent to magazine, branches and NBA website
Letter of explanation sent to all potential levy payers known at 1 October 2002
explaining the rationale for the budget changes.*

*01/10/02 – 22/10/02
submission period for people to send submissions to the Minister.*

23/10/02 Lodge submission with minister.”

PC/GM carried

11 Closure

Don Bell closed the meeting at 4.25pm.