

Australian Fertiliser Services Association Inc
WA Branch
Minutes of General Meeting Friday
19th September 2014
Held at Baileys Fertiliser, Beach Street Kwinana

Meeting opened at 1.00pm

Present: Kevin Spurr, Larry Marchant, David Holdsworth, Pam Clulow, Les Clulow, Kim Bailey,

Apologies: Laurie Donnes, David Tonkin, Rod Donnes, Shay Holdsworth, Andrew Donkin

President Kevin Spurr opened the meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Minutes:

The minutes of the previous General meeting held on the 21st of February 2014 were read and were moved as being a true and correct record on the motion of David Holdsworth and seconded Kim Bailey. **Carried**

Business Arising:

Nil

Correspondence:

1. Fertcare Training DAFWA – An email from Peta Richards DAFWA advised that the Department through funding from the State NRM Program is continuing to partner with the Fertiliser Industry to bring opportunities through Fertcare and Accuspread. Throughout January 2015 DAFWA is hosing additional subsidized Fertcare training in WA including the Fertcare Level A electives, including Transport and Spreading. This information has been circularized to member.
2. The Department is also organizing a further series of Accuspread Field days around mid-February to mid-March 2015 for farmers and contractors. The Field Days in the past had focused on the South West, next year the Field Days will be held in other areas such as Esperance or Corrigin if there is sufficient interest.
3. Email from Jeff Kraak – Accu-Spread Trays. Advising that stocks are closed to exhausted (Approx 10 left) and seeking what demand there is for trays. Larry advised that we are no need of trays at this time.
4. Email from Jeff Kraak – requesting time to address the meeting by either Skype or Telephone on Fertcare Engagement in WA, Accu-spread Changes of the Last Year – GPS. Fertcare and Agsafe re-accreditation and Cross Contamination Risks with Fungicide Treated Fertilizer.

The Inwards Correspondence was accepted on the motion of Larry Marchant and seconded by Kim Bailey.

Skype Crossing with Jeff Kraak 1.30

Jeff Kraak addressed the meeting by Skype on the following topics:-

Fertcare Engagement in WA

Long term monitoring by the Department of Water (DoW) shows that water quality in the middle and upper sections of the Swan Canning River System is in moderate to poor condition and declining. – Recommendations include: ‘Review the Fertiliser Action Plan, and Plan and Fertiliser Partnership to ensure the most effective combination of strategies from both are implemented to prevent nutrients entering the river system. “Fertcare was highlighted in the Fertiliser Action Plan.” The WA Department of Premier and Cabinet are considering a proposal from a State Government agency to formulate legislation mandating soil testing in the South West of the State. At its core the proposal, the proposal recommends that soil testing and advice be provided by Fertcare Accredited Advisors.

Accu-Spread Changes over the Last Year

GPS – equipment has been noted by Accuspread Testing Officers since July 2014.

Since January 2014 Business Managers of Accu-Spread tested equipment are being asked to complete an Accu-Spread Operator Statement which captures information about current operators and their Fertcare Training status at the time equipment is tested.

Accu-Spread Software Upgrade – The Accu-Spread Software has been upgraded. A key improvement is the level of control the Administration Manager will have over the latest version.

Cross Contamination Risks with Fungicide Treated Fertiliser – Most Transport operators understand the importance of grain storage hygiene, however trucks and handling equipment used to transport and move fungicide treated fertilizer are sometimes overlooked as a potential contamination point. This is resulting in detection of residues of fungicides such as flutriafol and fluquinconazole in grain, according to an article in May June 2014 edition of GRDC Groundcover. Effective clean down operations in Bulk Fertiliser transport and storage vessels that handle both fungicide treated fertilizer and grain will go a long way to help minimizing potential food safety matters.

Discussion took place after Jeff’s talk and it was identified that we write to City and Country Councils outlining the importance of Accuspread Testing.

It was moved by David Holdsworth that we write to City and Country Councils outlining the importance of Accuspread Testing and advising of the importance in using an Accuspread accredited Contractor, seconded Larry Marchant.

Carried

Financial Report: Larry Marchant

Balance Sheet 18.8.2014

Income		Payments	
Bank Balance	\$3578.62	Bailey's Fertiliser Oct Meet	102.55
Subs	1078.00	ATO January BAS	52.00
ATO September BAS	20.00	Trailer License	70.05
R Nichol Trailer Hire	1072.50	Ambassador Hotel February Meeting	155.00
Bank Interest	0.39	Photocopying	70.00
		ATO June BAS	86.00
		Bank Balance	5031.91
Balance	\$5749.51		\$5749.51

This amount is plus an Interest Bearing Deposit \$10,598.70 invested at 3.15% for 8 months, due on the 8th November 2014. Interest due \$250.38. Balance as at 8.11.2014 \$10849.08

The Financial Report was moved as a true and correct record by Larry Marchant,
seconded Les Clulow **Carried**

Larry advised that the account had now been changed to Westpac Bank and the Branch is Merredin.

Reports:

I guess it's fair to say things have been a little quite since our AGM in February for branch matters and meetings. Most of our Spreader members have had a very busy spreading season which complemented the early break to the season. Reports of lots of nitrogen products being spread was pleasing to hear. Most of the Agricultural areas are looking good and a big harvest is anticipated by many. Disappointingly though, it's a shame to hear of lack of rain for our friends in the inland northern Agricultural regions after such a promising start. With Accu Spread demonstration days being run in WA in the last two years by SWCC and DAFWA, it has brought about interest from Farming groups here in WA and has created the opportunity for AFSA WA to get some mileage out of those demonstration days. Larry ran an Accu Spread demonstration session in Darkan back in July for one such group, around thirty odd Farmers attended and three different Spreader machines were tested with as expected, very mixed results. Farmers were intrigued and a healthy discussion took place while results were displayed. With news from National regarding a paper to be released in the near future with figures showing a financial cost to a bad spreading job, I feel that now is the time for as many members as possible to become Accredited and for

AFSA WA to push the brand where ever possible which will not only help their own businesses but may also help get non-member contractors on-board. It's with interest that soon we will see a change to the structure of The AFSA at National level. A lot of work and effort has been put into the draft which still has to be finalized. At a State level we can only hope that this brings about a smooth and simplified change to the running of AFSA and that each State will be no worse off from its implementation. Kim Bailey has been nominated by WA for a position on The Board of Directors for AFSA. I believe Kim, who has a wealth of experience, knowledge and is widely respected would be a great asset in that position.

I am very much looking forward to Travelling to the National Conference in Adelaide with fellow members in David Holdsworth and Larry Marchant. The drive across the Big Paddock will be a first for me and I'm sure it will be a big adventure; the "Three Stooges" will set off two or three days prior to the start of the Conference. Good to see WA will be well represented there as I believe Andrew Donkin will also attend.

The Presidents Report was accepted by Kevin Spurr and seconded by Kim Bailey.

Field Day – Accuspread Demonstration – Larry Marchant

On Thursday 24th of July, a Field Day was held east of Darkan organized by the Darkan Farm Management Group. Larry and Kevin tested 3 Spreaders, a Bradel, Marshall and CGS – Transpread.

All machines spread granulated fertilizer, Urea and Lime. The lime was donated by Aglime Australia with Steve Carr in attendance. 26 local Farmers attended the day.

Bradel Spreader	Granulated Fertiliser	28 Metres
Marshall	Lime	
Bradel	Urea	24 Metres
Marshall	Urea	22 Metres
CGS – Transpread	Urea	11 Metres

Larry Marchant moved that his report be accepted and seconded David Holdsworth **Carried**

General Business:

Pricing – General Discussion took place on pricing comparing a per hour and per tonne price.

Annual Conference 2015:

We have been advised that Western Australia is to host the Conference in 2015. Confirmation will come after the 2014 Conference. Pam has had initial emails with Neil Henry, Rod Abbott and Nick Drew. Pam has also made enquiries at the Mandurah Convention Centre.

The meeting identified Mandurah and Fremantle as their preferred venues for the Conference, with Observation City if these venues are not suitable.

In Rod Abbott's email he outlined that the current Conference in SA was being organized by Fertiliser Australia and that a Committee of members of SA, Nick Drew and Rod Abbott had been formed to bring the Conference together.

Invitations to be sent to WA Farmers, Ag Imports, PGA.

Dangerous Goods – Mention was made of the high alert for Dangerous Goods such as Ammonia Nitrate with the current world situation.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.53.