

Minutes of Council of the New Zealand Groundspread Fertilisers Association Meeting held via Zoom on 17th August 2020

Present: John Schultz, James McCloy, Howard Pedersen, Nathan Callandar, Dean Brookes, Graeme Martin, Grant Anderson, Melanie Dingle

Apologies: Lisa Carruthers

1. Welcome

John welcomed group and explained this meeting was a bit shorter than usual focussing on ensuring at current actions are being progressed rather than in depth discussion. Some discussion followed around allocation of portfolio's to Council members. Final outcomes

Health and Safety - Grant Anderson

Lime and Fertiliser – Graeme Martin, North Island/James McCloy, South Island

Nathan Callandar and Dean Brookes - Transport

Howard Pedersen - Training

FQC Representative Dean Brookes and John Schultz (with a view to phasing Grant Anderson into this role)

Due to nature of the meeting minutes of the previous meeting on 28th May were not presented – these will be reviewed during next NZGFA Council meeting.

2. Member Support

a) Wind drift document

Document has been put together to provide guidance to members on how to review risks associated with wind drift of fertilizers. The document has been sent to Worksafe for review. Once finalised, members will be notified of its availability and it will be put into the members only section of the website.

Action: MD to follow up with Worksafe and communicate to members when available.

b) DG's

Looking to develop a fact sheet for members around what is required when a load is considered Dangerous Goods. Also some discussion on whether suppliers can notify groundspreaders when product is ordered.

Action: MD to develop fact sheet and discuss notification options with Balance and Ravensdown.

c) Freshwater Policy

From initial look the main implication seems to be around, at what soil water saturation levels fertiliser should be applied (this is from an environmental perspective but also need to take safety into consideration). Possibility of providing some guidance on how to access information on when fertiliser should/shouldn't be applied. Also, on what discussions need to be had with customers when making this decision. Will review what is in current documents and decide if better to update current documents or write guidance.

Action: Howard to look at how application on saturated soil is currently covered in SpreadMark and Training.

Action: MD to develop material and/or update.

d) Employment agreements

Some discussion around whether NZGFA should provide employment contract templates for members. There were some concerns as to keeping these up to date. The decision was to not provide specific employment templates but rather advise people to use the employment contract builder provided by MBIE.

e) Complaints process

Ballance and Ravensdown have already agreed an email notification process for quality issues. These addresses were notified to members in the Feb 2020 magazine, however it was agreed that more communication is required to get these email addresses notified to members. Discussion was had around taking this one step further notifying all issues via this email address e.g. waiting times, health and safety, blending etc. NZGFA would then also meet regularly with Ballance and Ravensdown to discuss the issues that had been received. Initial discussions to date with Ravensdown supported this process.

Action: MD to progress development of complaints progress.

f) Rims

Contacted NZTA around options of purchasing rims from different providers. Initial discussion with NZTA indicate rims can probably be purchased from other sources and they have provided a copy of the Tyres and Wheels Rule 2001. Need to understand the criteria to either import or manufacture rims i.e. what is the required certification level.

Action: NC to discuss with manufacturers and importers if there is interest in importing/manufacturing rims. Also to provide to those that are interested what the certification requirements are what the auditing/checking process is for manufacturers/importers.

3. Training

a) Training

Training material has been received from both CanDrive and HWR to determine whether minimum requirements have been met. An assessment has been carried out on CanDrive material but not HWR.

Action: HP and MD need to review the assessment process and outcome of assessments then provide back to HWR and CanDrive ASAP. Also, keep NZGFA council updated as to where this is at.

b) Including Wind drift into training

Once wind drift document finalized, ensure this area is included in the training. Could also potentially include information of the water saturation if appropriate.

4. SpreadMark

a) Inclusion of liquid fertiliser testing into SpreadMark

There is a need for a testing method for liquid fertiliser to be included in SpreadMark. Also, some bulk density testing in tanks. There was some discussion around ensuring that whether fertiliser is applied in either or solid or liquid form that it needs to meet the same standard. James McCloy is already looking at methods for testing liquid fertiliser.

Action: To be discussed at the FQC meeting on August 20th.

b) Tray sizing

It was agreed that the SpreadMark standard needs to be amended to accommodate different depth testing trays as it is too difficult to access the trays currently specified. Various depths have been 'approved' in the past but the SpreadMark standard has not been amended to reflect this.

Action: JM to check proposed wording change with Peter Wood.

Action: To propose to FQC on 20th August the amended wording for the SpreadMark Standard to accommodate currently available/used tray heights.

5. Relationship Management

a) MPI Partner Liaison contact

Lisa from MPI Partnership Liaison has contacted us asking us if there are issues we would like to make MPI aware of. Introduction her to NZGFA, FQC, SpreadMark and FertMark.

Action: MD to invite Lisa to the next NZGFA Council meeting.

b) MPI – careers

MPI have launched a primary industry careers campaign and asked us for any collateral. Suggesting we could possibly tap into some of our award winners for this.

Action: Lisa to progress collateral for MPI primary industry careers campaign.

6. Research

Scott Post has provided a proposal for some research to be undertaken into spreading of blends and is looking for feedback/support from NZGFA.

Action: To feed NZGFA perspective into the discussion on the proposal at the FQC meeting on August 20th.

Meeting Closed: 2.15 pm