

Minutes of Council of the New Zealand Groundspread Fertilisers Association Meeting held via Zoom on 28th Sept 2020

Present: John Schultz, Graeme Martin, Howard Pedersen, James McCloy, Dean Brooks, Nathan Callandar, Melanie Dingle, Lisa Carruthers, Ant Boyles

Apologies: Grant Anderson, Jeremy Beggs, Bruce Taplin

1. Welcome

Minutes of the previous two meetings on 28th May and 17th August were accepted.

Moved - Graeme, seconded – James /Carried

Matters Arising

Clarification was sought that the proposal Central Districts had submitted had been responded to. It was confirmed that a response had been sent to Central Districts and it was read out during their AGM.

Confirmed that FQC had accepted the proposal to accommodate different options for tray sizes to resolve the issue of not being able to consistently source trays. Suggested this is included in the next newsletter. Possibly also include options for sourcing.

Action: Lisa – include details in next magazine/newsletter.

Actions from previous meeting

2. EO Report

Wind drift document for members still sitting with Worksafe. This cannot be finalised until Worksafe have reviewed a report relating to wind-drift. Dangerous Goods document to be finalised after being reviewed by Ballance and Ravensdown to ensure it aligns with their processes. The process for complaints and feedback has been agreed with both Ballance and Ravensdown and will be communicated with contact details in the next Groundspread magazine. The inclusion of liquid fertiliser into the SpreadMark Standard has been agreed by FQC. A proposal has also been accepted by FQC to carry out trial work to determine testing methods for liquid fertilisers.

Action: Lisa to include complaints process article in next magazine after finalising with Balance and Ravensdown.

Melanie to finalise Dangerous Goods and Wind Drift documents.

3. Finance Update

Income is about as budgeted and expenditure is lower than budget. Lower expenditure is mainly a result of meeting expenses (being at just 3% of what is budgeted) and lower than budgeted administration costs.

4. Minimum Vehicles Standards – fertiliser cartage (Ravensdown/Ballance)

Ant Boyles (Ravensdown) presented some proposed minimum vehicle standards that have been developed jointly by both Ravensdown and Ballance for vehicles that are coming on to their sites. These have been developed as a result of a couple of reasonably serious incidents that have occurred on supplier sites. Initially the standard was focussed on looking at how to tarp from the ground but have come to the realisation this is one of the more difficult areas to manage so have started with easier areas to implement. Looking to develop a minimum standard that can be applied consistently across sites. Engaging with industry including NZGFA with regards to the standard to get feedback but also as an early indicator that these standards are looking to be implemented. Ultimately looking for the following outcomes.

- Safe people and sites
- Positive environmental outcomes
- Maintain product quality
- Vehicle standards consistent with values

Looking for assistance/guidance from NZGFA on how best to roll out information to our members also looking for input into longer term solutions e.g. climbing on trailers to put in divider boards.

A question was asked around timeframes for tarping at the wharf. Can loads that are not dusty be untarped in the queue rather than on the wharf when there is time pressure?

Has there been any consideration to sites putting in raised platforms for levelling loads, tarping and taking samples for density testing?

5. Review of NZGFA Awards

Award presentation was difficult this year due to Covid. Discussion around recipient selection processes. Ideas discussed

- Don't have sponsors judging in every category – sponsors could only judge the category they are sponsoring. Also enables sponsors to have more input into what they want from sponsorship.
- List all those that are nominated at some stage as recognition of nomination.
- Mix of judges e.g. sponsor, 'subject expert', 1 or 2 others who sit across all categories
- 'Review' all nominations prior to judging to ensure sufficient information and in correct categories.
- Criteria are well set. Assessment needs fine-tuning.
- Update nomination form to have more prompts to make it easier for those making nominations.
- Sponsors responsibility to go back to nominator to gather more information if required.

Action: Melanie to draft a proposed judging structure to be finalised by NZGFA Council at next meeting.

6. Training

Material provided by current SpreadMark training providers has been assessed against minimum requirements. CanDrive have provided responses to areas where questions were raised. HWR have not provided information to address questions so do not currently meet minimum requirements. The decision was made to remove approval from HWR until material is updated.

Moved - Graeme, seconded – John /Carried

Also discussed the need to formalise arrangement with training providers and that there should be an agreement between NZGFA and training providers.

Currently the minimum criteria currently asks for SpreadMark in the name of the course. We also ask for NZGFA logo and SpreadMark. It was decided that SpreadMark did not need to be specifically included in the name. Discussion around the minimum criteria for practical assessors resulted in assessors requiring to be SpreadMark trained operators and have a minimum of 3 years experience.

Moved - John, seconded – Howard /Carried

CanDrive considering developing short Health and Safety training presentations for branches to provide to members. There would be a charge to each branch to use the training.

Discussion around the requirement for refreshers for SpreadMark Trained Operators after initial training after two years and then five yearly.

Moved - James, seconded – Nathan /Carried

Details around what refreshers will entail and how it will be implemented are to be further discussed. Prior to working through details of the refresher, NZGFA intend to submit a proposal to FQC regarding the including the need for a refresher into the SpreadMark standard.

Action: Melanie to notify HWR that approval is removed.

Melanie to investigate developing an agreement with training providers.

Melanie to update minimum requirements to remove the requirement to have SpreadMark included in the name of the course and to incorporate the requirement for practical assessors to be SpreadMark Trained Operators and have a minimum of 3 years experience.

Melanie to ask branches if there would be interest Health and Safety videos.

Melanie to put a proposal together to submit to FQC around the requirement to have refresher training for SpreadMark certified operators.

Howard Pedersen left the meeting.

7. Rims

Nathan has been in touch with NZTA regarding certification requirements for rims. Wanting to know what the specifications are for rims to be used on New Zealand roads. Unclear as to if there are specifications or if an engineer needs to sign off. Need to ascertain from NZTA what the specifications are or if there are any.

Action: Nathan to email Melanie with what information he is wanting to get from NZTA and Melanie to see if she can get any information from a contact.

8. Association Administration

It was decided to print a hard copy directory for the 2020/21 year. As part of this process there will be a notification to members that information will be publicised.

Action: Update application forms to include information around permission to publicise members details.

Action: Dean to send artwork for stickers to Melanie. Melanie to get more stickers printed. Stickers to be distributed via branches once printed.

Action: Organise printing of NZGFA member directories

9. Magazine

Going forward the magazine will be 'seasonal' as opposed to month. With some branches not providing Branch reports it was discussed as to whether or not branch reports should be included in the magazine. There could still be some branch-based content provided. It was decided to leave to the editor to determine best use of space and to trial some options. The print numbers have increased for the magazine so at times the advertising may not cover the costs. The question was raised that if on occasion the advertising does not cover costs will NZGFA be prepared to make a contribution (\$350 - \$500) to cover the shortfall. It was agreed that as the magazine is such an important tool for communication

that a shortfall would be covered on occasion but if it were to be an ongoing situation this would be revisited.

Moved - John, seconded – Graeme /Carried

10. Representative Updates

Lime & Fertiliser: Note gone to branches asking if any lime and fertiliser issues. Been working on lime quality. Graymont have lifted the moisture content in lime resulting in many of the issues around dustiness having gone away. Graeme has personally noted that Surephos is dusty. Also, that communication around stock levels from the larger suppliers is not great i.e. will run out of product as it is needed but there has been no communication as to lack of supply. There was also discussion around some of the environmental/legislative influences on timing of application and how this is potentially a contraction of the number of days for spreading e.g. application of phosphate in Canterbury now being left until it is warmer. There may need to be further discussions with suppliers to ensure awareness of these trends/changes. Extended opening hours is something that stores are able to provide to assist in dealing with this shorter application windows and advice from Ravensdown (who had a representative present) was to talk to local stores regarding this and escalate to regional managers if there is no support at store level.

FQC: NZGFA tabled proposals for the inclusion of inclusion of liquid fertiliser to be included in SpreadMark. There was some discussion around how application of liquid fertiliser would be tested. It was decided to seek a proposal for trial work to determine the best testing method that gives the same outcomes and granular fertiliser application.

Training: Covered in agenda item.

Transport: Draw-beam certificates have been allowed to be on the seats of trucks because they are aluminium and can potentially corrode if it comes into contact with fertiliser. A member has been pulled over and told this is not legal. It has always been considered that this is acceptable practice. It was also discussed that two certificates could not be printed for the same certificate as also currently happens – although not in all cases.

Action: Nathan to clarify the current situation and Melanie to investigate further.

Communications and Promotion: Media release for awards which received some media coverage. Article in Real Farmer about safety initiatives in the groundspread industry. Website and facebook pages being updated.

Action: Progress the case studies for MPI careers in the primary industry

Health and Safety: No report

11. SpreadMark

There has been some discussion in the past about charging trainer and testers for the use of the SpreadMark logo to offset costs of NZGFA input into the ongoing development and support of the SpreadMark standard. The current situation with the SpreadMark standard is that FQC leases the SpreadMark standard from NZGFA. Ownership of SpreadMark remains with NZGFA. NZGFA owns the Trademark for the word SpreadMark (currently expires in 2025). Copyright is held by FQC? A recent partnership arrangement between NZGFA and FQC whereby NZGFA undertakes to carry out certain promotional activities for \$10,000 per year. Also, for any groundspreaders who are not NZGFA members – there is \$150 'rebate'

from the certification fee returned to NZGFA. In addition, FQC pays for NZGFA communications associated with SpreadMark.

It was agreed in principal to charge for the use of the SpreadMark logo (certified operators and tested equipment). The resulting certifications need to be able to distinguish the difference between SpreadMark certified operators, SpreadMark certified equipment and fully certified SpreadMark businesses. As this is a significant decision and 3 of the branches were not represented at this meeting it was decided to canvas these branches directly to see if they are in agreement to firstly charging for the use of the logo and secondly agree to \$20 per 'use'.

Action: Melanie to contact Central Districts, Southland and Taranaki branches to canvas perspective on the use of charging for use of the SpreadMark logo.

Moved - Nathan, seconded – James /Carried

12. General Business

Branch representation

Taranaki does not currently have a Council member. This has been followed up. Northland Branch currently has no Chair or Council representative. Some discussion around whether Northland can join Waikato in some capacity? Will need to be discussed at next meeting.

Action: Melanie to follow up Council representation with Taranaki

Graeme to contact Northland to see what options there are regarding Northland's lack of activity and representation.

Meeting closed at 3.10pm. Next meeting on 25th November 2020 in Wellington.