

Minutes
WDM RAC Meeting
held 8th August 2007
At Council Board Room Britten Admin Building
Queensland University Gatton Campus
Commencing 8.30 am

1. Opening, Welcome by Chairman

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed members and guests.

2. Attendance

N Boland (Chair)
V French
M Duffield
A Borrell
P Banks

A Coleman
J Crocker
D Hemming
M Duffield

Nominees

D Poulsen QDPI
M Dieters UQ
D Freebairn GRDC
D Scanlan GRFL

J Obst Northern RAC Coordinator

Guests M Christopher (QDPI), A Hewitt (UQ), C Birch (UQ)

3. Apologies

Apologies received from J Sturgess, L McIntyre and C Nason.

Accepted

4. Election of Chairman

The Chairman vacated the chair and the Coordinator called for nominations. NB nominated by DF
Seconded by AB. NB accepted nomination and was declared Chairman.

Carried

5. Confirmation of Agenda

Confirmed

6. Confirmation of Minutes (21st February 2007)

Moved JC Seconded MD that minutes of the meeting 21st February 07 were true and correct.

Carried

7. Business from Minutes

7.1 Chairman's report on meeting with NP GRDC

The Chairman said that he attended the annual meeting between the NP GRDC and the 8 Chairs of the Northern RACs held on 4th July 07. He outlined key issues discussed. Minutes of this meeting will be available shortly.

7.2 Letter to & from Dr B Pengelly re SQFS Project

The Coordinator reported a letter was written to / received from Dr Pengelly regarding the SQFS project. Growers J Nolan (Roma) and R Taylor (Macalister) are on the SQFS Steering Committee. A recent report has been received outlining the 5 key sub-projects to be undertaken.

It was agreed that sub – project leaders could be invited to report to future WDM RAC meetings.

7.3 Write to GRFL regarding process for determining level of research levies.

The Coordinator reported that a letter was written to GRFL regarding this matter. GRFL has advised that it has written to AgForce Grains, GCA and GRDC for advice. Concern was expressed as to the effectiveness of the current GRDC reporting requirements to grain growers through GCA given that the 2 largest grain growing states, namely WA and NSW, are not currently members of GCA. Agreed to continue to progress this matter with GRFL.

8. Correspondence and Business (not covered elsewhere on agenda)

8.1 Circulation of PIPn 2007

The Coordinator reported that the PIPn 2007 was posted on the GRFL Website and linked to approx. 400 researchers and agronomists. Hard copies were sent to all RAC members. Favourable reports have been received on the new format of the PIP.

8.2 GRDC 5 Year Strategic Plan 2007-2012

This plan has been released recently and copies were made available to members.

9. RAC Member's Reports

Following is a sample of the key comments by members

- SW region patchy with crops ranging from fair to poor. Some crops had already failed.
- Central West has some fair crops and rain in 4 to 6 weeks will produce some moderate yields.
- Strong interest in September sorghum if a full moisture profile is available.
- West of Roma very poor with properties de-stocking.

- The soil test kit (\$800) from the Sub Soil Constraints program appears to have a lot going for it and can be borrowed from DPI for cost of consumables (about \$30) although some agronomists not sold on the kit.
- Some stripe rust pathotypes found in Queensland commercial wheat this season

10 Research Presentations

10.1 Dr A Hewitt CPAS:- Spray Technology for Cropping by 2018

Dr Hewitt reported on spray technology research being undertaken at CPAS UQ.

10.2 Dr C Birch UQ:- Profitable Maize in WDM...I'd like to see that

Dr Birch reported on his research into profitable maize production in the Western Downs Maranoa region.

10.3 Carbon. D Scanlon facilitated a discussion on carbon and the grain industry. There was a consensus that the grain industry need to place itself to be part of the solution in dealing with greenhouse gasses or risk being confronted by regulations.

It was **resolved** that the WDM RAC write to GRFL encouraging it to initiate action in relation to setting an agenda for greenhouse gasses and the northern grains industry.

11 Level of alignment of current RDE program with WDM RAC Priority Issues

This agenda item deferred to the next meeting.

12 Identify gaps in current RDE program

This agenda item deferred to the next meeting.

13 Identify gaps in current WDM RAC Priority Issues

This agenda item deferred to the next meeting.

14 RAC Nominees Reports

14.1 DPI:- D Poulsen (written report attached)

14.2 UQ:- Dr M Dieters.

Dr Dieters reported on UQ research matters

14.3 GRDC:- D Freebairn.

Dr Freebairn reported on GRDC matters

15 General Business

There was general discussion and concern expressed on the availability of funds and research capacity for the Queensland grain industry.

16 Next Meeting

16.1 Date: Wednesday 12th March 2008

16.2 Venue: Goondiwindi at venue to be determined.

16.3 Invited Speakers: to be determined

17 Closure

The meeting closed at 1.00pm

Following the meeting, members inspected the CSIRO PI research project " Wheat traits, genes and germplasm for adaptation to water limited environments in the northern region" under the leadership of Dr R Shorter.

Dr C O'Donnell also conducted an inspection of the CPAS Wind Tunnel Research facility at UQ.