

SWFSPP STEERING COMMITTEE ANNUAL MEETING RECORD

Wednesday 21 October 2020 | 10:30 am (AEDT) | Videoconference

In attendance: Ian Langstaff (AHA - Chair), Mikhaila Nye (AHA – Record), Emily Sears (AHA), Bill Crowe (Aus. Gov.), Skye Fruean (Aus. Gov. – NAQS), Paul Freeman (NSW – southern jurisdictions representative; *part*), Peter Saville (NT), Elizabeth Stedman (NT), Janine Barrett (Qld), Graham Mackereth (WA; *part*), Justin Toohey (CCA – Industry Forum representative)

Apologies: Ofir Schwarzmann (NSW - southern states representative)

Objectives of the meeting:

1. Brief Committee members on program deliverables, achievements, issues, and expenditure.
2. Receive updates from Committee members and discuss program matters.

Arrival, outline and zoom housekeeping (I Langstaff)

I Langstaff welcomed the Committee and outlined the agenda for the meeting. No additional agenda items requested.

1. 2019-20 in review

1.1 Update on 2019 Action Items (E Sears)

E Sears spoke to the action items in the Status Report and provided an update on outstanding action items. It was noted that Item 6, 7, 14 and 15 would be discussed later in the meeting.

Conclusion

Update on action items accepted as written.

Action

- i. CW to investigate the requirements for establishing capability for NW SWF PCR at Cairns laboratory (unresolved Action Item 8 from 2018)

1.2 Program Status Report (I Langstaff)

- I Langstaff updated the Committee on the status of the SWFSPP as provided in the paper.
- The Committee discussed Appendix C – *Product Selection Report* and noted that the application for minor use permits pertains to existing registered products and is limited to extending their indication for use to SWF. Members agreed that AHA should be the applicant and permit holder. The maintenance of the permits aligns with the preparedness component of the SWFSPP and it was agreed that a review of permits should be included as an agenda item each year. Discussion on methods of treatment and the need for a greater understanding of the potential use of self-applicators in remote extensive areas.
- I Langstaff provided an update on the budget and expenditure in 2019-20, noting a small increase in program management and consultancies due to part of the work on the minor use permits being contracted out.

Conclusion

Program Status Report was accepted as written. Committee members to provide comment on Product selection report (Appendix C of Paper 1.2) and the *Manual for the identification of SWF* (4th Edition). AHA to develop a discussion paper on the use self-applicators for review and discussion by the Committee.

Action

- ii. Committee members to provide feedback, including any corrections or changes required, on the Product Selection Report.
- iii. AHA to develop a discussion paper on use of chemical self-applicators for review and discussion by the Committee.
- iv. Committee members to provide feedback, including any corrections or changes required, on the *Manual for the identification of SWF* (4th Edition). Members to specifically address the acknowledgments, the forward and larval Identification sections.

2. Coordinator Reports**2.1 Coordinator reports (NT, Qld, WA, NAQS)****NT (E Stedman)**

- Spoke to the paper provided.
- Noted the increase in targeted myiasis inspections in May 2020 was due to a large herd of cattle that came through the export yards as one job.
- The Committee discussed the detection of Tumbu fly in a returned traveller and the reporting of SWF exclusions in humans. The Committee had previously agreed to report human SWF exclusions in the annual Coordinator Reports. The Committee agreed that going forward, all known human SWF exclusions are to be reported to NAHIS as this will enable more automated methods of collating and extracting data for analysis.
- E Stedman noted NT's interest in an entomology workshop. The Committee discussed the possibility of holding the workshop online but agreed that this may not be the best course of action due to the reduced effectiveness of the training. Planning for the next workshop will commence when travel is reopened.

Qld (J Barrett)

- Spoke to the paper provided.
- Use of SWF maggot kits for tick collection and *E. canis* surveillance – advice provided in the meeting was incorrect and has been removed from the record.
- Advised the Committee of a positive PCR test for SWF obtained by NAQS from a fly trap in Townsville. The Committee discussed options for determining if the test was a false positive. Further testing is being undertaken.

WA (G Mackereth)

- Spoke to the paper provided.
- Updated the Committee around an ant problem at one of the trapping sites, noting that the hydramethylnon granules were effective in preventing ant infestations in the fly traps.
- Advised the Committee on the opportunity for increased wound monitoring for SWF in a study looking at the use of pain relief during castration and dehorning.

NAQS (S Fruean)

- Spoke to the paper provided.
- Advised the Committee that wounding and myiasis data is routinely collected during NAQS feral and domestic animal surveys, but only domestic animal inspection data is currently reported to NAHIS.
- Noted that all NAQS myiasis investigations go to the relevant state for reporting into NAHIS or eWHIS.

Conclusion

All reports were accepted as read.

2.2 Australian Government Report – Monitoring on Returning Livestock Export Vessels (B Crowe)

- Spoke to the paper provided.
- Noted that there has been a reduction in numbers of Calliphorid reported, but no reduction in the numbers of flies trapped overall.

Conclusion

Report accepted as read.

3. Situation Reports

3.1 International and domestic situation update (S Fruean)

- Spoke to the paper provided.
- Chair asked NAQS representative to take on the role of providing an annual international and domestic situation report (distribution, outbreaks, R&D etc) on behalf of the Australian Government Department, including relevant liaison and engagement with other division of the Department.

Conclusion

Report accepted as read.

3.2 Industry report (J Toohey)

- J Toohey suggested that a presentation on the program to relevant industry members would be valuable. The Committee agreed that a presentation to a subgroup of industry forum members should be pursued.
- J Toohey questioned the Committee if the SWF spread model should be run again. I Langstaff outlined that the model is complete and freely available for use, noting certain computer hardware specifications may be needed to run the program.
- J Toohey advised the Committee that several industry representatives have changed.

Conclusion

Verbal update accepted by the Committee.

Action

- v. J Toohey to provide contact details for modellers for AHA to consider pursuing modelling scenarios for SWF spread.

4. Program Documentation

4.1 Targeted Myiasis (G Mackereth - update given during Agenda Item 2)

- Spoke to the paper provided.
- Highlighted the higher value of surveillance of animals with wounds in the detection of SWF, as opposed to surveillance of all animals in a herd.
- Robust discussion by the Committee around setting a target number of wounds to be inspected by each jurisdiction and the extra work required to change the current system (noting need for each jurisdiction to sample 100 wounds to reach 5% design prevalence). The Committee discussed targeting companion animals to demonstrate proof of freedom due to greater number of wounds that are monitored. Further discussions around targeted surveillance of animals with wounds to occur out of session between AHA, NAQS, NT and WA.

Conclusion

Report taken as read, further discussions required with the NT and WA regarding the target number of wounds for surveillance.

Action

- vi. Chair to contact NT and WA representatives out of sessions to discuss further.

4.2 Work Instructions for Adult Fly Trapping (G Mackereth)

- I Langstaff advised the committee that G Mackereth had raised a question regarding the currency of the bezzilure MSDS. The query has been forwarded to the supplier and ChemWatch. The Committee will be updated with progress or a resolution.

Conclusion

The Committee accepted the update provided.

Action

- vii. I Langstaff to update the Committee on Bezzilure MSDS following correspondence with supplier.

4.3 Business Plan (I Langstaff)

- Spoke to the plan, focus on the risk register.
- Committee noted that the threat of inadequate preparedness should be included within the risk register. Inadequate preparedness is partly mitigated by the maintenance of chemical minor use permits for activation during an outbreak. A current SWF AUSVETPLAN also mitigates the threat.
- Appendix B Table 15 to be updated to remove individual names of contacts outside of the Committee representatives.

Conclusion

The Business Plan was accepted by the Committee noting an addition of the risk of inadequate preparedness to the risk register and update to Appendix B Table 15.

Action

- viii. AHA to update the risk register and circulate to the Committee.
- ix. AHA to update Appendix B to remove individual names of contacts outside of the Committee representatives.

4.4 AUSVETPLAN SWF Disease Strategy (P Saville)

- The Committee noted the new SWF AUSVETPLAN.

Conclusion

The Committee noted the new SWF AUSVETPLAN.

5. Awareness and Communication Materials**5.1 Ethanol use, brochure, poster, other collateral**

- The Committee discussed the CASA requirements for the transport of ethanol, noting the requirement to heat-sealed bags. The Committee agreed to investigate the use of isopropyl based hand gels as an alternative to ethanol, noting that isopropyl is a suitable preserver of maggots for the short-term during transport.
- The Committee discussed the wording in the poster in relation to pouring hot water over the maggots and agreed that a slight wording change to specify where boiling water is being used is needed. The Committee agreed to review the poster and contact details out of session prior to printing and distribution.

- J Toohey requested maggot magnets be provided for distribution at Industry Forum. E Stedman requested magnets and brochures.
- S Fruean spoke to the paper on the PNG insectocutor trial. Committee members were requested to provide any final comments and feedback on the design of the trial to S Fruean out of session.

Conclusion

Update on communication materials accepted by the Committee, noting some small are required to the poster text prior to finalisation. Committee to review and provide comment on the PNG insectocutor trial design.

Action

- x. Committee members and AHA to investigate alternatives to ethanol such as isopropyl gel.
- xi. AHA to update wording and contact details in SWF poster and circulate to the Committee.
- xii. AHA to distribute magnets and brochures as requested.
- xiii. Committee to review and provide comment on the PNG insectocutor trial design to S Fruean.

Next meeting: TBA – likely October 2021.

Meeting close: 1:40pm

SWFSPP STEERING COMMITTEE ANNUAL MEETING ACTION REGISTER

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#	ACTION	WHO	BY	STATUS
1.	CW to investigate the requirements for establishing capability for NW SWF PCR at Cairns laboratory (unresolved Action Item 8 from 2018)	CW	25 Dec	
2.	Committee members to provide feedback, including any corrections or changes required, on the Product Selection Report.	All	30 Nov	
3.	AHA to develop a discussion paper on use of chemical self-applicators for review and discussion by the Committee.	AHA	31 Jan	
4.	Committee members to provide feedback, including any corrections or changes required, on the Manual for the identification of SWF (4th Edition). Members to specifically address the acknowledgments, the forward and larval Identification sections.	All	30 Nov	
5.	J Toohey to provide contact details for modellers for AHA to consider pursuing modelling scenarios for SWF spread.	J Toohey	25 Dec	
6.	Chair to contact NT and WA representatives out of sessions to discuss further.	Chair	25 Dec	
7.	I Langstaff to update the Committee on Bezzilure MSDS following correspondence with supplier.	I Langstaff	25 Dec	
8.	AHA to update the risk register and circulate to the Committee.	AHA	30 Nov	
9.	AHA to update Appendix B to remove individual names of contacts outside of the Committee representatives.	AHA	30 Nov	
10.	Committee members and AHA to investigate alternatives to ethanol such as isopropyl gel.	All	25 Dec	
11.	AHA to update wording and contact details in SWF poster and circulate to the Committee.	AHA	25 Nov	
12.	AHA to distribute magnets and brochures as requested.	AHA	25 Nov	
13.	Committee to review and provide comment on the PNG insectocutor trial design to S Fruean.	All	25 Nov	