

**WA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE – NARROGIN**  
**AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2021**

**1. Welcome and Apologies and Confirmation of the Agenda**

**Present:** Clare Roser (Principal), Doug Giles (Chairperson), Stephen Madson (Farm Manager), Antony Ward (Assistant Farm Manager), Russell Gooley (Act. Assistant Farm Manager), Helen Wyatt (Elders), Alison Lacey (DPIRD), Sarah Hyde, Teresa Rafferty.

**Apologies:** Geoff Ballard, Geoff Perkins, Pierre Maartens, Harley Bairstow, Graham Dent (12/8). Apology later received from Veronika Crouch.

**2. Disclosure of Interests**           NIL

**3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

*Amendment* to Heather Wyatt to be Helen Wyatt. Actioned

*Invitation Bull Sale:* Letter to be sent to the committee of the Invitation Bull Sale Representatives to advise that the WACOA – Narrogin facilities will not be available to the group due to viability, bio-security and funding.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting were accepted as an accurate record of proceedings. Moved Stephen Madson and Seconded Helen Wyatt.

**4. Correspondence**

Inwards:

- Certificates from the DOE for Long Serving Members of the Ag. Advisory.
- Emails of apology from members.

Outwards:

- Minutes of 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021
- Agenda of 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2021

**5. Assistant Farm Manager's Report – Tabled T Ward**

Poultry – Purchased 250 adult chickens from Hawkesley's and this has increased our production to 35 dozen eggs per day. W & W Free receive 50 dozen per week now. Due to the threat of foxes, the hen pen will be made fox proof. 27 foxes have been eradicated and hen losses have certainly been reduced. There are plans to repurpose the brick building at the back of poultry to help out with cleaning and distribution.

Pigs – Most have been slaughtered at 62 kgs. Two pigs left are 100kg plus. The college has purchased 7 weaners from Morawa Ag. Large White crosses.

Workshop – The boom-spray is on the T8 now and the TJ is in at Perkins for servicing. There has been a service of the mower and a bar rebuild in which the students were involved. The college has purchased a prime mover and is looking for a trailer.

Dowerin Field Day – Vince Donaldson and 6 students will attend.

Cropping- This was mostly finished mid-June and early oats are looking good as is the canola. S1 – has the lower half good but the upper half not so good. Student cropping areas are growing quite well. S10 – clover crop is now under grazing and has good feed cover.

Rain – Laneways south have eroded and we now have a good idea of the natural draining lines. Westlake is full. Birdlife has increased and water is flowing through to the southern creek-line.

#### **7. Assistant Farm Manager's Report – Tabled R Gooley**

Trail Feeding is not accessible due to bogging of vehicles. The sheep are good and lambs appear to be bigger this year.

Courtney Sutherland visit next week hopefully for the grading of sheep, including last year's hoggets.

HW – Pasture grazing guidance requested. Opportunity on early March sown perhaps, strategies to consider, may be getting a bit late. DG – Provide straw to avoid sheep issues with over nutrition.

Lambing across the board 119%, 155 deaths: down 200 on 2020.

Culling cattle presently, usually 15 for rations but this year there is only 2 left for the rest of the year for rations to the kitchen. Increase to 20 for rations was suggested and get the weights up earlier with bulk feeding.

R/Bulls photos were sent to Kepells for pricing. DG asked to have the photos forwarded to him as he may have a buyer.

Staffing- Rachel Williams is assisting with student education, Peter Zielke is an abattoir and Health and Safety expert in the slaughtering/butcher shop area. Colin Batt has sold a Suffolk Ram on line. Long Wool Day – Ashley Lock had students helping out with the stud breeders. Katanning Merino Judging- students will attend. Farm Skills at the Royal Show – 6 students will attend the multi skills programme.

#### **8. Farm Manager's Report – Tabled Stephen Madson**

- Fencing – ACM at the back of the houses – grazing is for fire control only.
- Plans for the Shed – Approval has been received to build. \$102,350.00 est cost.
- Training for Staff – Certificate IV for Peter Bradford and Peter Zielke.
- Purchase of cool-room from Hawkesley's is a great purchase.
- SAFETY – SOPS and Assessments are mandatory and David Webster is assisting with completing these.

- The Hino Truck is tagged out as too dangerous and not worth fixing.
- Southern Dirt Feeding Trial – The college staff did most of the process with seeding etc and have not been really supported. Discussion on its survival, reporting and may be changing the trial. Poorly run. Currently is a feed paddock for lambs.

**2021 TRUST ALLOCATION** – The last submission had Narrogin all out for a new cattle complex, \$150,000.00. Since the driving force (2 staff are not here now) this would not be a feasible project to put forward without staff knowledge and support. Submissions for 2021 are a small baler, silos and a hay rake. Other items that may be considered are on a spreadsheet and will be priority listed for next meeting. Under consideration is a header but will need to see if the college is concentrating on hay production in the future. The tele-handler has had near misses due to vision restriction. An induction with SOPS is required. There is accredited training for this equipment but it may not be suitable for students.

### **SALLY PANIZZA - WEB Conference 11.05 a.m. Introduction and discussion**

- Sally is the Acting Director, Agricultural Education
- Pursuit of building networks with groups such as DPIRD to further Ag. Educ.
- Concerns and improvements to WSH policies and the issues with staff recruitment into the colleges in regard to Technical Officers.
- Acknowledged the importance of Agricultural Advisory Members and volunteers and their expertise and input to the department from said members. The Narrogin Members introduced themselves. Sally noticed the diversity of the members at Narrogin and the expertise that they bring to the committee.
- CAAC – Concern that Narrogin does not have a member on the Combined Committee. Those present were encouraged to read the guidelines. Members can provide strong lines of input in regard to agriculture and education links. Meetings are in March and October with DOE Directors to discuss agriculture and the future pathways for students. There is keenness to have female representatives, encouraging diversity.
- If anyone is interested. Please contact Sally for a chat and discuss nominating.
- Sally acknowledged the current issues within the Agricultural Sector in recruiting and keeping experienced staff. Packages and salaries of Technical Officers are not equivalent to the private sector. There is also consideration to simplify the recruitment process for experienced farming personnel.
- TW asked if there was scope for a “cooperative” approach in farm production across the five colleges. This was discussed with the acceptance that colleges provide similar subjects but not all operations are feasible in drier areas or in wetter areas.
- It appears that colleges in certain areas are sometimes limited to their course provision and be better to focus on the best for that area.
- Perhaps there could be combined purchases of major items such as fertilisers, herbicides etc under one purchase order.
- Consider RTO Units of Competency and Building staff capacity to provide competencies with confidence. WEBEX completed at 11.30 a.m.

## Resumed Meeting with Stephen Madson and the Farm Report

### Tele-handler discussion

- Industry vs practical for instructing students in this form of equipment. Great for hay loading.
- The height of the tele-handler is not really acceptable in comparison to a loader that has students at face level for instruction.
- Licensing requirements – there are restrictions on those using this type of equipment
- Bobcats vs forklifts vs tele-handlers – all machinery to be considered and to note that the vision issues are concerning on our tele-handler.

### CAAC Membership

- SM appealed to members to consider being a representative on the committee.
- WEB or Zoom would appear to be more suitable for long distance attendance.

WACOA – Narrogin Advisory Committee Members

A Resolution was put forward for Helen Wyatt and Alison Lacey to be nominated as formal members of the committee. Those members not present today, will be contacted via email for their endorsement.

Helen Wyatt left the meeting at 11.50 a.m.

Student Training Assessments Spreadsheet (Shown )

- 18 Competencies for progression
- Clear data showing student completions and those outstanding

### 8. Enterprise Reports – Most items already covered.

- Advisory Member for Sheep – Philip Gooding. Doug Giles will follow up.
- Cattle – Calves on the ground are good and Rachel Williams has been able to bring up to a high standard with her expertise.
- Noted that the college has extremely wet ground and access is limited to paddocks.

### 9. New Terms for our Advisory Members – All are keen to continue their contribution.

10 – 13 Agenda Items have already been discussed.

### 14. Principal's Report – Clare Roser tabled

- Weights Gymnasium – Expected to be complete by Open Day. Much of the old equipment is not suitable and a safety issue.
- Cricket Nets are to be wired
- Footy poles – relocation was not supported by BMW. Instead, new poles will be erected by the company providing, and thus an engineer will not be required separately.
- E-Sports – an on-line competition for non-physical sporting students.

- New Courses and Old Considerations – Physical Education and MDT and the Equine Course are under review.
- Education Focus is on Well Being for students and staff.

## **15. GENERAL BUSINESS**

Water Corporation Grant - \$25,000 for support to reduce the college dependency on scheme water. The project is to enlarge the Western Dam so that the college can use our own water for lawns and gardens and assist with stock.

### **HAY SHED**

Shall we use the purpose build hay shed for hay?

- The west block machinery shed is full of hay – the cattle shed, grandstand area could re-house some machinery.
- A water tank should also be fitted to the big shed to catch run off.
- If we move further into hay production, where will we put the hay?
- DG – Maybe get new shed for hay and leave the dry covered area in the cattle shed.
- Considerations needs to be given to farm planning and infrastructure.
- West Block is a good shed now for machinery and is lockable.

Meeting Closed 12.25 pm.

NEXT MEETING IS WEDNESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2020.