

## MEETING SUMMARY: 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022

The Thirty Second meeting (MC32) of WHA's Committee of Management took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022 via virtual meeting.

Members of the Management Committee (MC) are:

- Sarah Britton (Chair), nominee of the Animal Health Committee
- Cameron Bell (Deputy Chair), Funding Member, Agriculture Victoria
- Individual Member Representative elected by the Individual Members (Casual Vacancy)
- Andrew Pearce, nominee of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- Three organisations elected by the Organisational Members:
  - Leanne Wicker, Wildlife Disease Association Australasia
  - Organisational Member (Casual Vacancy)
  - Organisational Member (Casual Vacancy)
- Rodney Vile, Invited Member, Environment Agency
- James Newman, Invited Active Observer (Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water)
- Sharon Kolek, Invited Active Observer (Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer)
- Peter Bridgewater, incoming 2023 Independent Chair, Invited Observer

MC32 was a routine quarterly meeting.

The 2023 Chair, Peter Bridgewater, joined the meeting to introduce himself and meet the committee. The MC welcomed Peter and look forward to welcoming him as chair of the committee from 1<sup>st</sup> of January next year. The Committee also recognised and thanked Sarah Britton for guiding the organisation through an important year of change.

An approach from the Australian Wildlife Health Institute Initiative (AWHII) to WHA to assist in next steps for delivery of the national wildlife health research RD&E strategy (the Strategy) was considered by the Committee. Though it made sense for WHA to be the coordinating or administering body for the Strategy, it was recognised that a lot of work was still to be done in terms of socialising the roadmap and creating a business case that inspires confidence and co-ownership. It was concluded that without a clear message from the Australian Government and dedicated funding or resourcing, the plan for delivery of the strategy and WHA's position should remain on hold pending clarification on the way forward and an approach regarding WHA's role from the Australian government. The Management Committee can review its position once clarification and direction regarding the future for the Strategy and WHA's role in its support and delivery is received.

An update was provided by James Newman on the DAFF Indigenous Voices Project. This was a 12 month discovery project that looked at the current state of Indigenous participation in wildlife health, and sought to provide recommendations to DAWE (now DAFF) and WHA. The work will be highly relevant to the Capacity Building Program Manager starting at WHA in January and in shaping WHA's approach to its strategic area of activity focussing on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships. The Committee congratulated James and the department for their vision in initiating and completing this important work.

For more information on anything that occurred during the meeting please contact your representative on the MC, the CEO (0438 755 078) or WHA Public Officer, Karen Magee (02 9960 6333).