

Newsletter to participants No. 5: July 2008

STIMBR holds first AGM

STIMBR held its first AGM in Wellington on the 8th July and adopted its constitution as a first step in becoming an incorporated society. An electronic copy of the full constitution can be obtained by emailing gordon.hosking@xtra.co.nz.

Other important business of the meeting included:

Confirmation of the Management Committee (no election was necessary):

Fumigant applicators and importers	- Mark Greenwood
Wood processors	- Peter Bodeker
Log exporters	- Peter Hill
Sawn timber exporters	- Scott Gibbons
Importers and non-forestry exporters	- Kevin Nalder
Forest owners	- Wei-Young Wang
Government	- Ken Glassey
Researchers	- Brian Richardson
Ports	- Grant Macvey

Election of Chair: - Gordon Hosking

Secretary/Treasurer. The offer by the NZ Fresh Produce Importers Association to undertake these duties on a cost recovery basis was gratefully accepted.

Subscriptions. The meeting set the subscription rates for the current year as follows: Organisational member - \$750 + GST;
Associate member - \$100 + GST.

Business Plan. Key components of the business plan for 2008/09 as developed by an ad hoc sub-committee were outlined to members. It was noted that these components would be supported by individual project plans and input sought from the wider membership. Priority areas of activity for the current year were identified as:

Methyl bromide recapture/destruction

- Review all options
- Advance most promising option

Alternative fumigants – phosphine

- Complete India trials
- Complete sawn timber Arhopalus trials
- Data consolidation and final report for China
- Top-stow treatment with directly generated phosphine

On-port fumigant monitoring

- Agreed protocols for all sites
- Monitoring programme across all sites
- Model development with data input from monitoring
- Preliminary monitoring of phosphine



Proactive information and media campaign

- Fact sheet development – MeBr, PH3, STIMBR
- Media releases, speaking to interested groups, lobbying

International research and information linkages

- International Forest Biosecurity Conference – invited speaker
- Attendance at annual alternatives meeting – research and government
- Establishment of STIMBR links with Australia and USA

Participants agreed the meeting was another milestone for STIMBR. Work would now proceed on the formalities of registering as an incorporated society and associated administrative tasks in parallel with developing and implementing the business plan.

In keeping with a 1 July to 30 June financial year, next year's AGM would be held in September.

Methyl Bromide Levy Management

It has been agreed that the management of the funds collected through the \$1/kg levy on methyl bromide imports will be undertaken by a group representative of the sectors contributing to the levy. Peter Bodeker (Wood Processors Association) and Glen Mackie

(Forest Owners Association) have agreed to establish such a group.

Funding proposals by individuals and organisations, including STIMBR, will be made directly to this group for levy support, however, it is expected STIMBR will be consulted as to the relevance of any proposal to current business plan priorities. It is estimated that the levy will generate around \$200,000 in the current year.

Funding Update

Sustainable Farming Fund. STIMBR has been successful in its application to the SFF, receiving \$150,000 a year for three years towards a \$260,000 annual programme. The programme will be led by Don Brash of Crop & Food Research and with a primary focus of advancing the acceptance of phosphine as an alternative to methyl bromide.

The programme also includes operational trials of non-fumigant alternatives to methyl bromide, evaluation of best practice fumigant stewardship, and alternative fumigants other than phosphine.

Public Good Science Fund. An application for Foundation funding by Scion, strongly endorsed by STIMBR, was unsuccessful.

The research proposed in this programme addressed the long-term strategic component of STIMBR's research strategy, and was seen as offering the potential of major advances in methyl bromide reduction through risk management and non-fumigant strategies. STIMBR is seeking information from FRST on why, what was considered a very strong investment proposal, failed.

Website

A priority for STIMBR is the establishment of a dedicated website. It is likely this will be hosted by the NZ Forest Owners Association and will provide access to all past newsletters, membership information, constitution etc.

The website will become the primary source of information on STIMBR and contact point for membership, and other interested parties.

Upcoming Events

International Research Conference on Methyl Bromide Alternatives and Emissions Reductions - Orlando, Florida, 11-14 Nov 2008. <http://mbao.org/>

International Forestry Biosecurity Conference 16-20 March 2009, Rotorua. www.forestbiosecurity.com

Reassessment of MeBr - The ERMA decision of 18th July, that grounds exist to reassess methyl bromide and its formulations, begins the process that is expected to be publicly notified towards the end of 2009.

Financial Report

The Chair provided a report on the current financial position as at the 30th June as follows:

Revenue

Agricultural fumigation	\$5150.00	Levy
MAF	\$2666.67	Contrib.
MED	\$2666.67	Contrib.
Northport	\$2666.67	Contrib.
Port of Tauranga	\$2666.67	Contrib.
Port of Nelson	\$3000.00	Contrib.
Pentarch Forest Products	\$2000.00	Contrib.
MfE	\$2672.20	Contrib.
Total	\$23488.88	

Expenditure

STIMBR management (18 months to 30/06/08)	\$21151.78
Media release	\$ 693.74
Total	\$21845.52

A budget of \$20,000 was proposed for the management and administration of STIMBR for the current year.

Stakeholders in Methyl Bromide Reduction (STIMBR)

Application for Membership

STIMBR is an incorporated society open to all individuals and organisations (subject to approval by the STIMBR Management Committee) that support the Society's objectives.

STIMBR has two classes of membership, organisational and associate (see below). Applicants must choose one class of membership and indicate a primary area of interest.

I/We wish to apply for membership of STIMBR and have indicated the payment option for the fee appropriate to the class of membership indicated below.

Class of membership (circle)	organisational	associate	
	\$843.75	\$112.50	GST inclusive

[Note that associate members do not have voting rights.]

Area of interest (circle ONE)	Fumigator	Wood processor	Log exporter
	Sawn timber	Forest owner	Non-forestry
	Government	Research	Port
	Other		

Name of organisation

Applicant's name

Address for correspondence

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Email address

I consent to receive STIMBR-related materials by email **Y / N**

Telephone **Mobile** **Fax**

Subscription amount \$ **Payment options**

_____ **Invoice me (Visa & Mastercard accepted)**

_____ **Cheque enclosed**
(payable to NZ Forest Research Institute Ltd.)

Signed **Position**

Please send completed application (and cheque if appropriate) to:

Dr Gordon Hosking,
Chair, STIMBR Management Committee.
P O Box 169, Mangawhai 0540, New Zealand.

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Stakeholders in Methyl Bromide Reduction (STIMBR)

STIMBR brings together industry, government and research organisations and individuals with the aim of:

providing a united voice in support of initiatives aimed at enhancing market access and biosecurity clearances for goods and products while reducing the release of methyl bromide into the atmosphere and seeking the long term reduction in its use.

The group provides an interface between users of methyl bromide, fumigators applying treatments, government departments concerned with reducing the use of ozone depleting substances, researchers seeking alternative treatments and strategies, and other affected parties.

The organisation was incorporated on 8th July 2008. There are two classes of membership:

- **Organisational membership.** New Zealand-based organisations with aims and objectives that are consistent with the aims and objectives of STIMBR.
- **Associate membership.** Individuals and overseas organisations that have an interest in furthering the aim of STIMBR.

A copy of STIMBR's constitution is available by emailing gordon.hosking@xtra.co.nz

Current priorities for STIMBR are:

- Methyl bromide recapture/destruction
- Research into alternative fumigants
- On-port fumigant monitoring
- Proactive information and media campaign
- International research and information linkages



Specific objectives of STIMBR are:

- To act as a forum for the discussion of stakeholder interests and activities.
- To inform government and the wider public as to the unique needs of New Zealand's situation with regard to methyl bromide and the need for urgent action in the development of alternatives to methyl bromide, recapture technologies and other matters related to achievement of the aim of the organisation.
- To seek funding to support its objectives.
- To commission, coordinate, promote and publish research undertaken on alternatives to methyl bromide, recapture technologies and other initiatives to enhance the achievement of the aim of the organisation.
- To develop and implement agreed outcomes from research activity into commercial activities used by industry.
- To allocate and manage funds from subscriptions, levies and other contributions, to priority areas as agreed at the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting.
- To undertake any other activities which from time to time are seen by STIMBR to be in the interests of the organisation and achievement of its aim.