

**Meeting opened: 10:35am**

**Attendance:** Wes Garrett (Branch Secretary) - Chair, Rory McCabe (President), Michael McDonald (ACT), Daniel Thompson (SA), Justin Harpley (Northern Queensland), Matthew West (Tas), Tim Limmer (Branch WH&S Coordinator).

**Apologies:** Trevor Rogers (Southern Queensland), Chris Jones (WA), Glenn Laurie (Victoria), Zac Van Loenhout (NT), Christopher Putnam (NSW).

**Acknowledgement to Country** – Wes Garrett

*"We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture.*

*We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging."*

**Minutes of Previous meeting**

Moved: Wes Garrett

*"that the Minutes of the last BCOM meeting held on 1st April 2022 be received and adopted"*

Seconded: Justin Harpley

CARRIED

**Business Arising out of the Minutes****Regulatory Review Part 176 Rewrite****UFUA BEX/CFO Meeting**

The Secretary advised that the next meeting is on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2022.

The Secretary reported on current Agenda items:

- PAT data gathering PSS data gathering details. Will hook up briefing with Brendan Parsey.
- Ballina and Darwin category upgrade triggers – UFUA feedback suggests that numbers are met. The CFO hasn't heard anything, therefore assumes the triggers are not met. The data will tell the story. Will report back. CFO says defence contract determines appropriate staffing in Darwin.  
WG: CASA Regs determine category requirements for civilian movements.
- Ancillary equipment stowage. Waco, who has authority as to what they should be doing. From the floor ops considerations should be priority. 18 months down the track still no stowage for BA board easel. They don't have a plan for reintroducing Waco on ladders. Sean's department does have ops staff (1-2 month rotation). No real priority between ops and non-ops a priority properly. Trevor Rogers : DCP safety work, skill decay, competency required, medium level therefore risk was assessed as high.

- EOI promotions – Rory disappointed with the way it played out, successful at winning job then put on secondment; process has question marks around it. CFO happy with outcome. performance management plan conversation of expectation management only. WG: big difference between having a conversation with someone about expectations and putting them on a secondment.

Agenda items for next meeting:

- Peer Supporter (Core Nexus) portfolio allowance
- EOI Transfer notifications BCOM NSW

The Secretary asked BCOM to forward any further Agenda items to Gail or himself to be added to future meetings.

#### Hamilton Island Remote Locality

The Secretary reported that an external process has been initiated.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

#### **Covid Health Orders: NT Direction Active**

The Secretary reported that ASA have responded referencing WHS definition of ‘worker’ and critical infrastructure therefore ARFFS are captured. UFUA requested written confirmation that ASA have asked the question of NT CHO as requested previously.

The Secretary reported that ASA employer mandate proposal has been terminated.

#### **Mental Health / Peer Support**

The Secretary reported that Core Nexus will be recruiting for peer supporters shortly and has requested our support. DWHS coordinator to draft a call to arms (Mailchimp). We want quality people applying for these positions.

#### **Multirae Gas Monitor – Bump Testing**

The Secretary reported that benchmarking has been sent to Paul. The question remains about how long a manual bump takes for stations without a dock. As it stands ARFFS bump weekly and before use. Paul’s position is that we should be bumping daily. Aim for best practice before use with a dock (expense up front but cheap ongoing cost, sensors and gas), in the meantime, bump weekly and before use? Or bump daily (using more gas and sensors, gas has an expiry date as it is, so not so much of an issue).

#### **Inclusive Facilities Program**

The Secretary reported that the UFUA’s position was presented on Friday to the Facilities Project Manager/CFO/Exec P&C.

Best practice is the “Jack and Jill” style. This is the desired model for new works (championing this is VP/ACT BCOM Mick McDonald). Concerns remain about consultation (championing this is SA BCOM Dan Thompson).

When the visits happen from facilities staff, all members need to be heard in the spirit of genuine consultation. Their views are incorporated in the end design. Should that not be the case post-visit, Launceston can join Adelaide and Mackay in disputing the lack of genuine consultation.

Dan Thompson reported that Lucinda Gemmell had no clue on what was going on with the facilities. She was taken back by state of the current facilities. Mick McDonald said the UFUA activists that turned up that day put them on notice and spoke well. We will wait to see what Lucinda will do about it.

Mick McDonald reported that the jack and jill set up is not just about sleeping arrangements. It is also about isolating from the rest of the crew as in the case of Covid. Having an WHS compliant 'safe/private place' to go to.

### **Correspondence**

Correspondence was provided in the google drive and ratified at the BCOM meeting.

### **Accounts for Payment**

Moved: Wes Garrett

Seconded: Justin Harpley

*"that the accounts as presented be passed for payment"*

CARRIED

### **General Business**

#### Senate Estimates

The Secretary reported that Airservices appeared on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April. Senator Sheldon requested follow up questions from us. TRA and Cat 10 safety case requested on notice.

#### Vale John Koda

The Secretary mentioned the passing of John Koda. Lucinda Gemmell has arranged Core Nexus support for Maroochydore personnel in addition to Converge. Paddy Shanahan the local delegate and UFUA have offered any support required financial or otherwise.

#### New Recruits

Moved: Wes Garrett

*"that the BCOM accept the 24 applications for membership submitted by Recruit Course #96)*

Seconded: Rory McCabe

CARRIED

#### Merchandise Supplier

The Secretary advised that BLK now require minimum orders. We have been investigating alternate suppliers that do not. "Bluegum" are based in Victoria. They have provided us with a proposed apparel range in the correspondence folder for their submission. BCOM NSW has suggested an Adelaide based company – [Kelly@greatrex.com.au](mailto:Kelly@greatrex.com.au) Gail to make enquiries.

PIA Bans Committee

The Secretary reported that they met on Tuesday to discuss details of potential actions/bans and required resources. A copy of the scheduling document is provided in the correspondence folder.

IO Visit to Melbourne under WHS Permit

The Secretary reported that we have established that Airservices "WHS Team Lead" is located at Alastair Hodgson Building in Melbourne. The Industrial Officer has asked BCOM to endorse her travel to undertake inspection of records/documents. She would propose to be accompanied by Justin as HSR for ARFFS Melbourne and as our Deputy WHS Coordinator.

Moved: Wes Garrett

*"that the BCOM approve travel expenses for the Industrial Officer and Deputy WHS Coordinator to travel to Melbourne in order to conduct a WHS Investigation in response to [REDACTED] incident."*

Seconded: Michael McDonald

CARRIED

Non-Members Signing up for PIA

The Brisbane delegate reports that some non-members have stated they intend to rejoin the UFUA if PIA goes ahead, for the duration of the PIA, then resign. This has caused much angst among quite a few members. Some current members would like to see 100% membership for the PIA regardless. However, most I have spoken to would rather see non-members refused membership for the PIA unless they:

- 1) Undertake to pay a years fees upfront, or
- 2) Commit to stay with the UFUA for at least 12 months following the signing of the EA. While all see the benefits of 100% membership for the upcoming action, they do not want to see a precedent of an "opt in/opt out when it suits you" type of union.

The Secretary asked all BCOM of their position on this topic. BCOM are all of the opinion that members should not be able to join just for the period of the PIA.

Support for ARFFS Golf Championships

Josh Bunt from Coolangatta has requested our support with golf balls and merchandise or whatever we can spare.

BCOM is in favour of supporting the Golf Champs and will send them some union apparel.

Response re: Vax Clause – Matt Creighton, Mackay

The Secretary reported that Matt Creighton asked for a clause to be put in the agreement that states we are not to undergo a medical procedure in order to retain employment. The Secretary advised that the UFUA National Policy is consistent with Matt's intent. The Secretary will send a response to Matt saying it would not have made any difference.

Tim Limmer left the meeting at 11:30 am thereby creating no quorum.

Resignations

Brendan Flohr (Townsville) – BCOM NQ Resignation endorsed  
Benton Andrews (Hobart) BCOM Tas – suspended pending feedback  
John Richter (Ballina)

Retirements

Nil

The meeting was declared closed at 11.36am.



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RORY MCCABE  
BRANCH PRESIDENT