



SIV Board Meeting #210 of 3 May 2023

Location: Microsoft Teams

Chairperson's Summary

- This was the 210th meeting of the SIV Board.
- Key items discussed included:
 - o Draft MoU – SIV/VFF
 - o Chair Recruitment Process
 - o Finance Committee Meeting Update
 - o Rock Lobster Port Visits
 - o Event Sponsorship Policy
 - o Acknowledgment of outgoing Independent Chair

Draft MoU – SIV/VFF

- Victorian Farmers Federation expressed interest in a working group with SIV to discuss policy challenges that both the seafood and wider agriculture sectors are facing.
- MOU drafted by SIV to develop a working group with the VFF, with key focus being on joint advocacy on food production, food security, right to farm/fish.
- This would allow for better collaboration between sectors and assist the commercial fishing sector in advocating for positive development.

Chair Recruitment Process

- Seventeen candidates applied for the position. Three candidates were shortlisted for follow up interviews.
- Interviews will be conducted by Joanne Butterworth-Gray and Wayne Dredge with Matthew Wassnig as an observer.
- Following the interviews, the preferred candidate will be asked to attend an in-person interview. A recommendation will be made to the Board on the appointment.

Finance Update

- A recommendation was made at the FAC meeting to appoint another Director to join the FAC to ensure continuity if a member was absent.
- No major concerns with the P&L and how it's tracking in relation to the budget.
- SIV to maintain the same auditors to conduct the annual audit.

Rock Lobster Port Visits

- CEO attended the VFA port visits during the week of April 17 – 21
- Feedback was captured from industry members in both the Western Zone (EZ) and Eastern Zone (WZ) regarding:
 - o One year left on the current management plan. Proposed 2024/25 5-year Management Plan currently being drafted by the VFA with opportunity for VRLC/industry to provide feedback once released for public consultation later in 2023.
 - o TACC recommendations for the 2023/24 fishing year. VFA recommended a reduction for both zones despite eligibility for increase:
Western Zone decrease - 246 to 242 tonne
Eastern Zone significant decrease - 32 to 21 tonne
- SIV Vic Rock Lobster Committee followed up with VFA to propose fee relief in the Eastern Zone to assist business viability.

Event Sponsorship Policy

- SIV has seen an increase in the volume of requests for event support.
- Policy developed to establish guidelines for evaluating, selecting, and managing event sponsorships that align with SIV's values and objectives.
- Clause to be added in the final version of the policy regarding engagement of a digital partner as required to enhance outcomes and generate greater public recognition.

Acknowledgment of outgoing Independent Chair

- The Board thanked Joanne for her immense contribution to SIV and the broader Victorian seafood industry over the past 3 years.
- This included acknowledgment of Joanne's influence in reframing strategic relationships and creating a pathway forward for the organisation during a challenging period.

Next meeting

June 2023 – Zoom

Michael Hobson
Deputy Chair