Minutes for the meeting of the Board of Responsible Forest Management Australia Ltd
Wednesday June 24th

FSC Australia Building, Level 18, Meeting Room 3, 570 Bourke St., Melbourne, 3000

9.40 am BOARD MEETING BEGINS

1. Attendance - Kevin O’Grady, Amanda Keogh, Vince Erasmus, Sean Cadman, Jonathan La
   Nauze, Lindsay Hesketh, Jim Adams, Zoe Harkin,
   Apologies: Tim Anderson
   In attendance: Michael Spencer (Hon. Chief Executive), Carly Bannon (Executive Officer),
   Minutes: Carly Bannon
   Observer: Amanda Boyd

2. Confirmation of Agenda – All OK

3. Minutes of the previous meeting – approved via email previously.

4. Election of New Chair of the Board
   Tim Anderson (Social Chamber) – unanimously elected as Chair
   Motion for Deputy Chair to be elected put forward and all agreed
   Kevin O'Grady – unanimously elected as Deputy (and hence Chair of today’s meeting )

5. Executive update/CEO’s Report – Michael Spencer
   a. Organisational growth/New Membership Applications
      • Sensis (Economic Chamber) – approved
      • OfficeMax (Economic Chamber) – approved
      • Kevin O’Grady (as individual) (Economic Chamber) - approved
   b. Meetings/Events/Issues (Eg. Publishing breakthrough, Visy, Good Wood Guide
      Launch, April, Fair Trade Event, Eco-buy Awards, DesignEx, ISEAL, new AP pulp mill
      event, GBCA, SGS stakeholder consultation in Tasmania)
c. Correspondence (Eg. VTIS)

d. Potential conflict of Interest – item placed on hold


   Receivable List, noted and passed as accurate (proposed by KOG, seconded by SC)

f. Update re. funding alternatives
   - Update on application for REO
   - CoC certificate holder packs – item placed on hold
   - Review of possible increase membership fees – item to be discussed out of session over email

6. 10.40am – 11.50 am – VicForests in attendance (Cameron McDonald and Dan Sedunary)

   Presentation given by VF in response to last letter from FSC (and joint ENGO letter of complaint re. VF membership of FSC) in roundtable Q&A format. Open invitation to board to visit sites to get “better perspective of commitment”, particularly at staff level.

7. Discussion on VF by board

   The Board acknowledged that there is substantive disagreement between VF and other members of FSC Australia on whether certain components of their operations meet the test of “demonstrating a commitment to the P&C”. At the heart of this disagreement is differing interpretation of what are inherently complex questions of science and policy. This includes interpretations of the following specific P&Cs: Principle 1, P&C 5.6, P&C 6.3, Principle 9

   Due to this complexity, adjudicating between the different interpretations is a particularly difficult task. Despite the fact that both the complainants and VF had provided a significant amount of information, the Boards still did not feel they had adequate information to form a conclusive opinion. Therefore they have agreed to an ongoing 12 month review of VicForests’ membership of FSC Australia. The Board will endeavor to obtain further information from VF and other sources (including the complainants) and FSC IC over the coming twelve months.
The board was pleased to hear of VF stated commitment to adhere to outcomes of the upcoming guidelines on HCVF, and would expect that this commitment would also extend to proposed consultation on P&C 5.6 and any other future standard that is applicable.

8. Outgoing correspondence – need for board review

- SC proposed that all correspondence written on behalf of FSC Australia in respect to policy and standard matters to be sent to Chair for review prior to publication, then onto the rest of board if required.
- VE seconded, all accepted

9. Policy and Standards

a. Update on progress of Indigenous Steering Committee – draft background paper presented and full report expected late July. CB to send out draft to Board.

b. Update on progress of Controlled Wood Risk Assessment Team – CWRA matrix currently being reviewed by FSC international. Team working on guidelines to Assessing HCV. Decided on 5 categories and will work on levels of appropriate assessment. CB to send out draft to Board.

1. Need for separate stakeholder consultation for Principle 5.6 – KOG proposed submissions be requested over a 45 day period ASAP. KOG to circulate document to Board out of session

2. Update on PPAG response to board’s comments – formal response (and report) to be presented by PPAG by July 15. Board proposes that this be sent on to FSC International as soon as received, along with board’s original comments.

10. Other business –

- Formal vote of thanks to Carly Bannon, the outgoing EO.
- KOG requests all FSC International members vote for him in current BoD elections
11. Next meeting dates (for all of 2009/2010) – CB to send meeting requests for meeting in the coming year. Board expressed wish for next meeting (in August) to involve site visit to an area of VicForests operations.

12. Directors only session

1.10 pm END OF BOARD MEETING