

Olives New Zealand  
Minutes of Executive Meeting  
Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018  
Teleconference  
7.15pm – 8.30pm

1. **Present**

Tricia Noble-Beasley (Vice President), Andrew Priddle, Niall Holland, Bob Marshall, Gayle Sheridan

2. **Apologies**

Craig Leaf-Wright, Charles Chinnaiyah and John Dunlop

In the absence of Craig, Tricia would chair the meeting and welcomed everyone.

3. **Minutes of the June Meeting**

MOTION:

That the minutes of the June meeting be accepted as accurate and complete

Moved: Tricia

Seconded: Niall

Carried

Matters arising - nil

Action Points – completed or ongoing

4. **Focus Grove Project**

Gayle apologised for the error in her report in this section. It should read that the Field Days will be attended by the Head Judge and Vera Sergeeva will also attend Northland, Hawke's Bay and Canterbury. It was noted that this would be at her own cost. Gayle said that there had been 60 registrations for the Wairarapa Field Day.

Bob said that Hawke's Bay were looking to have a dinner with Esteban on the Saturday night.

Niall said Canterbury had considered just allowing the Wednesday night to be a free night as the week was going to be very intensive for the Head Judge, especially following on from judging week.

Gayle said that it would be good for the Focus Groves to speak briefly at Conference about any weather events that had impacted on harvests. She said that this was evident in the harvest data comparisons and especially for Terrace Edge where there situation was exacerbated because they did not follow the Focus Grove regime recommendations in relation to either spraying or pruning.

Niall said that Terrace Edge has an issue in that the vineyard is organic and the McKenzie's grove is a better example of the results achieved in following the Focus Grove regimes.

Gayle asked whether Terrace Edge should continue to be a Focus Grove with the proposed new project when they were not prepared to follow the project recommendations. Andrew suggested they were a good reference of the "do nothing" approach and Niall agreed.

In relation to the proposed new project, Gayle had recommended that the industry co-

funding be by levy on all members as all members benefitted. For the current project only 61 members had contributed and there had been a lot of comments about “free loaders” attending the Field Days. A levy would require a much lower contribution than members had contributed for the current project because the cost would be spread across the full membership.

Tricia said she supported a levy as this was much fairer but the Executive would need to take into account that some members might refuse to pay a levy.

Andrew said that he had a number of clients who were against the spraying regime in the Project and would therefore not want to financially support the new Project.

Bob asked if anyone was aware of how the apple industry managed this as they had an industry levy which applied to both organic and non-organic growers. Stuart or Andrew may be able to advise on this.

Niall suggested that there be parallel groves using other more organic products to gauge their effectiveness.

Bob said that at Aquiferra they were carrying out a pruning experiment so perhaps the same approach could be taken with other products.

Tricia said that some groves had been pushing for a more organic approach and this needed to be considered.

Andrew said that Chris Penman was using an alternate approach so he might be approachable to being included as an alternative. He noted however that the regional variation in the price of NZ EVOO was not related to being organic.

Tricia said their experience with an organic retailer was they were prepared to pay a premium for organic products.

Gayle said that there had been no funding for including an alternative approach with additional groves in the new Project application because this was not supported, particularly by the Project consultants. It would therefore need to be user-pays.

It was agreed that any decisions on this be deferred until once the success or otherwise was known of the new project application.