

APVI AGM 2014

The University of New South Wales, 10th December 2014

Attendees

Members:

Name	Affiliation
1. Pete Gorton	Self
2. Nicole Ghiotto	First Solar
3. Steve Blume	No Carbon Pty Ltd
4. Oliver Woldring	APVI / IT Power
5. Paul Meredith	UQ Solar
6. Greg Wilson	CSIRO
7. David Jordan	Australian PV Consulting
8. Emily Mitchell	UNSW
9. Simon Troman	IT Power
10. Igor Skryabin	ANU
11. Mark Snow	UNSW
12. Muriel Watt	Australian PV Consulting
13. Anna Bruce	UNSW
14. Lindon Frearson	CAT Projects
15. Renate Egan	UNSW
16. Richard Corkish	UNSW

** Observer

Non-members:

1. Mary Hendriks**	Australia Energy Storage **
2. Paul Basore**	NREL **

Apologies

Monica Oliphant
Ken Guthrie
Olivia Coldrey

Minutes

The minutes from the 2013 AGM circulated 6th November were accepted as a true record.

(Moved Steve Blume, seconded Nicole Ghiotto)

Chair's Report

The Chair's report was presented. The report is attached. Following is a summary of additional remarks made by the Chair and some ensuing discussion:

Transition

- One year after the APVA - APVI transition, APVI is aiming to focus on broader stakeholders, and to separate roles out more amongst membership
- APVI has had contributions from broad membership, but particularly the executive and IEA PVPS task representatives. The Chair encourages more involvement from the wider membership.

Reports, Submissions and Presentations

- The Chair presented a list of reports, submissions and presentations produced by APVI this year
- APVI has made submissions to multiple RET reviews, ARENA review, network tariff reviews
- There are more reviews and opportunities to contribute than the APVI can complete with the available resources.
- UQ are working on the current QLD tariff review. Other members are also encouraged to get involved.
- The Chair thanked members who have made presentations or attended meetings on APVI's behalf.

PVPS Tasks and Research projects

- The PVPS tasks and major research projects being undertaken by APVI were summarized (see list in the Chairs Report) and presentations on summary outcomes were made during the conference

Video

- A new PV in Australia Promotional Video has been produced and was looping in the conference foyer prior to the AGM: If members are interested in participating in the video, there will be another round of filming, and more videos with a different focus – e.g. industry, local govt etc.

Conferences

- In addition to the AP-SRC, APVI participated in a Storage Conference in 2014
- Next year's APVI Solar Research Conference conference:
 - The Chair noted that an opportunity to co-locate with another conference should be sought – it has been a contributor to success of this conference.
 - The major OPV conference o/s around 30 Nov – UQ agreed to check dates and confirm before we publicise the dates widely.
- The Chair noted plans to arrange workshops to coincide with other conferences (e.g. AES in June, etc.)

Future Projects

- There are a number of useful projects that APVI would like to resource. For some of these, funding proposals have been submitted.

Membership and Funding

- Issued: not being political, we struggle to be seen.
- Funding is challenging with reduced margins in the industry
- We have enthusiastic members with lost of ideas, but not the resources to develop ideas and seek funding.

- Membership is slightly down
- Some members have been lost due to policy changes, some amalgamations
- New opportunities include – membership drive and membership arising from interest in the map.
- New funding opportunities to be sought, including Consumer Advocacy Panel

Planning Activities

- Upcoming June/July Strategy Day
- Last Week Bain&Co provided assistance with strategic planning via their outreach program – details will be provided in the next newsletter

The Chair's report was accepted.

(Moved Mark Snow, seconded Anna Bruce)

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was presented. The report is attached.

Following is a summary of remarks made by the Treasurer and ensuing discussion:

Current Financial Year

- All current projects are now based on ARENA grants, where no money can flow to operating expenses, so APVI income has decreased
- Website costs have been larger this year, due to expenses associated with the new website
- The bank balance (operational) is around \$20,000.
- Over the last 3 years, the bank balance has decreased from \$80k to \$20k (a loss of about 20k per year for last 3 years), due to membership decreasing and costs of seminars & events increasing

Projections

- Ongoing website costs should be lower under the new arrangements
- The CEO salary could be used to fund people to do specific work for APVI without funding a CEO role
- Next year we expect we will make a small profit due to lower chair and CEO salary costs
- Conference profit will be used to fund next year's conference. ARENA has indicated they want to support the conference next year.
- It was noted that it should be a priority of the board to reframe our arrangements with ARENA. There needs to be some acknowledgement of the internal cost of running the Institute, as there is for other funded entities.

The Treasurer's report was accepted.

(Moved Muriel Watt, seconded Igor Skryabin)

WC Accountants were accepted as auditors.

(Moved Rob Passey, seconded Mark Snow)

Constitution

APVI currently has 6 directors, as the directors executed their powers to add an additional director. The meeting had no objections to maintaining this arrangement.

An ambiguity in the APVI Constitution (attached) has been identified regarding Clause 2.20 on Limited Liability.

Current wording:

2.20 The liability of the Members is limited.

Members' guarantee

2.21 If the Company is wound up, anyone who is a Member when the Company is wound up or who ceases to be a Member within one year before the Company is wound up must, on winding up, contribute to the Company's property the lesser of:

(a) the amount required for:

(i) payment of the Company's debts and liabilities that were contracted before the person ceased to be a Member;

(ii) the costs, charges and expenses of the winding up; and

(iii) adjustment of the rights of contributors between themselves; and

(b) \$20.00.

The ambiguity exists around the use of the 'and' in 'the lesser of...(a) ... and. (b)

The initial suggestion was to strike out 'and' between (a) and (b)

The meaning of the clause was discussed and a proposal put forward that the Clause be redrafted to read

2.21 If the Company is wound up, anyone who is a Member when the Company is wound up or who ceases to be a Member within one year before the Company is wound up must, on winding up, contribute to the Company's property the lesser of (a) and (b):

(a) the amount required for:

(i) payment of the Company's debts and liabilities that were contracted before the person ceased to be a Member;

(ii) the costs, charges and expenses of the winding up; and

(iii) adjustment of the rights of contributors between themselves; and

(b) \$20.00

For a change to the APVI Constitution,

Special Resolution means a resolution of Members passed by at least 75% of the votes cast by Voting Members, unless otherwise required by the Act or this Constitution.

28. Amendment of the Constitution

28.1 this Constitution may be amended by a Special Resolution.

and a Special Resolution be put to the membership in due course

Recognising the need for a Special Resolution, the meeting agreed on the need for clarification and the intention of the meeting to make a change to clarify the wording. The Chair proposed a vote in support of a change the Constitution. Peter Gorton seconded.

The vote was unanimous in favour of the support for a change to the Constitution to clarify the wording.

Election of Board and Office Bearers

Directors are in place for 2 years unless they retire.

Muriel Watt announced her retirement.

Nicole Ghiotto nominated for a board position.

Nicole Ghiotto's nomination for a position on the board was accepted (Moved Lyndon Frearson, seconded Renate Egan)

Nicole Ghiotto was elected on to the board unanimously

The Chair proposed that given Muriel Watt's central role in the APVI and its predecessor organisations, that she should be made the first lifetime member, and offered a strategic advisory role.

The meeting voted unanimously to make Muriel Watt a Life Member

(Moved Renate Egan, seconded Lyndon Frearson)

Anna Bruce resigned from the secretary role.

Emily Mitchell nominated for the secretary role and was elected unopposed

No new business

The meeting was closed at 6:20 pm