



## Minutes of AAA Board Videoconference

27 August 2020

14:00

Via zoom

### 1. CONVENING OF MEETING

1.1. **WELCOME** President Prue Walduck declared the meeting open at 14.00

**PRESENT:** Prue Walduck; Sarah Wheeler; Trevor Parry, Carolyn Austin; Cathi McMullen; Mick Williams; Brett Fallon

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Amanda Olthof

### 2. APOLOGIES, DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND WHS

2.1. **APOLOGIES:** nil

2.2. **REGISTER OF DECLARATION OF INTEREST** - It was noted by the Chair that the Register was to be used by directors for any listed agenda items or anomalies that arise during the meeting where an interest needs to be declared. Brett Fallon and Mick Williams noted that they were in attendance at the 2019 Judge's Intake workshops. Mick noted an interest in Coolawarra.

2.3. **WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY WHS** No issues identified

### 3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of the AAA Board videoconference dated 30 July were noted as confirmed via circulating resolution B20M94

### 4. MATTERS ARISING

All directors to check action items and update against their responsibilities as per the list in Board Portal. Carolyn paper for SJC re judge per diem following recommendation from Finance, Audit and Risk. Sarah to provide report on R&D strategy development. CEO to distribute updated action list.

### 5. CORRESPONDENCE

5.1. The Board discussed a letter from Marc Mulette (past Chair of SJC) regarding the 2019 Judge Intake, in particular procedural matters, and the number of apprentices selected. Whilst the Board acknowledges the enormous amount of work from the previous SJC led by marc in running the judge intake, it was agreed that all future decisions regarding the number of apprentices required at this stage was now the role of the current SJC. The Board discussed the processes for selection of future judges and the need to examine the viability of the current process, the need for transparency was discussed including that the SJC must present raw data for archiving purposes. The Board will refer the issues related to the future number of judges to the SJC for further discussion.

5.2. The Board discussed two suggestions from the QLD Region regarding administrative changes to establish state branches and state-based staff to manage state issues. The need for continuity with potential changes every 12 months at a regional level and appropriate handovers between committees was highlighted and will be investigated



further when constitutional changes are being considered. Strategic imperatives at a national level need to flow through to a regional level. CEO to respond

## **6. EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

### **6.1. PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Prue presented a written report. Regional President meetings have been successful. Brett and Cathi will attend the next meeting to present on membership benefits and education and training. A Council meeting for all Board and all presidents is planned. 3 minutes presentation from each board member. Prue discussed every Board member to prepare an "Incoming Portfolio brief" prior to the election. AO to provide template to all.

Response to the ASEL3.0 requirements for export of live alpacas has been submitted, to object to the space allowance for alpaca in crates during air transport.

### **6.2. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Carolyn Austin presented a written Treasurer's report, balance sheet and P&L. Jobkeeper has been received and receipt of these payments is expected to continue after the initial period of 30 September based on the financial position. Continued Covid 19 effects may have significant impacts later on in this financial year. Treasurer's Report to Regions had a positive response

### **6.3. CEO's report**

The CEO presented a written report summarising recent activities and outlining AGM requirements. CEO is involved in development of Responsible Alpaca Standards with the Textile Exchange. Current focus is on shearing, castration, and pain relief. Plans for sustainability framework for the Australian industry to encompass husbandry and downstream processing. Richard Dixon scholarship information has been distributed.

## **7. GOVERNANCE**

### **7.1. Member Services**

AAA Board considered and approved the membership services committee and agreed that Brett engage other members for specific projects, including work on a commercial register.

**B20M95** The Board RESOLVED to appoint Esme Graham, Angela Bartels and Nic Holdsworth to the Member Services Committee.

### **7.2. Member Issues – in camera**

The Board discussed several specific member issues in camera



**B20M96** The Board RESOLVED that the *naming of a joint membership using two existing stud names put together as one word, or the two words with a hyphen between was acceptable under the IAR Rules.*

It was reiterated that the issues are in camera and must not be discussed with anyone outside of the Board room.

### **7.3. IAR RULES**

The Board agreed to undertake a review of the IAR rules to ensure that they are fit for purpose with eAlpaca and appropriate for commercial situations in place today. Prue suggested that Brett should review this and come back to the Board with recommendations. The Board note that the office has been reviewing the IAR rules in respect of eAlpaca. Office will finalise the update for a subgroup of the Board, led by Brett to review and make recommendations.

## **8. PORTFOLIO UPDATES**

### **8.1. Showing and Judging**

#### **8.1.1. Judge Complimentary Membership Request**

The Board discussed a proposal from SJC Chair on behalf of a judge for complimentary membership for accredited judges. The Board acknowledged the effort and time that judges put in, however a fully paid membership is a requirement of being a AAA judge.

The Board noted that the Chair SJC had not discussed the issue with the SJC before presenting to the Board. Action – CEO to respond to letter

#### **8.1.2. Allocation of Judge Levels**



The Board discussed a paper for noting from the SJC allocating judge levels. The SJC has consulted with senior judges and completed a review of judging appointment since 2017 and provided a table of judge level assignment as at May 2020. The Board noted that there were some inconsistencies with agreed process and in the table.

The Board discussed and requested that SJC undertake consultation with all judges about the process out of respect to each Judge involved on the reasoning for any upgrades or no change to their grade. The SJC is then to resubmit the paper for ratification by the Board after checking calculations.

It was also discussed that SJC should be encouraged to look at the process with potential improvements to the upgrading of judges.

### **8.1.3. Fleece Challenge – Fleece Collection**

The board agreed that this was not an issue for Board consideration, but an operational responsibility of the Fleece Challenge convenors. There is a strategy in place for collection of fleece and collection points have been arranged. There may be a requirement due to COVID restrictions for consideration of a different method of judging (eg a panel of judges from different states)  
Action – Paul to submit something for the newsletter re fleece transport

### **8.1.4. Art, Photography and Product Show**

**B20M97** *The Board RESOLVED to hold an art, photography and product show at the end of January 2021*

Action – announcement in newsletter

## **8.2. Education Portfolio Update**

Cathi reported that Janelle Jago, Taryn Mathews and Katy Armson-Graham have joined the Education and Training committee. Cathi gave an overview of the priorities of producing a range of educational offerings to promote online learning and provide value to members. Education on fibre is a current priority to tie in with the Fleece Challenge. Further digital productions already under preparation are a series on animal health and welfare, showing and fleece. Cathi cautioned on the need to manage expectations about what education and training can be delivered at a national level given current environmental and financial constraints.

**B20M98** *The Board resolved to approve guidelines for educational resources:*

- *no stud identification for alpaca breeders will be permitted in videos or other education resources specifically produced for AAA educational series, and that presenters will be encouraged, where appropriate to wear current showing uniform in videos. Acknowledgement of contributors would be made at conclusion of materials.*
- *this protocol would apply to alpaca breeders only. It would not apply to vets or other presenters who may have a logo on work clothes they would be wearing while recording a video.*

The Board agreed that the birthing video developed by Sarah be released.

The Board discussed the need for a social media strategy to support the education materials NSW Youth group videos shared through FaceBook do not have to be ratified through Education and Training Committee.

## **8.3. Special Projects - Stud Male Auction**

The Board discussed the concept of the AAA National Blue-Ribbon Male Auction.

**B20M99** *The Board resolved to not to hold a AAA National Blue-Ribbon stud male auction in February 2021*

## **8.4. AYE Update**



No report discussed

#### **8.5. Biosecurity, Health and Welfare**

No report discussed

#### **8.6. eAlpaca**

No report discussed

#### **8.7. MATC**

No report discussed

### **9. GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **9.1. COVID Shows (AKA "There's no business, like show business")**

The COVID shows concept was discussed. The aim is to develop concepts in conjunction with Showing and Judging to run shows in 2021 if COVID restrictions continue, taking note of travel and government restrictions. All ideas worth discussion. The ability of the industry to challenge traditional methods, be flexible and pivot during crisis will ensure sustainability. Examples for discussion include state-based shows, senior breeders as judges, apprentices judging alone,

Sarah left the meeting at 17:25

#### **9.2. Suri Fleece Length**

Prue reported that the communicate regarding the moratorium on the suri fleece length rule change scheduled for January 2021 had been distributed to all members and had received some feedback with some questions regarding next steps. A trial was discussed. A survey will be used to determine the outcomes so that breeders have certainty going forward. The Board agreed that the survey must be independently assessed to ensure that there is no bias in the results. SJC has carriage of the process.

#### **9.3. SJC Minutes**

Prue raised an error in the latest minutes of the SJC where a Director has advised on a Board decision to not recognise international alpaca judges. Minutes of Board meetings going back four years have been examined and no such decision has been made by any AAA Board. SJC minutes to be rectified to remove the inaccurate information and reissued.

#### **9.4. Newsletter**

Member newsletter will from this point forward be distributed to members mid-month instead of month end. Each Director expected to provide input to the newsletter.

#### **9.5. Shearers**

Mick continues to work with breeders and shearers to ensure that shearers have access to cross borders as essential service providers to agriculture.

### **Upcoming meetings**

- 24 September
- 23 November - AGM

Meeting closed 17.55

**Minutes confirmed 24/9/20 in a meeting of the AAA Board**