



Minutes of AAA Board Videoconference

24 September 2020

14:00

Via zoom

1. CONVENING OF MEETING

1.1. **WELCOME** President Prue Walduck declared the meeting open at 14.15

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. No additional declarations

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

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of the AAA Board video conference held 27 August 2020 as circulated were considered by the Board.

B20 M100 The Board RESOLVED to confirm the minutes of the AAA Board video conference held 27 August with minor amendment

Action - SJC to return to the Board with recommendation on future judge recruitment and development - plan on how to cover current shortage of judges

Action -Mick to form a working group (including regional presidents) to develop a plan for the future of shows in a continuing COVID environment (and post covid)

4. MATTERS ARISING

All directors to check action items and update against their responsibilities as per the list in Board Portal.

- Action - letter to member to be drafted for Treasurer to send re ex gratia payment. All Board members reminded of the need to stand by Board decisions
- Birthing video - needs to be amended before being released.
- Mick has arranged a replacement major sponsor for the fleece show.
- Peter KG has agreed to sit on the working party to look at the future of shows.

5. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

5.1. PRESIDENTS REPORT

Prue Walduck outlined the recent President's meeting and the presentations by Cathi McMullen and Brett Fallon about their portfolio directions. Concern raised that little information gets passed on by Presidents to the regional committees. Board discussed the need to find a better way to engage with the regional committees and members, including all directors attending the regional committee meetings.

Prue has made an introduction to AANZ to Simplify Solutions regarding use of ealpaca

Prue announced that there has been positive action from DAWE regarding the amendment of the stocking density rates in the ASEL 3.0 to bring in line with current practices. Cathi questioned the email sent out by Steve Rideout re the ASEL.

QFever test high level discussions between NZ and Australian governments are continuing.

5.2. TREASURER'S REPORT

Carolyn Austin presented a written Treasurer's Report with supporting P&L and balance sheet

Carolyn reported that the audit has wound up and financial statements will be presented to the Board following FARC examination and acceptance of the report. Audited financial statement results are in line with forecasts.

Recent alpaca auctions have resulted in increase in transfers through eAlpaca. AAA is still receiving Jobkeeper for staff and note that rates are decreasing.

NFC sponsorship income has to come in and the show is open, discussion on the NFC

5.3. CEO's report

Plans for the AGM as a virtual / hybrid meeting are progressing. Calls for nominations for AAA President and Directors have been sent to all members and will close on 9 October.

The CEO gave an overview of recent meetings held by Animal Health Australia - Industry Forum and Members Forum as well as the Government's Animal Plan. Lessons learned from the current Avian Influenza outbreak in Victoria were highlighted.

CEO discussed recent communications with the AIA from Peru about an upcoming webinar where the Peruvian visitors to Australia in March 2020 would give an overview of their trip.

Current membership figures stand at a total of 976 (compared with September 2019 of 997). Of the lapsed members from 2018/19 that were gifted a renewal in 19/20, almost 10% have renewed for the 20/21 FY

6. GOVERNANCE

6.1. Fee schedule revision

Following member consultation after the fee revisions that were agreed by the Board at a previous meeting, it was discussed that the price increase with animal registrations from 12 to 24 months has been deemed a penalty (as well as a price increase over 2 years) seen as a disincentive to register animals.

The Board discussed model to enable AAA to function financially and yet assist members to have sustainable business without being cost prohibitive, FARC is looking at broadening income streams to look at the changing functions of the industry.

B20 M101 -The Board resolved to a fee amnesty from 1 October until 31 December for the registrations of animals over 24 months at a rate of \$23. Funds received during this period to be held in quarantine for market development and industry growth purposes.



B20 M102 - The Board resolved that the fee for registration of animals aged 12 to 24 months to be reduced from \$45 to \$23.

Discussion on the cost of DNA costs. IAR rules cover process - blood sample needs to be taken by the vet. Carolyn Austin raised the tissue sample opportunity - this is for future discussion. Allflex does the new tissue sampling tool.

B20 M103 - The Board resolved that the fee for parentage testing to be cost plus + 20%

6.2. Policies for approval

B20 M104 The Board resolved to approve tabled policies for Work Health and Safety as well as Discrimination, Bullying and Harassment.

6.3. Suri Fleece Survey

The board discussed the proposed survey from the SJC regarding suri fleece length.

SJC examined suggestions from suri breeders. and developed a survey structured to include broadening of suri classes to include fleece growth in 2 categories to encourage more people to show and encourage more shows.

The Board held a robust discussion on the proposed survey and determined that the draft survey be examined by an independent survey expert to ensure that the methodology and the proposed questions are transparent and independent. The difficulties of managing this issue are complex. Need to protect the integrity of the SJC and the Board as well as ensure that there is no opportunity to accuse the AAA of bias

Action - wait for the advice from survey expert and then revisit the issue at a special meeting of the Board to discuss.

7. PORTFOLIO UPDATES

7.1. Showing and Judging

The agenda item was not covered as no paper presented

7.2. Fleece Challenge – Fleece Collection

This issue was covered under the Treasurer's report

7.3. Education Portfolio Update

A second meeting of the Education Committee has been held, with an audit of information already available. The committee is pushing ahead with educational videos.

The genetics webinar planned with Kylie Munyard for late September has over 30 attendees and future webinars are planned. Cathi lining up additional people to present future webinars. A video in the lead up to the fleece challenge covering a judge walking through the fleece card is planned.

For information sessions, a cost was agreed on \$20 for non members and free for AAA members. For R&D webinars \$50 for non-members and \$30 for members.

Cathi led a discussion on the resources available for members only and what is available to general public. Basic animal care and health information is to be in the public domain and more specialist information is member only.

Need to do more to flag the member's portal area and what is available to members.

7.4. Biosecurity, Health and Welfare

7.4.1. NLIS

In 2008, the south American camelid industries were granted almost \$300,00 to implement a traceability program (EAD and food safety). AABA and Llama association are also included in the negotiations. The requirement for individual animal traceability is coming - should come from industry not imposed on the industry.

Sarah outlined that the introduction of NLIS provides members with traceability. It will improve the ability for industry to move forward in some export markets. Traceability for the fledgling meat industry as part of the food safety issues and regulations. To date there are no financial implications as AHA hold in trust the remainder of the funding for NLIS this is thought to cover the cost for between 5-7yrs.

The approved NLIS tag following the tag trial is from Allflex. The tag is registered to NLIS. Next steps - AHC meeting presentation will be held in the next few weeks.

7.4.2. R&D update

Agrifutures call for funding has a base requirement for an R&D strategy. The Board discussed the possibility that we could apply for the strategy to be done through Agrifutures funding?

The Board would like to see that there is a priority list for R&D projects going forward. Need to build relationships with universities. How do we identify our priorities for future R&D? What do we need to do to advance our industry? Suggest that we need to develop a strategy to have the greatest possible impact on the industry as a whole.

Members survey over the last few years has indicated interest in health and welfare, q alpaca. Lots of things that have been suggested that research is required have been ignored (eg gastric ulcers (treatable), jaw issues, meat)

The template for project proposals was discussed and a blank version on the website in the members only section and in the next newsletter asking members to put in project proposals.

QAlpaca EOIs have been received from four consultants. There will be a discussion by BWG on Monday and then the Board will discuss next week the recommended priorities.

The importance of the sustainability framework was discussed.

Action - Amanda to draft a strategy for the priorities for R&D into the future.

7.5. eAlpaca

eAlpaca and negotiations for the renewal of the contract with Simplify Solutions was discussed. The Board discussed the risk elements of the company in regard to Simplify Solutions business continuity plan and PI insurance.

The Board agreed that all amendments and enhancements be bundled to once every 6 months to make any changes more cost effective and more efficient. The tracking system will be managed going forward by the AAA office.



The Board agreed that from now on, the day to day operational management will sit with the office. Shows administration will sit within the AAA office. Board director involvement will be limited to policy changes and enhancements. The Board agreed that payments will run as per the existing contract to give exclusivity of the system .

Action - CEO to prepare an addendum to the existing contract for signature

7.6. Special Projects

Mick discussed the swing tag issue. Not as simple as it first appeared. The current swing tag agreement does not include Australian alpaca that has been produced overseas and then come back to Australia as a finished product. It is recognised that yarn producers have no choice but to go overseas as the domestic mini mills do not have the capacity to produce larger quantities. The Board agreed on the need to ensure that the issue is looked at holistically and more strategically - it can be a really good advertisement for the Australian alpaca industry. At the moment it is little more than a cottage industry promotion.

Action - AAA to hold a member open forum to further progress the swing tag issue

7.7. Membership

Camelid Connections proposal presented by Brett Fallon for 4 pages per issue at a cost of \$260 with a contra for newsletter advertising and pages in the magazine. The Board agreed the proposal, with the proviso that WOA is approached with the same offer. Content to be facilitated by the CEO.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

Board nominations discussed

Meeting closed 6.25

Minutes ratified 30/9/2020