



Minutes of AAA Board Videoconference

12 November 2020

13:00

Via zoom

1. CONVENING OF MEETING

1.1. **WELCOME** President Prue Walduck declared the meeting open at 13.07

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 attended the 2019 Judge's Intake workshops as participants and Sarah noted that a family member was involved in the intake and that she was involved in the intake as an animal handler.

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

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of the AAA Board videoconference dated 30 September as circulated were considered.

B20M109 The Board RESOLVED to confirm the Minutes of the AAA Board video conference held 30 September 2020 as a true and correct record

4. MATTERS ARISING

The Board discussed outstanding action items in detail.

- Carolyn, Brett, Trevor and Amanda to meet to discuss outstanding eAlpaca issues. All eAlpaca works going forward for next 12 months to be planned and discussed. All operational eAlpaca to come under the responsibility of the office.
- SJC action items were discussed and reiterated the need for SJC to conduct the requested actions. In particular, the paper on how to address a potential shortage of judges. The report is to look at the number of judges and where they are located and to set scenarios within in a "normal" show season. Paper on judge levels also must be submitted.
- The interactive fibre showcase to be offered to the Centre for Excellence in Agricultural Education at the University of Western Sydney as a donation. A donation plaque to be organised.
- 2021 National show discussed with acknowledgement that notice needs to be provided to members.
- RD&E strategy to be followed up with Agrifutures
- Mick to continue progress on swing tags and report to future Board meeting
- AWEX COP review progressing for consultation by June 2021 ready for sign off at same time as AWEX / AAA contract renewed in December 2021.



5. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

5.1. PRESIDENTS REPORT

Prue presented a written report.

5.2. TREASURER'S REPORT

Carolyn Austin presented a written Treasurer's report, balance sheet and P&L and the Board discussed the reports.

National Fleece Challenge entries well received through membership. Noted that \$3000 accommodation expenditure by cancelled 2020 national show convenors to be offset against Fleece Challenge income.

The NFC to monitor the amount of time to judge the "most valuable fleece" entries. The Board agreed that there is a fine balance with the cost of MVF entries and Progeny classes, they should not necessarily be free in future due to the required convenor and judge time.

5.3. CEO'S REPORT

Amanda presented a written report summarising recent activities and outlining AGM requirements. CEO reported on the webinar planned with the Peruvian delegation that visited Australia. The Board agreed that the AAA is not to be involved in the webinar organisation. A contract with Herd Health has been signed for the industry's biosecurity program revision (formerly known as Q Alpaca) and the project is progressing with involvement from a member working group in line with expectations.

6. GOVERNANCE

6.1. IAR Rules

AAA Board considered and discussed proposed changes to the IAR rules to ensure that the rules are in line with current practices and the tech requirements of eAlpaca.

Proposed changes include DNA recording of dam with unknown parentage, DNA verification with male certification, and grandfathering clauses regarding herd prefixes.

Board to discuss at a future meeting following examination by MATC (in relation to market access/screening issues) and consultation with breeders.

6.2. Member Issues

*The Board discussed and agreed that Brett, Mick and Sarah take part in the discussion.

The Board discussed a letter from former SJC Chair regarding the 2019 Judge's intake. The Treasurer reviewed the methodology of both the SJC and Board of the day in the appointment of apprentice judges and to examine the calculations.

There was a robust discussion on the differences between the two methodologies. It was also noted that there was some specific information missing.

Letter to be sent to former chair of SJC.

Prior to any future judge's intake, methodology must be available and agreed upon by the Board.

7. PORTFOLIO UPDATES

7.1. Showing and Judging

Michelle Malt, Chair SJC joined the meeting at 3.30 and presented papers on Rule 56 – Suri fleece length and Rule 50 – Handler's attire. Michelle left at 3.45. The Board then discussed the issues raised.



7.1.1. Showing Rules

The Board discussed the results of the recent survey of suri owners conducted by the Board and SJC, in regard to fleece length for showing. The survey was conducted by AnnMarie Ashton Wyatt, who carried out the analysis on a pro-bono basis. The contribution of AnnMarie is greatly appreciated.

The survey opened 23 October 2020 and closed on 2 November 2020 and had a response rate of 44%. Of the respondent group, 77% had shown Suri prior to Covid-19 restrictions and 71% intended to exhibit Suri when AAA shows resume. 79% attended between one and six shows, while 11% attended seven or more shows in a usual year.

The most popular response was to retain the current rule of up to 18 months for a first fleece and 14 months for subsequent fleeces. When second preferences were analysed for those who selected other options, a further 43 respondents selected this as their second preference. The least preferred option was the 24-month option for first and subsequent fleeces. These patterns were consistent in both the whole group analysis and in sub-group analysis based on show participation.

B20M110 The Board RESOLVED to change Rule 56 of the Showing Rules to state:

Halter class entry must have a minimum fleece length of 50 millimetres for Huacaya and Suri and a maximum fleece age:

- For Huacaya of under 14 months
- For Suri in a first fleece of under 18 months, and
- For Suri in a second or subsequent fleece of under 14 months

Short Fleece shows - shows held between January and the end of March, (excluding Royals, unless special dispensation is given in writing beforehand), have the option to elect which fleece length show they wish to run. Normal (lengths as above), or Short with a minimum fleece length of 30 millimetres for huacaya and a minimum length of 50 millimetres for suri.

The change applies to halter classes only – there is no limit on the number of months growth for fleece classes, as the annualisation process accounts for any variances.

B20M111 The Board RESOLVED to include a preamble to Showing Rule 11: “Nothing elsewhere in these rules shall override the consideration that the health and welfare of an animal is of paramount concern and consideration of fleece length and other allowances shall be secondary in determining whether an animal shall be shown.” And to remove the words “Alpacas should be shorn annually” at the commencement of Rule 56.

The Board discussed the handler’s attire at shows and discussed the options for show uniforms.

B20M112 The Board RESOLVED to amend Rule 50 of the Showing Rules to state:

In the show ring the exhibitors’ uniform will include the AAA logo on either the AAA black shirt, or a black vest. The vest may be worn over any top (short or long sleeves), it is preferred that the top is either black or white, and Stud names and advertising MUST be covered by the vest. The AAA black shirt or the black vest are to be worn with black pants or a long black skirt and black or brown enclosed shoes. This attire may be varied by Show Convenors for special events.

Handlers may continue to wear either a plain white coat or one with the AAA logo over long trousers or long skirts with clean dress shoes or boots only until 31 December 2021.

7.1.2. Judge complementary membership request

The Board received a further letter from a judge residing overseas appealing the decision to not provide complimentary association memberships to judges.

The Board discussed that although judges contribute a great amount of their time and expertise to the AAA, so do many other volunteers. It was reaffirmed that it remains a requirement for all judges to be full voting members of the AAA. CEO to respond.

7.1.3. Sustainability Framework

The Sustainability Framework concept was presented to the Board by the CEO. Board agreed to the concept and asked the CEO to progress the project on their behalf.

MW left the meeting at 5.15

7.2. AYE Update

Written AYE update was noted by the Board, with particular reference to the recent resignation of the AYE Chair, Julie Blake.

7.3. Biosecurity, Health and Welfare

Sarah presented a proposal for all all board, regional presidents and conveners undertake EAD online training and LLI training when available. The Board discussed.

BF left the meeting at 5.30

7.3.1. Richard Dixson Scholarship

One application received. Further information to be requested from the applicant.

7.4. Education Update

Cathi reported on the excellent turnout of both members and non-members at recent webinars on colour genetics and alpaca nutrition. Future webinars will be on pasture management and a double session on dealing with and treating alpaca worms.

BF returned to the meeting

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

Trevor reported that he has conducted an audit of all youth memberships and there are several members who have not responded with dates of birth.

B20M113 The Board RESOLVED that all youth members (or school memberships) that do not provide their date of birth (or ABN) will be moved over to an Associate membership.

Upcoming meetings

- 23 November – AGM
- 24 November

Meeting closed 17.59

Confirmed – 24 November 2020