



Minutes of AAA Board Videoconference

16 December 2020

10:00

Via zoom

1. CONVENING OF MEETING

1.1. **WELCOME** President Brett Fallon opened the meeting at 10:09

PRESENT: Brett Fallon, Sarah Wheeler; Carolyn Austin; Julie Wilkinson; Mick Williams; Lee Sadler; Prue Walduck.

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 – Judge intake participant; Mick – Judge intake participant Julie – SJC committee at time of intake, Lee – Judge intake participant; Sarah - sons' participation in judge intake

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

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of the AAA Board videoconference dated 24 November 2020 as circulated were considered and ratified.

B20M118 The Board RESOLVED to confirm the Minutes of the AAA Board video conference held 24 November 2020 as a true and correct record.

4. BUSINESS ARISING

Noted Cathi McMullen's formal resignation and the appointment of Lee Sadler and Julie Wilkinson to casual vacancies as per Clause 9.7 of the Australian Alpaca Association Constitution. (Via BOARD CIRCULATING RESOLUTION 116 and 117)

5. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

5.1. PRESIDENTS REPORT

Since the last Board meeting, the Board held a strategic planning session, and all agreed the current Strategic Plan was reflective of where we wanted the AAA to be. The vision of the company "a successful and sustainable alpaca industry in Australia" was reiterated and will be the focus of the work of the AAA going forward. The Board has agreed on several areas of focus, including:

- Cultural shift
- Optimize shows
- Training and education
- Marketing (internal and external)
- R&D focus on sustainability and green credentials

It was also agreed that the focus should be on the end product, rather than the animal, in everything that the AAA does.

Discussion on a potential initiative to develop “Australian Alpaca” through a fibre export levy. To be discussed further at a later stage.

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 was a great success, and the convenors and committee were congratulated for their efforts. It was noted that the \$3000 spent on accommodation for the cancelled 2020 National Show was covered off by the profits of the show.

With departure of the Finance officer, more work on Treasurer and remaining office staff. Some mismatch between bank account and eAlpaca being investigated.

Budgets for 2021-22 to be developed and shared with the Board at the next meeting for discussion.

B20M119 The Board RESOLVED to accept the Treasurer’s report as tabled.

B20M120 The Board RESOLVED to confirm the appointment and remuneration of the existing auditors, RSM for 2020-21 under the terms outlined in the contract.

5.3. CEO’S REPORT

Verbal report. Recruitment underway for Finance Officer position. The new Finance Officer will go through the procedures with the regional treasurers to ensure that all regional finance processes are being followed.

6. GOVERNANCE

Brett presented an updated version of the Annual Operating Plan for the remainder of the Financial Year to guide the Company’s priorities for the next 6 months. This will ensure that there are clear expectations. Individual Directors will take on key activities rather than whole portfolios to progress the AOP actions. Brett to liaise regularly with Directors to coordinate the activities and to facilitate support from other volunteers within the membership. This set up provides the ability for Directors to assist each other and step up to achieve key action items.

7. PORTFOLIOS

7.1. 2019 Judge Intake

A review conducted by the AAA Treasurer of the different methodologies (SJC and Board) used to determine the outcome of the 2019 Judge Intake was conducted and, and that previously believed discussions held by a Director with SJC had not occurred. Prue, as Interim President agreed to meet with SJC representatives to review the situation. It was acknowledged that the Board had not paid due respect to the process of advice of the SJC at the time that the initial decisions were made. The Board agreed for positions for new Apprentice Judges will be offered to three candidates that were eligible for apprenticeships.

The Board agreed that in future any training provided by the AAA that has an assessment component will include:

- Record of learning objectives
- The means of assessment
- Results
- Feedback provided to participants.

B20M121 The Board RESOLVED that the three additional candidates (Brett Fallon, Lee Sadler and Tammurah Lamson) be offered judge apprenticeship appointment at the next available opportunity. (PW/CA)
(noted that Brett Fallon and Lee Sadler were not involved in the discussion /decision making)

Action – letter from PW (as VP) to SJC to commend the hard work put into the Judge Intake.

7.2. Showing System

The existing Show system is the AAA's major engagement and marketing opportunity for the industry to the public, one of our most successful forms of member engagement, and also is linked with registrations and transfers. COVID has demonstrated that we are at risk if we standstill and not change the current show system. This is in addition to many shows being impacted by increasing costs, and reducing incomes. NFC is a good example of how innovation and change can equate to success. Brett proposed an additional show structure to allow for member engagement and industry marketing (for example a commercial fleece show).

Brett presented a proposal for changes to include:

- Existing AAA show - rules remain unchanged.
- New Commercial Shows - This event system would have its own structure and rules ensuring credibility to results.
- AAA Events including an unstructured version of a show, allowing for further innovation and experimentation. Break even budget would be required, and supported by the Region, as well as provision of a COVID Plan. On approval of the event in ealpaca it would be covered under the AAA events policy, including insurance. It may reduce costs, such as Judge travel & accommodation. It may allow for additional engagement from other livestock industries (ie, merino wool judges). Potential to try new rules, or variations to the traditional show that improve member engagement and industry promotion. Including Youth events. These events could be a training exercise, all the way through to a marketing exercise.

The Board agreed that the regional presidents are communicated with that the Board wants them to hold functions, to hold events, to hold shows. The events category allows regions to develop their own rules. Given that there is an approved budget, a COVID Plan, then it becomes a AAA event that is covered by the display, insurance and public liability insurance. Contingent on approval is a post event report that outlines what worked and what didn't work.

The Board discussed that "AAA events" would not be subject to the judge's levy

Actions -Brett and Prue to consult on the proposal with the SJC, zoom workshops with judges and convenors, then communication out to regions and membership.

Mick to complete COVID plan and distribute to the regions.

The Board agreed to look at updating the SJC charter in early 2021. Discussion on ideas including realigning the Paraders and junior judging events from AYE to SJC. May involve new members on the SJC to be added. The Board discussed an idea for co-badged judges to work on both AAA shows and youth events. AYE focus will be on the youth groups and implementing the new governing rules, then establishing curriculums for youth camps and supporting schools. More discussion required.

Paraders – need to confirm judge process and upgrading apprentices etc to align with the SJC processes.

7.3 Education and Training

Sarah agreed to take on liaison role with regions to coordinate training. All Directors to come up with webinar topics (content and if required, subject matter experts) related to their portfolios and set them in a calendar for marketing to members.

The Board discussed a relationship between regional capitation and education being done by regions – capitation based on educations run. Regions to liaise with Sarah to provide a proposal for education seminars. Matching funding discussed and will be considered for budget for next FY.



Basic animal husbandry /welfare webinars were agreed to be provided to members free of charge, and higher level or professional expert presenters will be at a cost.
Sarah to manage the calendar of webinars.

7.4 AYE

The Board agreed that an EOI for AYE chair to be advertised to members, noting that other positions on AYE also available.

7.5 Biosecurity

The draft QAlpaca replacement program (Alpaca CheQA) was discussed and some issues, in particular regarding herd size, Johnes' disease and entry into WA were raised. The Board agreed to hold an out of session discussion to further discuss the program with the consultants and the working group to provide feedback about practicalities of the proposal.

7.6 Market Access

Negotiations between the Australian Government (DAWE) and the New Zealand Government (MPI) have been ongoing in relation to re-opening the export pathway to New Zealand. The board was made aware of a Facebook Post providing confidential information from a non-AAA source.

The NZ opening position was quite onerous and DAWE, with input from the AAA is seeking further clarification and providing additional information to support the trade. There are still a number of issues to be negotiated before a final, mutually agreed position between Australia and New Zealand, is reached. Further negotiations are continuing.

The AAA will also investigate biosecurity export herds (separate PIC) to facilitate the export pathway. A centralised reporting process will also be investigated.

Canada is still an available pathway for entry into EU, however it is understood that it is financially prohibitive. Other pathways into EU are under investigation.

8.0 Other Business

None reported.

Next meetings – 2 February 9am AEDST

Next meetings – 16 February 10am AEDST

Meeting closed 12.21pm

MINUTES RATIFIED 2 FEBRUARY 2021