



Minutes of AAA Board Videoconference

22 June 2021

09:00

Via zoom

1. CONVENING OF MEETING

WELCOME President Brett Fallon opened the meeting at 09:08

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

APOLOGIES: nil

IN ATTENDANCE: Amanda Olthof

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND WHS

2.1. 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.

2.2. WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY WHS Nil reported

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

B21M28 The Board RESOLVED to confirm the minutes of the AAA Board video conferences held 18 May 2021 as true and correct record.

4. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

4.1. TREASURER'S REPORT

Carolyn Austin presented the P&L and balance sheet to the Board. Budget discussed.

The Board discussed convenor training and agreed that this cost should be borne by the regions.

B21M29 The Board resolved that from July 1 2021, the \$75 per day Judge's per diem is paid from the budget of each show not from the Corporate budget

The Board discussed the allocation of 'far state' judge's travel allocation to the regions and agreed that funds are allocated according to need, considering the number of judges in each state.

B21M30The Board resolved that the 'far state judge travel allocation 2021/22 is WA - \$2000, QLD \$1500. Tasmania \$1000 and SQNSW \$1500.

The Board acknowledged that the presented budget is still restrictive but allows the organisation to maintain the status quo.

B21M31The Board resolved to accept the presented budget for 2021/22 financial year

B21 M32 The Board resolved to move \$50,000 to the Research, Development and Extension account for future use.

The budget for the 2021 National Show was discussed. the Board acknowledged the risks associated with the show and acknowledged that any variations to the approved spending by

approved by the Board. The Board noted the convenor team accommodation costs and the potential loss if the show was cancelled.

Action – meeting in early July with convenors to discuss show update.

4.2. CEO'S REPORT

Amanda Olthof recommended that the date proposed for the AGM be postponed by at least 3 weeks to ensure that all audited financial statements would be finalised.

B21M33 The Board resolved that the 2021 Annual General Meeting be arranged for Sunday 10 October at 4pm AEDT.

The Board noted that some parts of the Fibre Showcase have been destroyed or lost (on advice of previous Melbourne office staff that they were no longer required). CEO to follow up.

5. BOARD ACTIONS

5.1. AYE

The Board discussed a recommendation from AYE committee regarding Parader Judging.

B21M34 The Board Resolved that Katy Armson-Graham has satisfied the criteria of her apprenticeship and should be ratified as a Paraders Judge

The Board noted that there is no assessment form for AYE apprentices to measure performance and recommends to the AYE that where possible for all future recommendations for upgrading apprentice upgrades to judges to be using the formal approved process

Mick Williams left the meeting at 10am

5.2. Market Access and Trade

The Board noted a report from Prue outlining the counter proposal from MPI for market access into New Zealand, noting that the d MPI has not accepted our suggested amendments and one of the original MPI conditions has declined. The predominant issues of concern are:

- Herd definition being related to PIC. AAA preference is for the herd definition to be a “designated location on a property”
- The requirement for alpaca to have resided on the same property (PIC) prior to entering quarantine for a two-year period or from birth is problematic and potentially adds a two-year delay to delivery.
- Testing of the entire herd. The previous MPI condition was testing a maximum number of 60 alpaca in any herd.

AAA has advised DAWE that these conditions are unacceptable, especially considering that there have been no reported cases of Q Fever in alpaca either in Australia or New Zealand. Negotiations will continue. The Board also noted third country access to EU and the continuing work on direct access from Australia into United Kingdom.

5.3. Member Survey

Prue presented two surveys developed by the MATC for members and shearers, previously referred to as member renewal survey. The two surveys will enable the AAA to estimate the size and value of the national clip, fibre market growth potential and colour distribution. The Board discussed the surveys and in particular the ability to build relationships with shearers who play a large part in the supply chain. Shearer survey will be completed over the phone prior to the start of the shearing season.

The Board agreed for the surveys to be conducted / distributed within one week.

5.4. National Show – Perpetual Trophies

The Board discussed a paper from the national show convenors recommending that perpetual trophies be retired given the difficulties in securing sponsorship for the trophies, the storage and packaging issues.

B21M35 The Board Resolved to retire all national show perpetual trophies and acknowledge all previous and future winners on an on-line honour roll on the AAA website.

5.5. eAlpaca

A set of potential future developments in the eAlpaca system was presented for discussion by the Board.

- Transfer and editing of inactive males with the intention of gaining data regarding the national herd size and use as a marketing tool was discussed. The Board agreed that the development and ongoing maintenance costs involved were not a good return on investment and will not progress at this stage
- Fleece data for individual animals or bulk fleece data for subsequent searching and reporting. The Board discussed the development and ongoing maintenance costs involved and will investigate support from membership for a user pays option. Action – Lee to come back to the Board will some options to cover fleece testing and results. Privacy concerns were noted.
- Herd Management software integration. The Board agreed that the development and ongoing maintenance costs involved were infeasible in light of cheaper options available in the marketplace and will not progress.
- “platinum” membership where a members could acquire benefits for a year on top of their exiting membership. The Board discussed this option in detail and discussed possible links to show sponsorship. The lingering depression of the industry following COVID was discussed, as well as mindset barriers amongst membership. While there is a focus on shows by some members, an equal number have a successful agritourism or value add focus. There is a transition away from breeding animals to sell to a fibre industry where animals are bred with good fibre to make end products. A fleece levy was discussed to capture income from unregistered animals that produce fleece. The Board agreed to keep investigating options for a platinum membership.
- Breeder reputation ratings linked to transfer system to engage members to proactively sell the benefits of transfers. Privacy discussed. Opportunities including a “biosecurity badge” a sustainability badge” were discussed. This is way for members to market their business and participate in the eAlpaca system. A working party (Brett, Julie, Lee) will investigate the reputation rating further and come back to the Board. The Board agreed to proceed to production path in eAlpaca and develop further.
- DNA Colour Coat testing and recording with editable and searchable fields discussed. All members who certify animals are now offered an additional colour test. Amanda to check whether colour tests can be conducted on existing samples from previously certified males. The Board discussed the links to the showing system risks to the industry of AAA not being involved in such important technology. Not a focus on ‘grey’ but a focus on the “lethal gene”. The Board agreed to hold an education seminar on genetics basics. The Board discussed the revenue stream back to AAA but recognized that this is not viable until there is a higher penetration of testing in the Australian herd. Need to keep promoting the incentive to have testing done through the AAA. The Board agreed to progress with the colour coat test recording capability in eAlpaca. The Board discussed further colour R&D projects and these will be revisited at the next Board meeting.

5.6. Alpaca Farm Protect – Biosecurity System

The Board discussed a proposed entry level biosecurity program developed by combining the two existing biosecurity plans. This will not replace QAlpaca, which is quality assurance program. This system will not rely on auditors but will be a system based on honesty and continual improvements. but will act as a base level to leverage aspects of biosecurity, link through to eAlpaca and fit with the sustainability program.

The Alpaca Farm Protect program will include reference and education material. The Board discussed issues of including non-registered stock. Mandatory aspects will include waybills, RAM (restricted animal materials), an explanation for all deaths (but not requiring post mortem) and the use of eAlpaca. Alpaca Protect is proposed to be nil cost to members. The Board agreed to progress this project. Board agreed to take this proposed system to AHA for assistance with the development.

5.7. Showing and Judging Update

The Board noted the minutes of the last Showing and Judging Committee meeting.

The Board discussed a recommendation from the Showing and Judging Committee to endorse retired Australian judge Jude Anderson as a Level 1 AAA accredited judge (her previously held level). In the discussion the Board noted that Jude has maintained her skillset overseas. The Board noted that Jude is available for judging engagements immediately.

B21M36 The Board resolved to appoint retired Australian judge Jude Anderson as an Australian Level 1 Judge, noting that she has maintained her skillset through overseas judging appointments.

5.8. AWEX Fleece Classing Code of Practice

The Board noted that current AWEX Alpaca Fleece Classing COP expires 2021. The current review fulfils the contract with AWEX for continuous improvement. A new and comprehensive COP that ensures the AAA has provided proper shearing and classing information in line with jurisdictional WHS requirements and fibre compliance and is in accordance to domestic and international customer requirements is being developed. The Board noted the review and consultation timeframe presented. Board will approve the COP in November and will be submitted to AEX in December in time for the contract renewal.

5.9. Sustainability Framework

The Board noted the continuing progress on the sustainability framework.

The Sustainability Framework will be a Strategic document which outlines the sustainability goals for the alpaca industry until 2030, with a working timeframe of 5 years at which time it should be reviewed and updated. The SF will set goals and identify measurable indicators. Data will be collected annually via a membership survey.

The Board discussed the presented matrix of priority goals under the areas of

- Animal Welfare
- Environmental Stewardship
- Biosecurity Control
- Economic Resilience and
- People and Community

Draft 1 of the SF will be made available to members for comment in mid July 2021. The regions will be requested to distribute the information to members. An information webpage has been loaded onto the AAA website.

The baseline survey is being developed – working group would appreciate assistance from AMAW and will approach her for guidance.



5.10. National Fleece show 2022

The Board considered a paper presented by Lee and endorsed the 2022 National Fleece Show to be held on one of the first two weekends in March 2022 in South Australia. Announcement to members following closure of entries for the 2021 National Show. This follows on from previous motion B21M23: where the Board resolved that from 2022, there will be a separate standalone fleece show.

B21M37 The Board resolved that the 2022 National Fleece show will be a public event held in South Australia. In March 2022

Action – Lee to approach Urrbrae high school re venue

Action – Lee to put together a convening team.

6. Other Business

6.1. Agenda items carried forward to next meeting -Richard Dixon scholarship.

Next meetings:

20 July

Meeting closed 12.39

MINUTES CONFIRMED 20 JULY 2021