



Minutes of AAA Board Videoconference

20 July 2021

09:00

Via zoom

1. CONVENING OF MEETING

WELCOME President Brett Fallon opened the meeting at 09:04

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

B21M40 The Board RESOLVED to confirm the minutes of the AAA Board video conferences held 22 June 2021 as true and correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

The action list was discussed. A separate meeting will be held to discuss the action items in detail.

5. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

5.1. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Auditors are continuing their work through the annual audit.

Membership renewals tracking well.

Nationals how refunds are underway.

5.2. CEO'S REPORT

The Board noted that five parts of the Fibre Showcase have been found by the storage company and transport to the Centre of Excellence for Agricultural Education will be arranged.

Recruitment process for the Accounts Officer is underway.

Membership renewals continuing – 753 members have renewed and 29 brand new members.

6. GOVERNANCE

6.1. AICD Principles

At each meeting the Board will consider and discuss the AICD's Not-for-Profit Governance Principles (Principles) as part of commitment to ensure good governance within the organisation. The Board discussed *Principle 5 – Performance* that covers the organisation uses its resources appropriately and evaluates its performance. . This includes that the Board:

- oversees appropriate use of the AAA's resources
- approves an annual budget for the organisation
- receives and considers measures which evaluate performance against the strategy
- oversees the performance of the CEO
- monitors the solvency of the organisation



The Board discussed and agreed that for the AAA to pursue its purpose it must set clear goals and timeframes within which they are to be achieved and measure its progress in achieving them. An increased focus on the strategic plan and AOP will be held at future meetings.

The Board agreed that the Board executive will meet next week with the CEO for the annual performance check in. The Board noted the financial performance tools used and the savings made in the last year with changes of contracts and the movement to virtual meetings rather than face to face meetings.

Lee Sadler joined the meeting

Mick Williams joined the meeting.

7. MEMBER RECOGNITION

The Board moved into camera to discuss Life Memberships, Certificates of Appreciation and the Shane Read medal.

The Board moved back out of camera.

8. FLEECE TESTING

8.1. The Board discussed a submission from Bob Kingwell about trim on /off fleece results. The Board agreed to hold a training exercise about the significance of the differences between the trim on / trim off. It was noted that the vendors and buyers should make their own decisions based on their own businesses.

Lee will arrange two interviews – one with Adrienne Clark about fleece histograms and then trim on / off is the second interview. The video will be available to all members.

9. RICHARD DIXON SCHOLARSHIP

The Board noted the research paper from Amber O’Neill in relation to her Richard Dixon scholarship. When received, the summary will be sent to members in the next newsletter.

The results of the research will be published on the AAA website.

Mick will arrange an interview with Amber via video

B21M41 The Board resolved to approve \$3000 to conduct the Richard Dixon Scholarship for 2021-22.

10. RESEARCH PROPOSALS

The Board considered three projects put forward:

- Alpaca's natural defense mechanisms for the detection and treatment of human diseases (University of Western Sydney)
- Identifying the genetic cause of different fibre intensity colour in Alpacas (Curtin University)
- Comprehensive discovery of genetic variation in MC1R and its effect on base colour in alpacas (Curtin University)

B21M42 The Board resolved to fund the project “Identifying the genetic cause of different fibre intensity colour in Alpacas” with Curtin University at a total cost of \$36,000

The Board agreed to approach an international expert to assist with a webinar about colour genetics. The Board agreed that a level of extension was necessary to ensure that all members have opportunity to uptake the technology and results of the research.

Action – when new male certification forms are developed, include the colour coat test.



The Board agreed to contact the researcher who contributed the proposal from UWS to offer to communicate the results of the research as well as if required, to assist facilitate the alpacas needed for the study.

11. SHOWING AND JUDGING

The Board noted the minutes of the SJC committee meetings held 29 June 2021 and 6 July 2021.

The Board noted that the SJC has reviewed and updated the process which governs the upgrades of AAA Accredited Judges.

B21M43 The Board resolved to endorse the interim amendment to the judge upgrade policy and noted the changes in several areas including the requirements for progression to each stage, maintenance of accreditation and managing extended absences from judging, together with the requirements for a return to judging.

The Board also noted the change to the "pass rate" required for upgrade, driven by the higher performance expectations that exist as a Judge becomes more experienced.

The Board agreed that non-current AAA judges (eg on leave or sabbatical) will be unable to judge for other associations in order to protect the reputation of judges and integrity of the AAA. Judges on leave of absence will have their status reflected on the AAA website.

The Board discussed the recommendations of the SJC about the levels of AAA judges.

B21M44 The Board resolved to endorse the judge levels determined appropriate to each judge.

B21M45 The Board resolved to establish a working group to make recommendations to consider changes to the Fleece Micron/Weight Matrix used to judge fleece shows and make recommendations to the Board. The working group will be made up of maximum of 5 people, with at least one Board member, at least one SJC members and one AAA members.

The Board recommends that these recommendations be trialed at multiple shows prior to acceptance

B21M46 The Board resolved to establish a working group to make review of the feasibility of the national shows into the future and make recommendations to the Board. The working group will be made up of maximum of 5 people, with at least one Board member, at least one SJC members and one AAA members.

Next meetings:

27 July

4 August

17 August

Meeting closed 12.39

Minutes confirmed 17/8/21