



Minutes of AAA Board Videoconference

14 June 2022

Via zoom

1. CONVENING OF MEETING

WELCOME President Brett Fallon opened the meeting at 8.08am.

PRESENT: Brett Fallon, Sue Harris, Prue Walduck, Lee Sadler, Annemarie Ashton-Wyatt, Julie Wilkinson, Kevin Ekendahl at 10.55am

APOLOGIES: Mick Williams

GUESTS: Carolyn Austin, Alexandra Maramenides

MINUTE TAKER: Tanya Wheeler

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

Minutes of 10 May 2022

Minutes of 12 April 2022

BM22M22 The Board RESOLVED to confirm the minutes of the AAA Board video conferences held 12 April 2022 and held on 10 May 2022 as true and correct record.

4. BUSINESS ARISING

National Show MOU has not been amended to remove “This document is a statement of understanding and is not intended to create binding or legal obligations on either party”. The ramifications of this were discussed in detail. The first invoice due to be sent in July to the Adelaide RAS straight after the signing of the MOU. This payment and limits risk.

BM22M23 The Board further resolved to authorise Brett Fallon as AAA President to sign the MOU on behalf of the AAA as presented.

5. GOVERNANCE

6. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

6.1. FINANCIAL REPORT

P& L has been adjusted for income in advance for membership payments made in June.

All Bank Accounts have been reconciled to 31/05/2022

BAS for period 3 is lodged & paid along with PAYG for April & May 2022

Superannuation for last quarter is lodged & paid

All known invoices are entered & paid

BM22M24M The Board resolved to accept the Financial report

BM22M25M The Board resolved to approve the draft budget for 2022/23



6.2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Staff Update:

Two applicants, both AAA members. Interview questions and process being finalised. Scheduled for 21/22nd June. Interview panel amended to remove any perceived conflict of interest. Now to include Sue Harris, Pauline Glasser and Tanya Wheeler.

Council Meeting:

Show uniform remained a bit of a stalemate. Current compromise is to expand the existing uniform to include black polo shirt and a light weight and heavy weight long sleeved jacket. Tanya looking at options. To be further discussed with SJC and Regional Presidents for feedback.

Calendar of events – process to be resolved.

Raised the suggestion of wether registrations at no cost. Allows for transfer compared to inability with inactive males. Potential new member interaction.

Regional liaising has reduced over the last 12 months or so. Recommend that we look at going back to prior format with one region allocated per Board director.

Neogen:

Further testing results pending.

Feedback has been provided via Kylie Munyard about the delays in the testing process being noncommercial in nature.

NLIS:

Annemarie sent a report for the DAWE industry engagement team.

Next steps include meeting with Safemeat.

ISC meeting pointed out that AAA has historically been lobbying for a voluntary inclusion of camelids on NLIS. This has not been highlighted within internal reports.

The voluntary inclusion has been described as a deterrent for MLA/ISC to amend the database to include alpaca, with suspicion of low uptake from camelid/alpaca producers.

Mandatory inclusion could be difficult as it includes all states but considered a better policy basis to lobby. With government committed the question of education and ongoing payment for the system becomes less of an issue.

Propose:

“AAA lobby government representatives for the mandatory inclusion of camelids within NLIS”

Quality Assurance and Biosecurity:

Further meeting held with LPA regarding inclusion of camelids within their producer “on farm assurance” program. Sounded positive. Feedback within a month.

Costs associated for participants. \$90/3 years. Cost per NVD used with LPA assurance label included. They undertake 2500 random audits per year, and 1000 targeted audits per year. No additional costs.

LPA would like to understand the percentage of alpaca owners that have other livestock on farm. I.e. Cattle, sheep & goats that are already included within LPA.

Potential to review existing surveys to determine if this information is already held. If not, short member survey to be developed to incorporate.

Alpaca CheQA web form in development. Anticipated that first trials will occur from Thursday 16th June. Current expense well under budget as no longer including within eAlpaca. Tanya and existing website programmer have this in hand.

It may be worth Ealpaca being updated to include reference to compliance with QAlpaca &/or Alpaca CheQA.

AAA will want to promote to members to purchase your stock from QAlpaca or Alpaca CheQA compliant members.

QAlpaca renewals due in July. All going well, Alpaca CheQA will be available as an alternative option at the same time.

No update on QAlpaca historical reports pending.

BM22M26 The Board resolved to accept the President's report

BM22M27 The Board resolved AAA lobby government representatives for the mandatory inclusion of camelids within NLIS within the next 12 months

7. BOARD ACTIONS / PROJECTS

National Show

Discussion were held about the logo to be used for the 2022 National Show. It was decided that the normal AAA logo will be used except for in Facebook in which the logo that was developed by Rita will be used.

There is an issue with eAlpaca for the convenors and Chief Stewards. If they are a part of the joint membership all the names of the members appear as convenors/chief steward. This will be discussed with Nathan.

Sustainability Framework

Linked in with the training portal to have animal welfare modules.

A range of training modules and assessments which would be ticked off after completion and the member would get a certificate (or similar) to say they are competent.

Education and Training Portal

Accredited AAA courses which can be self-managed and completed at their pace within a set time frame.

SJC

Jennie Carey applied to become a member of the SJC when the request for applications went out. Sue will make contact with Jenny and let the SJC know that she will be the new member.

BM22M28 The Board resolved to accept Jennie Carey application to become a member of the SJC

R&D Update

GHD advised that the date for publication of the Agrifutures Australia Compact Business Case on the alpaca industry is expected to be late July as all work is currently being reviewed by Agrifutures Australia. A media release is being prepared with talking points to maximise advantages from the launch of this work.

‘All About Alpacas’ project is now underway and on track. Katy Armson-Graham has commenced as Project Officer. Katy, Louise Holbrook, and Annemarie are working with Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia (PIEFA) team to develop the Australian curriculum aligned education materials.

Brett and Annemarie met with the Department of Agriculture Industry Engagement Team on 30 March 2022 focusing discussion on export trade barriers and NLIS. An email to follow-up on these discussions was sent on 10 June 2022. The change of government and new Minister for Agriculture is expected to result in a shift in policy focus, with an increased focus on climate change, biosecurity issues, and responses to natural disasters expected.

The CBC notes that strategic industry growth will be optimised by increased engagement and cooperation with Australian and international researchers. **Formation of an Australian Alpaca Research Network (AARN) is proposed as a sub-committee reporting to the Board.** The AAA commitment will be to host quarterly Zoom forums with a guest speaker and a web-page on the AAA site to focus on research news and activity. As part of our commitment to support research, it is proposed that the AARN offer \$5,000 Australian Alpaca Scholarship to support university affiliated



research work related to alpacas. The AARN offers value to members by improving awareness of current research work in progress and facilitating opportunities for greater industry participation.

Imogen Boughey is a PhD candidate at the University of Sydney. She has approached us on possible avenues for the AAA to support her proposed research into alpacas. This would involve sending a link to the survey to our members and/or publicising opportunities for members to participate in the research. A copy of the project outline is attached for information

The board agreed that there needs to be feedback to members with the results of the fibre survey
The board agreed in principle to the \$5000 scholarship in addition to the Richard Dixon Memorial Scholarship

BM22M29 The Board resolved to the formation of the AARN in principle

BM22M30 The Board resolved to Imogen's survey being on forwarded to members

Website update

Breeders directory

Discussion was had around whether to be on the directory will have a charge. There was also discussion about a staged approach of initially having members/breeders putting up there details and then moving to members being able to add business details and the possibility furth down the track for non-members for example vets to have details put onto the directory.

A breeders directory to be developed and included on the AAA website.

BM22M31 The Board resolved to approve the development of the breeder's directory for the website.

8. Other Business

Wethers

The board discussed the cost of registering a wether and upgrading from an inactive male to a wether.

BM22M32 The Board resolved to make to cost of registering or upgrading to a wether free of charge as of the 1st July 2022.

Next meeting:

12th July 2022 8am

Meeting closed