



## Minutes of AAA Board Videoconference

14 February 2023

Via zoom

### 1. CONVENING OF MEETING

**WELCOME** President Brett Fallon opened the meeting at 9.06 am.

**PRESENT:** Brett Fallon, Lee Sadler, Sue Harris, Annemarie Ashton-Wyatt, Julie Wilkinson, Mick Williams, Carolyn Austin, Alexandra Maramenides, Andy Bousie

**APOLOGIES:**

**GUESTS:**

**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

Draft minutes of 11 October 2022, 8 November 2022 & 17 January 2022

**BM23M7** The Board RESOLVED to confirm the minutes of the AAA Board video conferences held 11 October 2022, 8 November 2022 & 17 January 2023 as true and correct record.

### BUSINESS ARISING

#### 4. GOVERNANCE

The Youth president has resigned from the role. An expression of interest is to be sent out to fill the position.

Social media – there was a general discussion about possible project work.

#### 5. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

##### 5.1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Council Meeting:

To be scheduled for next month. Call for topics of discussion. The new delegations are to be discussed and there will be someone to talk to them and explain how the process will work for regions that currently do not have a functioning committee.

What is available currently in the show apparel.

NLIS:

Demonstration of NLIS tags and the use of the wand to be held at the Canberra Show by Julie and Mick who have been using these tags and wands for a period of time.

Questions and answer meeting via Zoom to be scheduled for March.

Quality Assurance and Biosecurity:

Alpaca CheQA webinar on Shows rescheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March. Will be promoted in the newsletter and on the website.

AAA needs to adopt a standard procedure for shows and events. Requesting AHA's assistance with this.

**BM23M8** The Board resolved to accept the President's report.



## 5.2. FINANCIAL REPORT

The association remains in a good financial position.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- All Bank Accounts have been reconciled to 31/01/2023
- PAYG for has been lodged and paid up to date.
- All known invoices are entered & paid.
- Trade Creditors are within terms.
- Trade Debtors are within terms.
- The membership income accruals have been done & carried forward into 2022-2023
- All insurances have now been paid in full.

**BM23M9** The Board resolved to accept the financial report.

## 6. BOARD ACTIONS / PROJECTS

### 6.1 FARQ update/auditor appointment

Four quotes were received from auditor firms including RMS who is our current auditor. After deliberation and consideration of cost FARQ recommend that NorthCorp be given the role of auditor for the next 3 years. The decision is based on costs and timing.

**BM23M10** The Board resolved to accept the recommendation of North Corp as the AAA auditors for the next 3 years.

## 7. Actions/Project reports

### 7.1 Education

Currently working on getting all the existing information together to see what can be revised and updated. The link to the project information will be provided to Alexandra for use. Shearing, fleece, export, breeding and mentorship are subjects being considered, Need to balance the needs of a new to a more advanced audience.

It is agreed that education is a priority. More information will come to the next meeting.

### 7.2 Sustainability

Deferred to the next meeting

### 7.3 MATC update

Work is ongoing. Haven't had a meeting recently and is currently looking to get more people involved on the committee.

Discussion around the EU/UK channel and average export numbers. There are a number of tests that are not available in Australia. Need to make sure that we seek the right advice and get our story out there. Alpaca numbers was also discussed and how we can get these numbers (members and non members)

The next MATC meeting will discuss who should be on the committee and look at recommending people both inside and outside the AAA.

### 7.4 SJC update

Resignation of Angela Preuss, a senior judge.

Resignation of Tam Lamson, an apprentice judge.

There is a problem with Share Point access evidently Amanda set this up. It appears as either access is denied, or no one has the password, therefore previous data may be lost. Regardless it is not active. Tanya will look into it.

#### ASA National Young Judges Sponsorship

Agricultural Shows Australia Alpaca Young Judges at the National Championships

At the last National Championships the AAA sponsored the following:

- Champion: \$300 + book pack (worth \$245 from the AAA website)
- Runner Up: \$125
- Third Place: \$75

Total \$500 plus \$245 worth of books from the AAA website (1 book pack)

The AAA will sponsor this.

General discussion around judge training and convenor training.

#### 7.5 Fibre & Market update

Discussion around updating the fleece and fibre directories. Having an available product directory. Compliance standards.

Swing tags update and fine tune the program.

Partnership plan and distribution strategy.

Building a profitable market.

#### 7.6 eAlpaca update

There has been a request for the Royal Melbourne Show to be run through eAlpaca. A change will be made to eAlpaca to show that the levy paid will be named an eAlpaca levy as opposed to a judges levy as this is more appropriate. The board considered this was a very good idea and that it may get other Agriculture societies to do the same thing.

To ensure that the members understand that it is not a AAA run show there will be a disclaimer which states "By entering the show you are granting permission for the AAA to release their data to the Melbourne Agriculture Society."

**BM23M11** The Board resolved to accept in principle the use of eAlpaca for the Royal Melbourne Show

NLIS – need to check if we can be provided a CSV file so the NLIS and RED numbers can be uploaded into eAlpaca. Need to make it clear to people that NLIS is not replacing eAlpaca.

#### 7.6 R & D update

Deferred to next meeting.

Sue Harris left the meeting at 12.00pm

#### 7.6 Animal Health update

EADRA paper

To appraise the AAA Board of the process, merits and potential cost of becoming a signatory to the Animal Health Australia Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (AHA EADRA).



### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

1. The AAA has maintained the training of some members as Industry Liaison Officers for an Emergency Disease outbreak for many years. There should be at least one ILO in each region, with current / recent training.
2. Becoming a signatory to EADRA had previously entailed a fee that would be used to contribute to the emergency response in the event of an emergency animal disease outbreak. This fee structure has since changed, and an upfront fee is no longer required.
3. The introduction of NLIS for alpaca will allow the industry to identify the number and location of alpacas more accurately, in the event of an emergency animal disease outbreak.

### **PROCESS:**

The process of applying to AHA to become a signatory to EADRA has a number of steps:

- Be a full member of AHA
- Application to include:
  - Evidence of value of alpaca industry
  - Commitment to maintain adequate training of personnel as ILO's
  - Capacity to raise the required funds should an emergency animal disease outbreak occur
- Make application to AHA
- Unanimous acceptance by each of the other signatories is required
- Acceptance is normally formalised within 6 months of application at either a AHA general meeting (21 June 2023) or the AHA AGM (15 November 2023).

The recent small business case research work undertaken in conjunction with Agri Futures has provided an accurate insight into the value of the Australia alpaca industry. This recently developed accurate and objective snapshot of the industry will be valuable in the application process.

Similarly, the recent introduction of NLIS for alpaca will be perceived as an advantage in the application process.

Acceptance into EADRA does not require an upfront fee, but will require the AAA to demonstrate the capacity to pay the allocation of expenses in the event of an emergency disease outbreak. This is up to 1% of GVP for most diseases and 2% for foot and mouth disease. It would be viewed favorably if the AAA had established an Emergency Disease Outbreak levy prior to our application, even if funds were not received until needed. This means making provision for an Emergency Disease Outbreak levy, but not collecting the levy until there is an outbreak that requires funding. The EADRA makes provision for the funds to be repaid to government over a 10 year period, in the event of an outbreak.

### **ISSUES:**

There may be a few areas where members may raise objections about the AAA becoming signatories to EADRA:

- In the past, the potential cost implications were a deterrent to being involved; while the funding structure has changed since then, there may be those members who recall this previously being the impediment.
- The nature of the Emergency Disease Outbreak levy may be difficult to identify and define.
  - If it is linked to membership, then the minority of alpaca owners would be making payment for the measures taken in an emergency disease outbreak.
  - If it is linked to NLIS, then in time, this will reach all alpaca owners, and could be, for example, a nominal fee per NLIS Tag sold by the AAA. As the repayment term is for 10 years, then it is reasonable to expect that the majority of alpacas would be included on NLIS within 10 years. This would allow for the levy to be “turned on” at the time of the outbreak and that the levy linked to the sale of NLIS tags from then, would be adequate to fulfil the repayment requirements without putting any financial pressure on the AAA.

**OPTIONS:**

To pursue the opportunity to become signatories of EADRA or not.

After much discussion it was determined that we would become members and that AHA be contacted to sign up.

**BM23M12** The Board resolved to put 10c from the sale of each NLIS tag sold towards the cost of coming a member.

**8. Any other business**

**8.1 Disability Policy**

Deferred to next meeting.

**Next meeting:**

14<sup>th</sup> of March 2023 at 9 am

Meeting closed 12.19 pm.