



Minutes of AAA Board Videoconference

14 March 2023

Via zoom

1. CONVENING OF MEETING

WELCOME President Brett Fallon opened the meeting at 9.05 am.

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

APOLOGIES: Mick Williams

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 7 December 2022, 14 February 2023

BM23M13 The Board RESOLVED to confirm the minutes of the AAA Board video conferences held 7 December 2022 and 14 February 2023 as true and correct records.

BUSINESS ARISING

4. GOVERNANCE

4.1 Disclaimer for the AAA

Discussion regarding a disclaimer for the use for the AAA. This disclaimer should go onto all documents, the website, and educational material.

BM23M14 The Board RESOLVED to provide up to \$2,000 for a disclaimer to be developed by a lawyer for this purpose.

5. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

5.1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Council Meeting:

Needs to be scheduled for next month. Topics of discussion? Have more people to present at the meeting in May. Perhaps special guest to reinvigorate our leaders and focus on some longer-term prospects for the industry.

NLIS:

Allflex and ISC are all sorted. Tanya working towards online ordering system. Postage issue to be sorted.

Waiting to hear back from JTG whether they will consider another draft of the NLIS Alpaca Business Rules in July.

Q&A session script to be released online.

Quality Assurance and Biosecurity:

AAA needs to adopt a standard procedure for shows and events. AHA's version amended to be a starting point for the AAA with this. Board has previously seen this version. Updated based on feedback.

Convenor training needs to be prioritised. Incorporate NLIS tag process and biosecurity risks.

BM23M15 The Board resolved to accept the President's report.

5.2. FINANCIAL REPORT

The association remains in a good a financial position.

On the 10th of March 2023 the AAA website shop was targeted by cyber criminals with what is referred to as a BIN attack.

NAB notified us. As a result, changes have been made and upgrades undertaken to the shop and our notification system. At no time was the AAA accounts or the data within eAlpaca under attack and no data was under threat.

There were no costs to the association because of this attack and as a precaution our insurers were notified. The Board noted the prompt and efficient assistance provided by our IT and eAlpaca contractors in addressing the problem.

BM23M16 The Board resolved to acknowledge the efforts of Carolyn, Paul and Tanya in addressing the BIN attack problem and to ensure that the staff are appropriately compensated in a manner chosen by each staff member.

BM23M17 The Board resolved to accept the treasurer's report.

6. BOARD ACTIONS / PROJECTS

6.1 eAlpaca update

Ealpaca – NLIS updates required to support the introduction of NLIS.

BM23M18 The Board resolved to accept the quote to undertake the work.

6.2 R & D update

Cashmere Connection Funding Request

Cashmere Connections have commissioned an innovative, environmentally friendly, and sustainable Vertical Scour. They now need to build the dryer in order to complete the scouring line. The completion of this scour is vital to the many sectors of the Australian Fibre Industry. To make this possible Cashmere Connections launched a crowd funding campaign, the funding scheme ended in December with 135 backers and \$27,720 raised. The request to the AAA is for the remainder of the money requires (approx. \$25k). The request for a grant of funds to build the dryer was supported by an offer to give a discount on scouring of alpaca fibre to AAA members for a period of time after the dryer is complete. A minimum of 75 kilos per bath would be required. And any member could obtain a discount for up to 300 kilos (per annum?)

There was a lot of discussion around the benefits to members and the industry as a whole with respect to the request for funding. This would be an industry development grant. There were a number of questions raised including bio security, temperature at which the fibre is dried (40 degrees or below), the cleaning system and assurances that the alpaca fibre will be dealt with promptly. Time frames and capacity to process the alpaca fibre were also discussed.

BM23M19 The Board resolved to accept the request and make the grant subject to a positive response to the questions raised by the board

6.3 Show/Event Biosecurity Plan

The Biosecurity Plan based on AHA's more general plan for livestock has been distributed to the Board and updated based on the feedback received so far. Julie will review it and provide her additional comments.

BM23M19 The Board resolved, subject to any further changes suggested by Julie to approve and adopt the Biosecurity Framework for use at Shows and other AAA Events.

6.4 Fibre & Market update

- To update the Fleece Services Directory on the AAA Website for all members / non-members.
- To include as part of the AAA website the opportunity to market and promote members' products, including a link to their website / online stores.
- AAA to provide an up-to-date directory for its members for all Fleece Services:
 - Fleece Processor Directory
 - Fleece Buyer Directory
 - Shearing and Fibre Directory

Andie will contact the providers and ask if they want to remain or be placed on the directory and make sure the information is up to date. Office can assist.

- Currently there is a very limited product offering on the AAA website. The proposal is that we extend an opportunity for members only to promote Alpaca product for sale through this channel.

BM23M20 The Board resolved to extend the use of the farm finder to include an additional alpaca merchandise tab, allowing Australian Alpaca Guarantee Holders to be included at no charge and a small fee to be charged to others using the platform.

6.5 Education

WEBINARS - to schedule regular webinars – subject to the expert's availability- on the following topline subjects, as a start.

Q+As on the subjects, and opportunities for open discussions. Also, they could be useful to determine which areas need far greater ongoing support or education.

Recordings would then be uploaded to the platform after the webinars.

Shearing: Jonathan Provis-Vincent and John Harris have agreed to do the webinar.

Animal Welfare: In discussions with Prue Walduck and others to develop a webinar.

Sustainability: Julie Wilkinson & co. Aiming for end of May 2023.

Export: Ideally with Mick Williams & co (tbc) July 2023

Fleece: possibly with Cameron Holt & 1 other (tbc)

Retail- With Andy and if possible with a retailer (tbc)

Showing & Judging- A panel with Judges and Committee members



THINKIFIC There is an urgency for prior material and courses to be uploaded onto this platform. Historical links/ recordings on the following subjects have been sent to be uploaded - this will be hopefully done in the coming days. Subjects include Skin Print Info,- Agronomy webinar, Colour Webinar, and Genotyping.

Sue Harris left the meeting at 12.02 pm

6.6 Sustainability

The draft plan is nearly ready for publication.

It is a 5-year plan. Aligns with the global sustainability goals and the AA strategic plan.

The Sustainability Framework covers 5 areas involved in alpaca farming:

- Animal Welfare
- Environmental Stewardship
- Biosecurity Control
- Economic Resilience (keeping farmers profitable)
- Customers and Community (ensuring staff and external workers are paid fairly and have safe working environments and our products are safe and of high quality).

Education will link in with the areas providing programs that will result in a certificate at the end for members that have met the requirements of the training programs and there for the requirements of the plan.

The results of the survey are to be published on the website.

7.3 MATC update

Referred to next meeting.

7.4 SJC update

Referred to next meeting.

7.6 Animal Health update

7. Any other business

8.1 Disability Policy

Deferred to next meeting. To go to Mick to take to the SJC for comment.

General discussion about the regions and how we can support the volunteers, look at succession planning, and leadership. The possibility of getting motivational speakers. Key objectives and ways to mentor the up and coming through the ranks. How can we help.

To go onto the next Council agenda for discussion.

Next meeting:

11th of April 2023 at 8 am

Meeting closed 12.53 pm.