



Minutes of AAA Board Videoconference

11 July 2023

Via zoom

1. CONVENING OF MEETING

WELCOME President Brett Fallon opened the meeting at 8.06 am.

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

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 14 June 2023 - held over to next meeting.

4. BUSINESS ARISING

Nil

5. GOVERNANCE

Possible AGM dates discussed, with the new auditors liaising with Finance Officer to confirm next steps.

6. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

6.1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No President's report presented.

NLIS general discussion around the approval from the SAFEMEAT Partners. This was the final step to formalisation of NLIS in alpacas. State governments will determine the speed of legislating these changes at their own pace.

Wands are an issue and members need to be assured that they do not need to purchase a wand.

Q&A to be updated.

Formalisation of the ealpaca and NLIS tag ordering can now be announced to members.

6.2. FINANCIAL REPORT

- All Bank Accounts have been reconciled to 30/06/2023
- PAYG all been lodged and paid
- Superannuation for March quarter is lodged & paid
- 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 and 5 months has been put into expenses with the remaining 7 months in prepayments – these will be moved into expense as part of the EOFY journals to being from balance sheet into P&L

BM23M38 The Board RESOLVED to accept the Treasurer's report.

BM23M39 The Board RESOLVED to approve the proposed two term deposits of \$100,000 with interest paid twice per year.

- Directors to discuss with their respective aligned Regions, the request to part fund regional projects and nominations for member awards. To be tabled for the next meeting.

7. BOARD ACTIONS / PROJECTS

7.1 Education

Video content for members

Given the scale of the country and the physical inability for members to attend certain workshops Alexandra has been looking into professional video services.

Recommendation is for a first subject to be done eg. Shearing preparedness or Colour Genetics. Although the initial idea was for a video recording company to record a live workshop it's become apparent that this would hinder the experience for members attending a workshop, as potentially equipment would be in the way and retakes needing to be done. Instead, it would be filmed separately, which would be more efficient.

If AAA proceed and that first video is a successful and useful tool, recommendation would be for investment in subsequent videos throughout the year, on the subjects previously highlighted, including animal welfare, sustainability areas, export, bio security etc. Negotiating for a certain number per year.

THINKIFIC and future accreditations.

Given the success that Annemarie is having, working with Luciano and his team, for the student *All About Alpacas* project, reaching out to him to see what his costs are for ongoing creation of material and adapting that into modules. The template would then be consistent across all subjects and a structure whereby relevant test questions could be asked at the end of each section. They are currently developing a quote.

WEBINARS.

Next step is lock in dates for webinar "member engagement" sessions for sustainability, industry development, export, convenor training, showing information sessions, and bio-security webinars- an opportunity for members to ask key questions- for the next 2-3 months.

B23MM41 The Board RESOLVED to approve up to \$15,000 for the shearing and colour genetics videos.

7.2 MATC update

There has been an approach by Steve Ridout to work with the AAA more closely and to utilise his expertise with live-stud-stock export. It was discussed about the capacity for him to Chair of the MATC.

The Board addressed the potential conflict of interest with this appointment, but determined that this was commercial interest of Steve's business was in essence a common interest with the AAA. Mick would remain on the MATC as the director responsible and continue with the current projects underway.

Sue & Mick to review the MATC charter and a final draft to be forwarded to the Board as a circulating resolution via email.

7.3 Fibre & Market update

Meeting with Country Road. What opportunities is there looking at alpaca fibre. Country Road has other brands such as Witchery. Looking at what products are available. Initially as a winter season.

Initial conversations with other groups in the fashion industry. Generally meeting with Australian businesses.

General discussion on availability and the volume of fibre. How much is needed for garments, socks etc. Will need to have regular and consistent supply.

Very positive conversations.

Andy sat on the NSW Youth meeting. Good structure and they are very keen group. eAlpaca for youth shows.

7.4 R & D update

Cashmere Connections – there has been no response from Cashmere Connections. There have been discussions with other stakeholders which have identified concerns with the business relationships, minimum batch requirements to high and concerns of product quality.

Recommendation is that given this update the project be discontinued with alternative methods of funding this industry growth to be investigated.

B23MM42 The Board RESOLVED to rescind the prior approval and discontinue the project with Cashmere Connections.

Promotion of the industry development grant is needed.

Research and Industry Development Update

The 'All About Alpacas' project work with PIEFA to develop teaching resources for Australian schools that are aligned with the Australian education curriculum and increase awareness of the Australian alpaca industry is nearing completion.

The official launch of All About Alpacas will be held at the 2023 Australian Alpaca Show in Bendigo in August

B23MM43 The Board RESOLVED to provide a \$15,000 budget for marketing and the launch of the All About Alpacas Project

7.6 Animal Health update

Further consideration and research will need to be undertaken to ensure we have an understanding of the obligations and the capacity to fulfill them, should we pursue the option of becoming a signatory to EADRA.

Our vision to be "a successful and sustainable alpaca industry" means finding our place among the other agribusiness and livestock industries. Being "at the table" with the larger livestock industries is one of the steps to assure our "success and sustainability".

The AHA staff had discussed our proposal prior to the meeting and asked general questions about our plans, to assess whether we understood the implications of our involvement etc. They were impressed with our strategic thinking and planning for the future, despite our modest size. Lee has been invited to address the AHA Members Forum (at some stage) to give them an appreciation of our goals and direction to become "a sustainable livestock industry".

In summary:



- The previous estimate of the alpaca industry's portion of the repayment in the event of Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak was overstated.
 - FMD Is a Category 2 disease and as such, the allocation of costs is: 40% Commonwealth, 40% States and 20% Industry.
 - The weighted Industry Formula is cattle (77.56%), Sheep (19.84%) and Alpaca (0.04%).
 - This means that based on a GVP of \$20M, the Alpaca cost share would be \$46,797.
- Consideration needs to be given to a potential incursion that affects fewer species, which would leave Alpaca exposed to a much higher proportion of the overall recovery cost. To achieve this, Lee intends to contact a number of suitably qualified specialist alpaca vets to enquire about their experience with exotic disease risk and management for Alpaca.
 - Lee has been asked to reconfirm that the AAA understands the time and resources required to fulfill the obligations of EADRA signatories.
 - AHA agreed that it is an elegant solution to link the proposed EADRA levy to the sale of NLIS tags. The timing is fortuitous and the reach is beyond the catchment of our membership, thus distributing the cost to all alpaca owners. The challenge is to balance the competing pressures when considering the quantum of the levy.
 - Activating or changing the levy amount will require consulting the alpaca industry again. AHA prefers to have the levy set at a level that does not necessitate change.

AHA have a new program that facilitates the participation in AHA functions for smaller or emerging industries.

8. Any other business

National show

General discussion about the National Show. Currently well under budget. The additional projects incorporated into the event are in line with expectations of the AAA. The convenor has mentioned a number of issues that impact the budget and sought input from the Board. Julie will discuss with the convenor as the matters are within his discretion.

Governance for member associations. Look at introducing for the Council members. Self-paced training tools/modules that the AAA could subscribe would be ideal given the changing representatives.

Next meeting:

8th of August 2023 at 8 am

Meeting closed 10.54 pm.