



Minutes of AAA Board Videoconference

16 May 2023

Via zoom

1. CONVENING OF MEETING

WELCOME President Brett Fallon opened the meeting at 8.04 am.

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

APOLOGIES: Alexandra Maramenides

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 April 2023

BM23M23 The Board RESOLVED to confirm the minutes of the AAA Board video conferences held 14 April 2023, with the requested amendments, as a true and correct record.

4. BUSINESS ARISING

Disclaimer for the website.

The board discussed the disclaimer there was some minor changes requested to the draft.

BM23M24 The Board RESOLVED to accept the disclaimer with the requested amendments.

5. GOVERNANCE

Policy review – AAA Events and Cancellation Policy

AAA Conflict of Interest Policy

AAA Confidentiality Policy with fact sheet

The board discussed the policies and there was feedback and amendments to be made to the Confidentiality Policy

BM23M25 The Board RESOLVED to accept the updated policies with the requested amendments.

Changes to Board member portfolios.

Mick – Queensland

Andy – NSW Youth

Julie – VER

6. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

6.1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No update this month.

6.2. FINANCIAL REPORT

The association remains in a good a financial position. General discussion about the P & L reports and budgets.

Current fees being reviewed as a whole. The review is to be undertaken by the Treasurer.

A request for input into spending for the next financial year from the board members for what money is required to meet the needs of their portfolio.

BM23M26 The Board RESOLVED to accept the treasures report.

7. BOARD ACTIONS / PROJECTS

7.1 Education

7.2 Sustainability

Julie requested feedback on the assessment and accreditation linked to the Sustainability report.

7.3 MATC update

7.4 SJC update

Revised Showing and Judging Manual

The manual has been updated by Jenni Smith. It was requested that it be approved to take effect from 1 July 2023. There was discussion around the changes, and it was felt that there is a need for other changes specifically with regard to NLIS tag changes.

Held over to next meeting.

Judge and apprentice update

Lisa Charteris has resigned from the judge apprenticeship program.

Apprentice judge cohort.

It was requested that a number of people who previously attended both judging intake workshops from 2019 be offered judge apprenticeships.

BM23M27 The Board RESOLVED to endorse the apprenticeship offers to Jonathon Provis Vincent and Max Mathews.

Senior Judge Appointment

The Board was asked to endorse the appointments of Senior Judges for the following two-year period (2023-2025). Some further discussion to be held pending further information requested.

BM23M28 The Board RESOLVED to defer the decision of the senior judge appointments.

Apprentice judge cohort.

A system to support apprentice judges through the program and to seek expressions of interest for new apprentices as needs arise was put to the board. There will be a pool of apprentices of 4 – 6 maintained. It is envisaged there will be mentoring from senior judges and one on one or small group sessions on all aspects of judging.

Budget requirements were provided for the cohort for the next 2 financial years.

01 July 2023 to 30 June 2024	2,500.00	Travel and per diem for up to three Senior Judges to attend a small group session with potential entrants to the apprenticeship program. Location to be agreed upon. Potentially two sessions may be required.
01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025	2,500.00	Travel and per diem for up to three Senior Judges to attend a small group session with potential entrants to the apprenticeship program. Location to be agreed upon. Potentially two sessions may be required.

BM23M28 The Board RESOLVED to endorse the Apprentice judge cohort.

7.5 Fibre & Market update

7.6 eAlpaca update

7.6 R & D update

Cashmere Connection

The board discussed the response to the request for further information. It was noted that there is still information needed to move forward. Options for member benefits were discussed. Held over to next meeting.

7.6 Animal Health update

EADRA levy.

At the recent Board meeting of the Australian Alpaca Association (AAA), there was extensive discussion about the options that may be considered as the mechanism for a levy for EADRA. It was agreed that the simplest way to apply a levy to the alpaca industry, both as it is today and as we hope it will develop in the future, is to apply the levy to the purchase of the NLIS tag. Alpaca has not been included in the NLIS program until recently and the arrangements to finalise this process are nearing completion. This is an ideal opportunity to link the EADRA Levy to a mandated purchase for every alpaca and does not depend on the alpaca owners being members of the AAA. One of the features that ensures all South American Camelids, i.e., alpaca and llama, are included in this process, is the necessity to order NLIS tags for alpaca and llama through the AAA website, rather than through a tag supplier.

It was acknowledged that applying the EADRA fee to the purchase of the NLIS tags only allows the fee to be applied to each alpaca (or llama) once in their life. But it was agreed that this was the simplest mechanism and was also an equitable means to spread the cost impost across all alpaca owners, not just AAA members. Also, those who own more alpacas will contribute more towards the levy.

While it is hard to know how many alpacas there are that are not currently on the AAA's International Alpaca Register (IAR) database, once mandated NLIS tags become the norm, and the NLIS tags replace the IAR tags, we will have a good understanding of the number and distribution of

South American Camelids in Australia. This will facilitate increased accuracy in the planning for an Emergency Disease outbreak.

The question of the quantum of the EADRA Levy was also discussed at length. In summary, the GVP of the alpaca industry was identified late last year in the Compact Business Case, a research project conducted in conjunction with Agri Futures. The GVP was identified as \$19.5M. Based on a maximum of a 2% cap on the funds required to contribute to an Emergency Disease outbreak, the EADRA Levy would be required to raise a maximum of \$390,000 in the event of a Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak.

In recent years, there have been approximately 2500 alpaca registrations on the IAR database each year. It was agreed that a \$2 levy per NLIS tag would be applied, resulting in an annual levy collection of \$5000 initially. At the outset, this would be paid by the AAA, as a member benefit. As NLIS tags become mandated across each state, it is envisaged that the AAA would review the quantum it could subsidise the \$2 levy per tag on behalf of members, but that non-members would be required to pay this levy themselves. It is unknown how many additional NLIS tags would be sold to non-members of the AAA at this stage, but as NLIS tags become mandated, as they are for cattle and sheep, it will be possible to ascertain the number and distribution of all alpacas across Australia, and for each of them to have contributed to the EADRA levy.

BM23M29 The Board RESOLVED to impose a levy of \$2 per NLIS tag sold by the AAA and that where NLIS tags are purchased by AAA members, 100% of the levy would be paid by the AAA on behalf of members until the Board resolves otherwise.

8. Actions/Project reports

9. Any other business

Next meeting:

13th of June 2023 at 8 am

Meeting closed 11.39 am.