

Minutes

American Aberdeen Association Board of Directors Meeting

February 16, 2021

Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Craig Walker, Darwin Engelkes, Rob Fanning, Kenny Hinds, Allen Sieverkropp, Rebecca Miller.

Others Present: Lisa Bard.

President Craig Walker called the meeting to order.

Lisa Bard discussed the Ledger. They are ready to do a spring or summer issue if there is advertising support. They need to discuss a sales representative. They are still working on a multi breed publication concept. It will not be the official publication of any breed. It will focus on genetic evaluation, genetic improvement and performance testing so might not be an editorial fit for our association.

Many members have not received the last issue of the Ledger. Lisa Bard reported they had a lot of delivery issues with many different publications in January.

Sherry Doubet and Tonya Perez will not be on the meeting tonight. The weather is frightful.

Darwin Engelkes moved to accept the minutes of the January 5 and 14 meetings, second by Allen Sieverkropp. Motion carried.

Kenny Hinds presented the treasurer report. Nothing has changed. He will have more information at the next meeting.

Old Business:

Rob Fanning presented a report on the National Show in Woodward. 86 head of cattle showed, 45 exhibitors from 17 states, 28 in the junior show. Everyone was thoroughly impressed with the facilities. The staff was great. We will return for the Junior National this coming summer. As far as expenses go, we came out ahead. It was a great group effort.

Craig Walker reported that he, Rob Fanning and Sherry Doubet have been having conversations about next year's national show. He has met with the president of the NWSS and he thinks we can petition and get into the Cattlemen's Congress. We want to be moved to the first week of the NWSS.

New Business:

Craig Walker reported on new developments with Neogen. They haven't downloaded the data base our office sent them in July. Neogen does not want to be the contact point for our members, they want our office to do it. In our office, Salers and Aberdeen

utilize parent verification, about 500 annually for Salers, 1000 for AAA. It will take a knowledgeable person to do the work and Sherry says it will take about \$52,000 per year to hire someone to do the job, our share would be about \$32,000. It could increase the cost of DNA testing to about \$60, which could hurt registrations.

Could we parlay this into the duties of a breed rep? The breed rep would be able to answer registration questions as well as attend functions. What would be the right kind of person for the job, would they need to be full time, could they perform other duties? The board discussed our previous agreement for paying a breed rep. The board discussed possible funding sources for the increased costs associated with DNA work.

Neogen wants a buffer, we are probably not the only small breed that this is happening to. DNA is hard for some breeders to grasp and Neogen is tired of dealing with them. Education is a part of it. The person in this position needs to understand DNA, not some kid freshly out of college. The Angus Association charges \$18 for parentage verification, samples are sent to the Angus Association where they are logged before they are forwarded to Neogen. Its going to be hard to find a suitable person to do the job for the money we have to spend. Maybe a new form of breed rep could be imagined – traditional breed rep duties and DNA responsibilities. They need to have knowledge of the cattle business and of the Aberdeen breed. Could we combine website, social media and DNA responsibilities?

We have to protect the value of the DNA in our breed. Right now our breed mails out RFI's (request for information) instead of calling to ask for missing information and it is frustrating for breeders. We need to find a user friendly way of helping our breeders register cattle. Once the new system is in place, this will be easier to accomplish.

Craig Walker will talk to Sherry Doubet tomorrow.

Craig Walker discussed whole herd reporting and establishing a Pathfinder cow. Some breeders have heard about the possibility of whole herd reporting and have indicated they will not participate so we need to consider making it voluntary. Maybe the Pathfinder cow would be tied to whole herd reporting. The criteria for the Angus Association is calving interval under 365 days and weaning index of 105 on her first three calves. This should go to a committee.

There was discussion of evening out the percentage of calves sired by a purebred bull. This will add value to our purebred cattle. This would be primarily for show purposes.

Rob Fanning reviewed programs in other breeds. A purebred bull bred to a fullblood cow would result in a calf that could be registered as a fullblood. The Shorthorns were doing this 25 years ago. They could be American Fullbloods, they could have an asterisk on their paper. You could DNA test the purebreds at each stage.

Some board members expressed the opinion that DNA is what keeps our fullbloods legit. Now, once you leave the fullblood category, you never get back. Many breeders

would object to registering fullblood calves sired by purebred bulls. We need to protect the value of the fullblood bull. If we start allowing fullbloods to be sired by purebreds, we may get a fractured association. Our bylaws require maintenance of two separate herdbooks, one for fullbloods, one for percentage cattle. We need to be careful. We can develop integrity in our purebred cattle but not at the expense of the integrity of our fullblood cattle. We need to focus on the big picture, help all breeders be successful.

The board will work on committee assignments at the next meeting.

Kenny Hinds made a motion to adjourn, second by Allen Sieverkropp.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Effertz