

Minutes

American Aberdeen Association Board of Directors Meeting

November 23, 2021

Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Craig Walker, Darwin Engelkes, Allen Sieverkropp, Rebecca Miller, Jack Sandford, Rob Fanning.

Others present: Lisa Bard, Tonya Perez, Lindsay Graber Runft, Sherry Doubet

Craig Walker called the meeting to order.

Lisa Bard and Lindsay Graber Runft discussed the editorial content of the upcoming Ledger. The content will depend upon ad sales. We are at about 12 pages of advertising which is good with this being the first time ads have been sold by Darren Richmond. The editorial is very good this issue. Tonya Perez will put something about advertising in the Ledger on Facebook. Lindsay and Lisa will both be at the Aberdeen events at the National Western.

Tonya Perez reported. Shelley is getting bids for revamping the website. Sherry Doubet asked Tonya to put a reminder on Facebook to send DNA to the AAA office rather than to Neogen. Also a reminder that board ballots must be sent to the auditor in the envelope that came with the ballot. The directions were sent with the ballot.

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 19 meeting was made by Rebecca Miller, seconded by Darwin Engelkes. Motion carried.

Sherry Doubet discussed the financials. The AAA will not lose money this year. We are \$46,000 in the green at this point YTD. DNA expense will be lower this year as well as the breeder services contract and the national show expense was significantly lower this year.

Registrations are still up YTD as compared to last year. Dues are coming in very well.

Sherry Doubet reported DNA processing is going relatively well. Some orders are still being sent to the lab so the AAA will send out another member connection as a reminder. The board should remind regional groups that DNA samples are to be sent to the AAA office. There have been some learning curves with the lab but they are getting them solved now. There are many details to be dealt with and it is very labor intensive at this point. Hopefully, the amount of work required by the ASA staff will decrease over time. The contract with the ASA did not cover doing DNA work so those costs are over and above the fees paid by the AAA to the ASA. The \$30 fee needs to cover the administrative costs associated with DNA. Right now, \$30 is not covering the cost.

Allen Sieverkropp said he received a call from a breeder who thought the \$30 DNA fee was excessive. Will the high DNA fee prevent breeders from registering cattle? Do we

need to “dangle a carrot” to incentivize registration in the future? Craig Walker said these fees and DNA are to protect the integrity of the fullblood cattle. It is too early to tell if the \$30 fee is adequate.

She also discussed updates to the database and shipping methods to get the samples to Neogen.

There was a discussion of the notice sent by the National Western regarding the mask/vaccine mandate. The mandate for Denver is set to expire in early January. No matter what happens with the mandate, it probably won't affect Aberdeen since we will be outside.

Rob Fanning reported Neil Effertz said there are 14 head entered in the National Sale at this time and two are May bull calves.

Rob Fanning reported on the National Western. Aberdeen has 159 head entered in the open show, 52 in the junior show, 2 pens. The staff at the NWSS would not tell Rob how many total cattle are entered. The Cattlemen's Congress sent each breed a complete summary of all of the over 8000 entries for the whole show – they were very open. This is a trial year for our National Show at the NWSS. There will be an Aberdeen Show at the Cattlemen's Congress this year.

There was discussion of the annual banquet. The Embassy Suites has quoted banquet costs about \$45 per plate with an extra 32% for a total of about \$60. There has been discussion of moving the banquet to the NWSS. There is an area above the new sale arena. The NWSS is very open to the idea of hosting the banquet. Craig Walker is trying to contact the caterer that works with the NWSS. He will keep the board updated.

Rebecca Miller reported on the reciprocal agreement. Australia is back on board with the verbiage that Canada signed.

A motion to approve the reciprocal agreement as written was made by Rebecca Miller, seconded by Darwin Engelkes.

Craig Walker asked Sherry Doubet if she had seen and approved the reciprocal agreement. She asked about number 5, parentage verification. Does that refer to fullblood cattle? Rebecca Miller said the agreement was originally crafted with fullbloods in mind since Australia only registers fullblood cattle.

Motion carried.

Rebecca Miller discussed the regional associations. There is discussion of a merger of a couple of regions, still in the discussion stage.

Craig Walker discussed the website update. Shelley Dodd is looking into a quote.

Jack Sandford has confirmed twice with the speaker for the annual meeting. He will get the contact information to Craig Walker so he can get him a room.

Craig Walker said we don't have updated photos and results for shows on the website for several years. Sherry Doubet said she no longer buys the photos since the policy changed and results are no longer printed in the Ledger. Craig Walker said it is important to give show winners some recognition. There was discussion of the show results being on the website. Someone needs to get show results to the office so they can be posted.

Darwin Engelkes suggested the regional associations be responsible for getting show results and photos sent to the office.

Rebecca Miller will present this to the President's Committee.

The Zoom meeting was experiencing some technical difficulties.

A motion to adjourn was made by Darwin Engelkes, second by Rebecca Miller. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Effertz

