

Minutes

American Aberdeen Association Board of Directors Meeting

May 18, 2021

Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Craig Walker, Darwin Engelkes, Allen Sieverkropp, Kenny Hinds, Rebecca Miller, Jack Sandford

Others present: Sherry Doubet, Lisa Bard

President Craig Walker called the meeting to order.

Lisa Bard discussed the summer issue of the Ledger. They are working on selling ads and editorial is all planned. They have sent cover options to the board. The board decided to go with Lisa's recommendation to use the photo of the group of cows and not use the clipped heifer photo. Lisa mentioned they need more photos for their files.

Sherry Doubet reported on the April financial statement and balance sheet that she sent to the board today. Net income is just over \$25,000 in the green, last year YTD, we were (\$30,000) in the red which is an improvement of \$56,000 in a year. Membership revenue increased \$3400, registry revenue is a \$10,000 net increase, an increase of 30%, transfers are up 18%. We did not have NWSS premiums this year, a \$11,000 savings.

Sherry also presented the Junior Association financial report, \$28,000 in assets, there is a net loss of \$922 but that was expected since there wasn't a junior national and the accompanying fund raising in 2020.

Both financial reports look good.

The board is hopeful this is the beginning of a trend. Our breeders seem positive in their interactions with the office. There was discussion of member retention.

Sherry discussed the proposed Aberdeen merit dam and merit sire program. It will encourage breeders to submit calving information. Understanding our membership and our goals, the proposed criteria would be to have a female calve at 2.3 years of age and calve within a 395 day calving interval, so a heifer isn't penalized in a production model that calves heifers ahead of the cow herd. The merit dam must have a minimum of 3 natural calves, at least one of those progeny must be registered. Once a merit dam, always a merit dam, even if she misses a calf. She recommends that merit dams be identified on their registration paper and on their online pedigree. She recommends a May 1 submission date and a June 1 publication date, perhaps in the summer Ledger. Breeders with merit dams might want to advertise in the Ledger. There would be time for 2020 calves to be registered so three year old merit dams could be selected by May 1, 2022. At least one of those progeny must be registered. As time goes on, different enhancements can be added.

The board discussed requiring at least 2 calves to be registered, enhancements can be added.

Sherry Doubet suggested we could grandfather merit dams now, then require a certain number of registered calves in 2022. We should remember that in the cattle business, something sometimes happens to a calf preventing its registration so requiring 3 registered calves might be prohibitive. It might be best to keep the program simple, at least in the beginning. In many breeds a requirement for merit sires is 5 merit dam daughters.

The committee was excited about the program and Allen Sieverkropp thought they would approve of the changes. The board felt it was imperative to grandfather merit dams. Breeders would be required to be paid members.

It was moved by Kenny Hinds, second by Allen Sieverkropp, to accept Sherry Doubet's proposal for merit dams with the addition of a requirement that a breeder must be a paid member to qualify for having a merit dam.

An amendment to the motion was made by Darwin Engelkes, second by Rebecca Miller, that the other circumstances require 2 of the 3 calves to be registered. Motion carried.

It was clarified that merit sires would qualify once the merit dams are qualified.

The amended motion carried.

Sherry Doubet suggested we get someone to design a logo, Craig Walker will talk to Tonya Perez.

Regarding the herd inventory program, Sherry Doubet reviewed some statistics. 537 members registered 1 head or more in the last two years. Only 20 of those members registered 20 or more. 400 members did not register any animals. She is hopeful some of the things the board has done in the past few years will increase these numbers. In her experience with other breeds, it takes 3 – 5 statements to get breeders to pay their inventory fees. It is an expensive proposition to send so many statements and might not be worth it at this point in the Aberdeen breed. We need clear objectives for the institution of the inventory whole herd fee and we don't have them. Things are progressing well for the breed and we might not want to rock the boat at this point. The board agreed. The board asked Sherry Doubet to speak up in the future if the whole herd inventory program needs to be revisited.

Sherry Doubet discussed the working relationship with Neogen. For their 3 breeds, they need to take over DNA submission. They will start with Salers because Aberdeen DNA usage is so large. She has learned from the Red Angus Association. They are making good progress and are working on an efficient, cost effective system. The new online

registration system will happen after the DNA issue is addressed. By ultimately submitting DNA to the AAA office, she is hopeful many current problems will be circumvented. There was discussion of the importance of using the American Aberdeen forms for DNA submission. If breeders use the Igenity forms, it causes lots of problems, the AAA does not own the results. If submitted on AAA forms, the AAA owns the data and it can be used for parent verification.

There was discussion of clones, in some breeds the ownership of the DNA is becoming an added value and a legal issue.

Craig Walker discussed purebred sired calves that are less than 50% Aberdeen. Sherry Doubet said several other breeds have employed a table of eligibility, they are rounded to the nearest 1/8. That would help with 48%, they would be rounded to 50%, making marketing and showing easier. It would have solved the problems from the National Show this year. Salers and South Devon initiated the program last year and it has worked well. Papers show breed composition in 1/8's, not percentage. It simplifies some things including marketing. Purebreds have been shown to pass on 50% of their characteristics in a science based study many years ago. Purebreds and fullbloods would still be different. She will send the board the table of eligibility.

Committee reports:

International Committee: Rebecca Miller said they are wrapping up the agreement with Australia. They have not met this month.

Junior Committee: Jack Sandford reported they are getting ready for Junior Nationals. Darwin Engelkes said the online registration system is great. He is concerned about sponsored meals. They need some help there.

National Show and Sale: Craig Walker said we will be having the National Show and Sale in Denver this year.

Breeders Services: Jack Sandford said they will meet soon.

Bylaws, Rules and Resolutions: Darwin Engelkes reported he has worked on wording to correct the 3 – 3 – 2 terms.

Finance Committee: Kenny Hinds said he has not received a list of committee members. Craig Walker will get the list sent to him and he will schedule a meeting.

Ledger and Promotion Committee: Allen Sieverkropp reported they have not met but will in the upcoming week.

A motion to adjourn was made by Darwin Engelkes, second by Allen Sieverkropp. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Effertz