

Minutes

American Aberdeen Association Board of Directors

February 20, 2024

Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Darwin Engelkes, Rob Fanning, Farabee McCarthy, Rick Dodd, Jillane Pike, Jan Effertz, Allen Sieverkropp

Nonmembers present: Sherry Doubet, Tonya Perez

President Darwin Engelkes called the meeting to order.

Tonya Perez reported she is in the midst of her busy season and will soon have time to focus on the Aberdeen newsletter. She has sold the two big ads and has four inside ads to sell.

Darwin Engelkes said in the Strategic Planning committee meeting last Thursday, he was asked if we have the capability to upload "how to" videos. Tonya Perez reported we have a YouTube channel. Committee members can reach out to her for details. The committee also asked about updating the FAQ ("How To") section of the website. Tonya will review it with Shelley Dodd. The committee asked if there is a need for a training video for the new online registration system.

Sherry Doubet reported about 400 members have signed in for online access and the breeders seem to be catching on to the new system. She has been sending instructions for the online system when she sends out DNA reports.

Sherry Doubet reviewed next year's early January schedule for the AAA staff. They will have three breeds with National Shows the first week of January, 2025. It will be impossible to prepare year end financials for three breeds as well as do all necessary show and annual meeting preparations. It is likely that year end financials will need to be reported to members after the National Western and Cattlemen's Congress.

There was discussion of a breeder request to record red gene status on registration papers. It is really up to breeders to keep genetic records and market their cattle. The wild gene that is present in some Aberdeen cattle is confusing to some breeders. The board agreed that breeders should promote the red gene status of their cattle as they see fit. A potential buyer can ask a breeder to see a copy of the red gene report.

There was discussion about the proposal to not require DNA testing for fullblood steers for junior shows. This proposal was brought forward because of the cost of DNA testing. The board was hesitant to allow registering fullbloods without DNA testing since parentage verification is a strict standard in our breed. The general consensus of the board is to leave the parentage verification requirement in place at this time.

Darwin Engelkes reported on the Strategic Planning committee meeting. The committee has excellent participation with 11 breeders on the meeting. One item of discussion was finding a

way to simplify ownership for juniors. The board agreed the new online registration system allows for immediate transfer of animals which is quite simple.

Darwin Engelkes said the reciprocal agreement has been sent to ACLA and Heritage Angus Association of Australia for their signatures.

The board discussed the storage of dry DNA samples by the Association. TSU samples will be destroyed by Neogen after 13 months. Neogen has been sending the dry samples (hair and blood cards) to the AAA. Sherry Doubet said she isn't sure that it is worth the time and labor to store the samples, it takes a lot of time. Recently, another breed, not managed by the AAA staff, had a new genetic disorder. They tried to test stored samples with quite a bit of difficulty. They were unable to find many of the samples they were looking for and when they did find one, there often wasn't enough DNA to test. Within the three breeds handled by the AAA staff, they have only needed one sample pull and they couldn't find it. They have 15 or 16 2' by 2' boxes of samples at this point. The breed has fulfilled its obligation to the breeder when DNA testing is complete.

The board recommended that a statement be put on the DNA form and possibly some other places that breeders should keep a hair or blood DNA sample in their files for their donors and herd bulls. Semen can be used for a DNA sample.

The board will take a month to think about this issue.

Darwin Engelkes said another idea from the Strategic Planning meeting was to get a list of the 50 top breeders for registrations over the last 5 years to find who used to register cattle and don't now. Sherry Doubet said it would not be difficult to put together such a list. She can do it after March 15, when things in the office quiet down a little.

Sherry Doubet reported that breeders must be a member in good standing to do online registration work.

Darwin Engelkes said the Strategic Planning committee would like to see the AAA mission statement. Allen Sieverkropp found the mission statement and Darwin Engelkes will forward it to the committee.

The Strategic Planning committee would like to move the International Committee to the Strategic Planning committee. It is currently a part of the Presidents/Nomination Committee. Darwin Engelkes will discuss it with the Presidents/Nomination Committee.

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 23 meeting was made by Rob Fanning, seconded by Jan Effertz. Motion carried.

Rob Fanning reported there will be a live Aberdeen auction sale at the Ohio Beef Expo on March 15, with 21 live lots and 8 consignors.

Rick Dodd reminded the board to send any news or updates for the website to Shelley Dodd.

A motion to adjourn was made by Rob Fanning. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Effertz