Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

November 28, 2016

Board of Directors: Norm Johnson, President; Don Greene, Vice President; Vern Butler, Secretary; Joe Crocco, Treasurer; Steve Hull, Director; Andy Merriwether, Director; Bonnie Potter, Director; Laurel Shouvlin, Director; Mike Vigus, Director

Meeting: Monthly Business Meeting
Conference Call — November 28, 2016, 6:00 p.m. EST

Present: Bud Synhorst (future Executive Director starting December 5, 2016)

Meeting opened at 6:01 p.m. EST, by President Johnson.

1.0 Special Guests — SRC show rules update discussion: Show System Administrator Margie Ault, and SRC co-chairpersons Michelle Swango and Dr. Jeri Booher reviewed the updates to be incorporated into the 2017 AOA Show System Handbook. The SRC began their review in May and what was presented to the Board is the culmination of issues and requests submitted by judges, show staff, and members during the fall of 2015, and the spring and summer portions of the 2016 AOA show season. After discussion, a few suggestions for changes were made by the Board which will be incorporated into the final draft.

Ault, Swango, and Booher left the meeting at 7:02 p.m. EST.

Hull moved to accept the changes as written and corrected by the SRC. Second by Shouvlin, Unanimous (9–0).

2.0 Ratify Email Votes:

2.1 Motion to approve posting the third quarter 2016 financial statement on the AOA web site. Motion by Johnson; second by Crocco. Approved (9–0).

2.2 Motion to approve the September 12, 2016, board meeting minutes. Motion by Butler; second by Johnson. Approved (9–0).

2.3 Motion to approve posting AlpacaGram regarding the development of an alpaca breed standard for huacayas and suris. Motion by Greene; second by Vigus. Approved (9–0).

2.4 Motion to approve response to member inquiry regarding DNA testing and parentage validation. Motion by Shouvlin; second by Greene. Approved (9–0).

2.5 Motion to approve a research study for calculating an EPD for density through Dr. Mark Enns at Colorado State University. Motion by Merriwether; second by Vigus. Approved (9–0).

The motion to ratify the email votes was made by Shouvlin, seconded by Hull. Motion approved unanimously (9–0).

3.0 Financial Report:

3.1 Financials: Crocco reviewed the financials for the year-to-date.

3.2 Dashboard: Johnson reviewed the dashboard for the year-to-date.

4.0 Old Business:

4.1 Embryo Transfer/Artificial Insemination Policies and Procedures: Vigus presented 3 document drafts related to ET and AI for the board to review. Vigus will make the recommended changes to the drafts. Vigus will also review and update Policy 05-01 Artificial Insemination and Policy 05-02 Embryo Transfer, to reflect the vote by the AOA membership to permit the registration of alpacas resulting from ET and AI. He will then present the updated drafts and amended policies to the Board for approval at an upcoming meeting.

4.2 2018 National Halter Venue Update: Johnson reported that while information has been received from a potential venue, that venue is only available the first weekend of March. Staff member Becky Farley will continue to put together information to assist in the choice of a venue for the 2018 AOA National Halter Show.

4.3 2017 Budget Planning Discussion: Crocco and Johnson met with former Executive Director Darby Vannier to review the proposed budget. The current draft provided by Crocco for the meeting was a result of that discussion. There were some questions, discussion, and suggestions and Crocco will submit an updated proposed 2017 AOA Budget for the next meeting.

4.4 AOA Board Minutes: There was a discussion regarding the minutes and the need for the Board members to respond quickly with their suggested edits to expedite their approval and posting.

5.0 New Business:

5.1 Potential Business Opportunity: Johnson recently received a proposal from an individual to establish a relationship where they would donate items to AOA to sell on alpacainfo.com. The proceeds from the sales would be shared between AOA and another non-profit entity. The Board concluded that it would require a proposal with more detail and potentially a contract as well. The Board also determined that there is not enough time to accomplish such an arrangement in time for the 2016 holiday season. Johnson will respond to the individual. The Board agreed to explore this concept further and if it is decided to move forward to explore creating a template for such arrangements with input from AOA Counsel Sheri Visani.

5.2 2017 Election Committee: Johnson reminded the Board that the next AOA election is fast approaching. He asked the Board to submit names of potential candidates to serve on the 2017 Election Committee.

5.3 Re-branding 2018 National Auction: It was suggested that an ad hoc committee be formed to explore the concept of a new version of the National Auction. Johnson will draft a document that outlines the purpose and role of the committee.

6.0 Committee and Other Reports:

6.1 Government and Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom): Potter reported that there has been no meeting, therefore no report.

6.2 Judge Training and Certification Committee (JTCC): Hull reported that there has been no meeting, therefore no report.

6.3 Judges Advisory Committee (JAC): Vigus reported that there has been no meeting, therefore no report.

6.4 Show Rules Committee (SRC): Vigus see Item 1.0 above. Nothing further to report.

6.5 Fiber and Fiber Products Committee: Johnson reports the committee met in November finalizing a general membership survey to better understand what they would like to see at the next National Fleece Conference. The committee has decided to proceed with another Marketplace at the 2017 National Show in Denver.

6.6 Alternative Products Committee: Butler states that he sent an email to set up a meeting in December.

6.7 Leadership Council: Johnson reported that there has been no meeting, therefore no report.

6.8 AFCNA Update: Hull reports that the AFCNA is going through dissolution. It was suggested that Johnson approach the AFCNA about their trademark and website.

6.9 Ad Hoc Youth Committee: Shouvlin reported that there has been no meeting, therefore, no report.

6.10 Ad Hoc Membership Committee: Potter reported that the committee will be meeting in December.

6.11 US Alpaca Fiber Council: Johnson reported the council meets weekly focusing primarily on their website.

7.0 Meeting Wrap:

7.1 Contact the Board Update: Johnson was contacted by a member who had submitted a proposal for a potential EPD study on density to be conducted by Dr. Enns and was looking for follow-up. Merriwether will follow-up with that member.

7.2 Action Items Review: Greene reviewed the action items generated by the meeting.

7.3 Next Meeting (December 12, 2016—Strategic Plan/Special Topic Meeting): Johnson.

7.4 Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Hull. The meeting ended at 9:30 p.m. EST.

Submitted by Vern Butler, Secretary