Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

November 14, 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: Strategic Planning / Special Topics Meeting
Conference Call — November 14, 2016, 6:00 p.m. EST

Meeting Opening: Meeting called to order at 6:01 p.m. EST by President, Johnson.

1.0 Strategic Planning Meeting Items: The strategic planning items were tabled to allow enough time to complete the remaining agenda.

2.0 Other Special Topics:

2.1 Executive Director Announcement: Hull made the motion to approve and send 2 separate announcements declaring that the AOA Board of Directors has hired our new AOA Executive Director, Bud Synhorst. One version will be sent via AlpacaGram to the membership and another is a press release. Shouvlin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously (9–0).

2.2 EPD Project: An AOA member has requested and graciously offered to fund a research project utilizing data from the AOA EPD program to assist with estimating density in alpacas. Dr. Enns (who runs the EPD program for AOA) will be contacted by the Board to discuss this potentiality. The item was tabled until the board receives feedback from Dr. Enns.

2.3 National Auction: There was lengthy discussion regarding the 2017 auction at the National Show and its format. Concerns were raised about the decline in income over the last several years. Discussion included the concept of a mixed auction consisting of unique items, herdsire breedings, and approximately 10 select, elite alpacas. Concerns were raised that, this close to the show, there is little time to recruit alpacas, and to do an adequate job marketing and garnering support for such a change to the format. After discussing the pros and cons of various auction models, Shouvlin made the motion to hold an auction without alpacas at the 2017 National Show, at a time within the show weekend yet to be determined, and to begin planning for the auction at the 2018 National Show to include unique auction items and approximately 10 select alpacas. The motion passed (7–1–1 with Hull voting against and Vigus abstaining).

2.4 Science Panel: This item was tabled until the next Strategic Planning/Special Topic meeting.

2.5 Member Contact: A board member received a letter asking questions about the DNA typing and parentage validation performed by AOA. The procedures and markers that AOA currently uses were reviewed by the AOA Board. It was determined that board member Andy Merriwether would compose a letter to the member explaining that AOA has panels of DNA markers that exceed all other alpaca registries in the world, with 18 markers in the primary panel, 13 markers in the secondary panel, and 5 markers in the tertiary panel. AOA utilizes DDC, a company that is used for both human and animal DNA validation and other DNA testing both across the US and in 73 countries. The AOA Board remains very confident in the results and accuracy of our DNA typing, parentage validation, and registry.

3.0 Meeting Wrap:

3.1 Action Items: Greene reviewed the action items with the Board.

3.2 Next Meeting (November 28, 2016 — General Business Meeting): Johnson.

3.3 Adjournment: Hull moved to adjourn and the meeting ended at 8:35 p.m. EST.

Submitted by Vern Butler, Secretary