

American Brahman Breeders Association

Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

December 3, 2024 10:00 AM CST

Teleconference

President Mark Forgason called the meeting to order at 10:04 am CST. Iridiana Ibarra called roll 10 present; a quorum was established.

Present

Mark Forgason
David Miller
Terry Novak
Barry Smith
Michael England
Steve Hudgins
Carolyn Falgout
Catherine Neumayr
Josefina Lecuna
Jason Smith

Staff

Paul Maulsby
Iridiana Ibarra

Guest

Frank Carroll

Carolyn Falgout motioned to approve the minutes from the September 12, 2024 meeting, and the motion was seconded by David Miller. The motion carried.

Under old business, the issue of violative conduct was raised, and a question was asked regarding the completion of the DNA analysis. The committee was informed that the DNA results had not yet been completed, but it was noted that they would follow up with the lab for an update.

A discussion was held regarding an appeal of a color classification. After deliberation among the committee members, Barry Smith motioned to uphold the decision of the color classification committee, and the motion was seconded by Carolyn Falgout. The motion carried.

Paul Maulsby provided the Executive Committee with an office report detailing recent activities and ongoing initiatives. As noted in last month's update, monthly financial updates will continue to be provided to the Officers, Executive Committee, and Board of Directors. Financials are expected to be received this week and will be included in the Executive Committee newsletter, which is scheduled for distribution shortly thereafter.

Job descriptions for several positions are being finalized, with postings released as outlined. The Director of Communications and Digital Content position has been posted. The Director of DNA and Technical Support position will be posted this week, while the Director of Youth Activities and Shows is being

proposed as a contract-based, remote position for cost efficiency. Filling these roles remains a priority to build a dynamic and effective team that will propel ABBA forward. Mr. Maulsby recognized the exceptional dedication of Iridiana Ibarra and Kylie McIntosh, whose efforts have been instrumental in maintaining smooth operations during this transitional period. Additionally, the student workers have ensured steady progress with data entry and administrative tasks.

A digital answering system is being implemented to route calls directly to the appropriate personnel or department. This enhancement aims to improve communication efficiency and ensure professional handling of inquiries.

The National Show and World Brahman Congress are viewed as highly successful events. These gatherings underscored the global reliance on American Brahman cattle and provided valuable opportunities to connect with members and leaders worldwide. Efforts to expand the use of DNA for parentage verification and genomic markers are being prioritized to seize growth opportunities in this area and strengthen international relationships.

The history and structure of previous ABBA Brahman Bull Tests are under review. Although the proposed test for this year was canceled, there is strong member interest in reviving the program. Research is ongoing to identify a new feed yard and address logistical requirements, with the goal of developing a robust initiative that benefits members.

Registrations and transfers are up to date, despite the continuous influx of daily transactions. For the period between October 1 and November 22, there were 1,165 transfers, 1,540 registrations, and 52 new memberships.

Following the decision to relocate CPA services closer to Bryan, two firms in College Station have been contacted for evaluation. Thompson, Derrig & Craig has scheduled an in-person meeting, while discussions with Seidel Schroder are ongoing, with plans for an in-person meeting. Additionally, Terry has a firm in Houston under consideration. Task details performed by the current CPA have been shared to ensure a seamless transition. Bids for the 2024 financial audit have also been requested, with updates to be provided as progress is made.

Following approval to revamp the website, a contract has been signed, and an initial deposit has been made to the selected company. Work has commenced on outlining action points for the launch of the new website.

In the coming weeks, efforts will focus on mapping domestic and international travel to remain engaged with members and support ABBA's critical growth areas, preparing for NCBA and the upcoming Board meeting, and continuing efforts to fill office staff positions. As the holiday season approaches, the focus remains on achieving ABBA's goals and advancing the success of the Association through unity and a shared passion for the Brahman breed.

ABBA legal counsel, Frank Carroll, provided the committee with an update on recent communications involving himself, the ABBA office, and Ben Cunningham. He informed the committee that while the

litigation with Ben Cunningham has been concluded, the ABBA office is now tasked with locating registration and transfer records from five years ago. Additionally, Carroll noted that the ownership of the bull in question remains unresolved, though all parties involved are fully aware of the current status.

Carroll emphasized the importance of board members refraining from engaging in discussions on legal matters with any of the involved parties. Should any party attempt to contact a board member, they should be advised to have their legal counsel reach out directly to ABBA's legal counsel to prevent any confusion or the spread of misinformation.

During the meeting, a question was raised regarding the alleged violative conduct submitted and the DNA submitted for certain animals. It was clarified that, at the conclusion of the matter, some DNA would be unavailable as some of these animals have already been exported out of the country. The Executive Committee clarified that a majority vote had determined the complaint was dismissed, and a good-faith effort to DNA-verify some of the cattle in the complaint would be completed as volunteered by the breeder subject to the complaint.

ABBA legal counsel, Frank Carroll, informed the committee that legally, the burden of proof lies with the complainant, who must provide evidence to support their claims. It is not the responsibility of the accused to prove their innocence. He emphasized the principle that the accused are presumed innocent until proven guilty. Mr. Carroll acknowledged that there were concerns raised about the number of corrections proposed, but the accused had explained these during the hearing and had voluntarily offered to provide DNA on as many animals as possible. However, aside from the number of corrections, no evidence had been presented to prove that the changes were fraudulent. He reiterated that the Executive Committee had voted, determining that no conclusive evidence of violative conduct existed.

Mr. Carroll recounted the steps taken by the committee in the investigation process. All Executive Committee members had been given the opportunity to request and review relevant documents, and AJ Knowles was allowed to present his information during the hearing. The decision was not made lightly or without scrutiny. Furthermore, he pointed out that there had been over 1,000 other changes across the membership, none of which were investigated in the same manner.

The discussion also touched on the pending DNA results. Iridiana Ibarra provided an update, explaining the delays in receiving results due to differences in the systems and processes used by the two labs. She noted that the current turnaround time for results is longer than three weeks. At Paul Maulsby's suggestion, she committed to contacting the labs to arrange training sessions and obtaining a written update from them regarding the status of the outstanding DNA results.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.