

RAAA Board Meeting Minutes

RAAA Board Meeting

January 14, 2006

Denver, Colorado

Attendees: RAAA Board of Directors, RAAA Staff, and guests, Melvin Leland and Harold Hughes

President Wedel opened the board meeting at 8 am, and asked Steve Andras to offer a prayer to start the meeting. President Wedel then read the RAAA Mission Statement and Core Policies.

Additions to the meeting agenda were: Carcass Testing and South African data be added to Larry Keenan's NCE overview report; the effective date of the "rule of repose" will be talked about during the Registration report ; Mike Wooten, Angus Plus member asked to address the board; the upcoming Convention 2006; and a report on EPDs and their accuracies.

The RAAA Board Minutes from the September, 2005 board meeting in Greenville, S.C., were approved with a correction.

Dr. Hough discussed the financial statement for the last five months of fiscal year 2005-06. The 2005 convention account was at break-even status "thanks" to the efforts of the Southeastern RAA and a "Special Thanks" to Jim and Alvina Meeks for their generous contributions and special assistance. Steve Andras commented on the financial picture of the RAAA investments. Dr. Hough and members of the staff had a chance to answer questions from the board on the finances.

John Eklund and Ed Lloyd expressed that new board orientation was a positive experience and they were impressed with the staff and their dedication to the RAAA .

Dr. Hough introduced Ben Spitzer, RAAA Communications Membership Services Director, to the group. Ben spoke briefly about the office conducting a state and regional representatives orientation within the next six months.

Dawn Bernhard, JRA Coordinator, gave her report on JRA activities at

this year's NWSS along with information on upcoming activities such as the YBIC in Mississippi and 2006 Roundup in Minnesota.

Mary von Forell, board member on the Show and Sale Committee, went over some of the committee's recommendations. The first recommendation was Senior Yearling Class - (September thru December) heifers with calves at side be shown in this class, and bred heifers in the same age group would be shown separately. After discussing the issue, the board decided to keep this Class (Senior Yearling Class - September thru December) as is. On the Division Break for the Intermediate Class in the Junior Show, the board approved the division break in the Open Shows for the Intermediate Class in the Junior Show from four months to two separate month classes. The Board approved in the Junior Show, putting the cow / calf in their own show division and the calf off the cow to be in the Bred and Owned class, also to add a Bred and Owned Bull Calf Class to the Junior Show with the bulls coming from the cow / calf class. In the Showmanship there would be a Champion and Reserve Champion. Mary von Forell stated that next year at the 2007 NWSS, Denver, there is a chance that the Red Angus Junior National Show could be held on Sunday morning at 8am before the Brain Trust Meeting. This would utilize our show time more effectively at the NWSS, Denver in 2007.

Dr. Hough gave the Registration Department's statistical report. After some discussion, it was moved and approved to change the effective date on the "Rule of Repose" to June 1, 2005.

Blake Angell, Commercial Marketing Director, gave a report on the impressive tag sales for the year to date and the significant number of animals being listed and sold on the Pro Cow program. He stated that he would be traveling to Boise, ID at the end of February to meet with Agra Beef, and also meeting with Meyer

Natural Angus. Ann Holsinger, FCCP Quality Assurance Manager, explained that the USDA Manual on the Process Verified Program has changed dramatically. The staff has researched a company that would simplify the manual and help rewrite it. It was moved and approved to contract with IMI Global Company for up to an amount of \$13,000 to rewrite our PVP with age verification. The board reiterated that they would like to see the contract state a specific deadline for completion and the cost not to exceed \$13,000.

Dr. Hough commented on the letter he sent to Marty O'Connor, USDA on DNA verification. The NPLC documented that they were against this issue but Dr. Hough stated that it was one primary issue that he will try to get rescinded.

Mike Wooten addressed the board voicing his concerns about IBBA's future endeavors with the Ultra Red and Ultra Black Brangus concept they recently initiated. He stated his opinion on this new concept and how it would affect the IBBA and the Joint Venture project - GPS. President Wedel informed Mr. Wooten that his comments would be discussed in the RAAA Executive Session.

Larry Keenan, Research and Special Projects Coordinator, informed the board about the latest developments with the NCE Summary. Kelli Brown congratulated Larry, the Registration Department and Technical Committee for getting the EPDs on line so quickly. The Technical Committee was asked to work on questions regarding EPD accuracies and feature an article in the February ARA. The preliminary findings from CSU concerning the South African data have indicated we should not move forward with a joint NCE since the rank correlations are too low. Larry also reported on the Carcass Progeny Testing program prototype that is being developed

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with genetics of young bulls. The main purpose is to get more data on young bulls. Test herds are needed. It was moved and approved to adopt the Carcass Progeny Testing Program as presented with the Breed Improvement Committee to work out the details.

Dr. Hough led a discussion centered on the joint venture "Genetics Performance Solutions". The GPS postponed hiring a GPS Director due to time constraints and the Gelbvieh Association dropping out.

Greg Comstock spoke to the group on Promotional National Advertising for the remainder of the fiscal year. Ben Spitzer stated that he has written a few news releases that have appeared in several trade publications. He is also revamping the new member information letters.

Ann Holsinger, Magazine Editor, informed the board that the January, 2006 issue was the largest monthly billing magazine in RAAA's history with an increase of 24% over last year's January issue.

Raymond Prescott and Betty Grimshaw gave a brief summary of the 2005 convention.

Larry Keenan was asked to discuss the problems relating to the cross reference tables. Some bulls weren't getting cross referenced properly. The program had to be rewritten and should be completed after the spring 2006 EPDs.

Dr. Hough mentioned that the booklets for Sal Forbes nomination to have her portrait hung in the Saddle and Sirloin Club were sent to Louisville NAILE at the end of November.

Larry Croissant and Rita McPhee were part of the committee to look into the National ID system and reported that the pace for the start of using a national ID system has been going slow.

Kelli Brown addressed the board on tentative plans for the upcoming RAAA 2006 Convention to be Kerrville, Texas this September. She mentioned that the Southwestern RAA would like to produce an elite female sale at the end of the convention showcasing live prime females.

Steve Andras gave the Reapportionment Committee report. It was moved and approved to allow the Areas/Regions as they are at this time to remain the same for the next five years.

President Wedel asked the board for their suggestions for additions or deletions to the 2006 Committee member roster. It was moved and approved to accept the 2006 Committee Member Roster as discussed.

The afternoon session was devoted to reviewing each of the RAAA Core Strategies for 2003 to 2008. A few changes were made. It was moved and approved to adopt the Core Strategies from the 2003 to 2008 Plan as reviewed.

The meeting was adjourned. ■