



## World Angus Secretariat Meeting

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2017

Principal Hotel, George Street, Edinburgh

### Authorities of the Host Association

Chairman of WAS 2017 – Alex Sanger (President)

Vice Chair of WAS 2017 – Angela McGregor (SVP)

Acting Secretary of WAS 2017 (in absence of CEO) – Laura Stewart (Office Manager)

### Organising Commission

Co-ordinator – The Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society

Financial Issues – American Angus Association

### Delegates:

Alfredo Gusmán	ARGENTINA
Alfonso Bustillo	ARGENTINA
Ricardo Orazi	ARGENTINA
Horacio Guitou	ARGENTINA
Agustín Román Curutchet	ARGENTINA
Libby Creek	AUSTRALIA
Brad Gilmour	AUSTRALIA
Peter Parnell	AUSTRALIA
Brett Wildman	CANADA
Brian Good	CANADA
Rob Smith	CANADA
Michaela Chalmers	CANADA

Miroslav Vrablik	CZECH REPUBLIC
Niels Poulsen	DENMARK
Steffen Albrektsen	DENMARK
Sanna Turu	ESTONIA
Jane Mattik	ESTONIA
Tanel Bultko	ESTONIA
Thomas Hilgert	GERMANY
Mihalecz Andras	HUNGARY
Kathryn Bradshaw	IRELAND (IAAA)
Mack Crowe	IRELAND (IAAA)
Louis Byrne	IRELAND (IAAA)
Aidan Moloney	IRELAND (IACS)
Norman Little	IRELAND (IACS)
Bauyrzhan Razak	KAZAKHSTAN
Billy Estrada	MEXICO
Joe Fouhy	NEW ZEALAND
Clarence Timperley	NEW ZEALAND
Craig Mitchell	NEW ZEALAND
Tim Brittain	NEW ZEALAND
Paulo Costa	PORTUGAL
Chris Purdon	SOUTH AFRICA
Alex Sanger	UK (AACS)
Angela McGregor	UK (AACS)
Laura Stewart	UK (AACS)
Dan Moser	UNITED STATES
Charlie Boyd	UNITED STATES
Alvaraz Diaz Nadal	URUGUAY
Louis Fernandes	URUGUAY
Luis Carrau	URUGUAY
María Eugenia Lastreto	URUGUAY
<u>Apologies</u> : Kate McDonald, Red Angus Society, AUSTRALIA	

### **(1) Secretariat Meeting Opening**

Alex Sanger (Chair, Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society, UK & Ireland) welcomed delegates to the World Angus Secretariat at 9.30am and advised of delays to delegates from the United States who had experienced flight cancellations and delays. He introduced Angela McGregor (Senior Vice President) and Laura Stewart (Office Manager) who would be taking the minute in the absence of a CEO.

### **(2) Approval of the Agenda**

The previously circulated agenda was put forward for consideration. Peter Parnell moved and Libby Creek seconded the agenda and this was approved unanimously.

### **(3) Minutes of the previous meeting**

Minutes of the previous meeting held in October 2015 in Mazatlan, Sinaloa, Mexico were put forward for consideration. These were moved for approval by Paulo Costa and seconded by Peter Parnell.

### **(4) Consideration of New members - Kazakhstan, Hungary and Estonia**

New members from Kazakhstan, Hungary and Estonia were introduced to the World Angus Secretariat. There was unanimous acceptance of these three countries to become members of the World Angus Secretariat.

### **(5) Financial report**

Allen Moczygemba – Chief Executive American Angus Association was delayed. In the absence of Allen, Rob Smith (Canada) reported on behalf of the American Angus Association who have acted as treasurer for some time. He presented the World Angus Secretariat Financial Report at 31st May 2017, which was included as Appendix 2 in the meeting papers. Delegates considered the figures before them and noted the net value of \$27,209.28 being held by the American Angus Association on behalf of the World Angus Secretariat. He asked

for approval of the financial report as presented and on the proposal of Peter Parnell this was seconded by Paulo Costa.

## **(6) Code of Practice/Articles**

The Chair referred to the Code of Practice (updated following the 2005 meeting in South Africa) and the Articles of Association of the World Angus Secretariat contained in Appendix 3 of the meeting papers. He asked for anything to be challenged in these documents. Craig Mitchell (New Zealand) raised that proxy voting was proposed at the meeting in Argentina 2011 and approved at the 2013 meeting in New Zealand (minutes item 7) but does not seem to be incorporated. It was agreed that this amendment needs to be actioned and incorporated into the Articles of Association by the American Angus Association. It was noted that the previous meeting minutes had not been circulated until the following meeting which did not allow for actions to be dealt with.

## **(7) Association & Society reports**

The following delegates submitted a brief report, presentation and update on Angus activities within their respective countries. The Chair apologised for the ongoing technical difficulties experienced with playing the videos and PowerPoint presentations. Members wishing to share their PowerPoint or video presentation with other Secretariat member countries should email their presentation to [laura@aberdeen-angus.co.uk](mailto:laura@aberdeen-angus.co.uk).

- Argentina                      *Video presentation*
- Australia                        *Libby Creek*
- Canada                          *Rob Smith*
- Czech Republic                *Miroslav Vrablik*
- Denmark                        *Niels Polson*
- Ireland (IAAA)                 *Louis Byrne*
- Ireland (IACS)                 *Norman Little*
- Estonia                         *Sanna Turu*
- Kazakhstan                    *Bauyrzhan Razak*
- Mexico                         *Billy Estrada*
- New Zealand                  *Craig Mitchell*
- Portugal                         *Paulo Costa*

- South Africa            *Chris Purdon*
- Uruguay                 *President*
- United Kingdom        *Alex Sanger*

## **Business Session**

Due to time constraints and with a lot of business still to get through, the WAS agreed that some of the items would be addressed by the Technical Conference and priority would be given to discussing those items which would not be discussed at the Conference.

### *(8) The migration from STR to SNPs in order to make parentage verification, (Argentina)*

Presentation by Argentina on their progress with the decision at the 2013 WAS in New Zealand to initiate a process of transition from micro-satellite (STR) based DNA markers to single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNP). The goal must be to have parent verification data useful to other WAS countries for parentage verification exchange.

Peter Parnell (Australia) responded by saying they have increased the number of SNP with Zoetis but they ideally want multiple suppliers for genomic testing.

### *(9) Reinforce the WAS mission regarding the establishment of protocols to exchange genetics and genetic information (Portugal)*

Paulo Costa read the WAS mission from the last meeting in Mexico regarding the establishment of protocols for the exchange of genetic information. He proposed, with the approval of the WAS, that member countries share information on animals that are carriers of certain genetic conditions and added that he was happy to help with this. He also proposed that all countries submit a resume of their Bye Laws regarding genetic conditions, sire verification and parentage testing to help with the exchange of genetic information worldwide.

Rob Smith (Canada) then made a proposal in respect of Paulo's suggestions.

He said that it had become apparent when Paulo asked about moving forward with what was discussed two years ago in Mexico, that not had much progress had been made and

therefore the need for the creation of a formal ongoing communication mechanism for the member countries that make up the Secretariat was essential. Canada would like to propose the creation of working committee to improve the operation of the Secretariat which would be headed by an individual in the new position of secretary general, supported by 3 or 4 member countries who would have as a task some of the various things that have been identified today that we can seek to improve. It would also help to create ongoing consistency in terms of efficiency, delivery and timeliness of certain Secretariat activities and to make the Secretariat more proactive between meetings. Although Directors and Presidents of member countries change, the working committee would change less. The team could also look at more formal processes for accepting member countries. The establishment of a social media presence for the WAS was also broached to step up the connectivity and sharing of information between member countries.

The suggestion was for Tim Brittain (New Zealand) to lead the group along with the following CEO's Allen Moczygemba - CEO American Angus, Rob Smith - CEO Canadian Angus, Peter Parnell - CEO Australian Angus, Paulo Costa - CEO Portugal Angus, Billy Estrada – Mexico. Tim Brittain accepted should it be the wishes of the WAS for him to take on this role and this was met with unanimous agreement. It was hoped that all members countries will be available to be part of the process further down the line.

Peter Parnell suggested establishing the working committee for a period of two years until the next WAS meeting.

Louis Byrne commented on the remit of the committee and the task in hand noting that some genetic conditions cannot wait until the next WAS meeting. It is hoped that the working committee could react quicker on such issues and be a central clearing house to move pressing matters forward on behalf of WAS member countries.

The hope would be that there could be a financial retainer for this working committee so that there is financial support available should this be required.

Rob Smith suggested the committee commit to a four-month period to create and recommend the terms of reference and this should include some form of remuneration to ensure the sustainability of this initiative. When the terms of reference are put together these should be circulated to member countries for consensus approval. There was resounding agreement on this.

(10) *Country summary of parent verification policy:*

- American Angus Association – All AI sires require to be parent verified, all donor dams require to be parent verified, high percentage parent verified but not mandatory on every bull;
- Argentina – converting to SNP technology but problems with machines for testing and costs;
- Australia – All sires born after 2002 DNA sampled and parent verified, donor dams are also parent verified and reserve the right to deregister if animal fails parent verification;
- Canada – all sires in order to have offspring registered must be sire verified. All AI sire and embryo donor dams must be parent verified. Every 200<sup>th</sup> registration is subject of a parent verification. They will increase parent verification based on failure.
- Czech Republic – From 2002 all sires of pure bred calves and embryo donors tested;
- Denmark – All sires tested for DNA, embryo and donor calves also;
- Germany – DNA testing all bulls and a percentage of female calves;
- Ireland (IACS) – Dam has to be DNA'd for all first time calvers;
- Ireland (IAAA) – broadly in line with policies of AACS – all sires of bull calves are DNA'd, also DNA heifers coming into the breed for the future to protect the integrity of the herd book and give assurance to the meat industry.
- Kazakhstan – 2016 born bull calves are sire verified and ask countries they import from to do the same.
- Mexico – Programme fully subsidized by government to test for maternal verification and DNA 100% of purebred cattle; in process of doing this already tested 80% of the purebred breed and now in process of testing offspring; using SNPs for all DNA testing using two labs in the USA and Neogen in Nebraska; in process to finalise own certified angus beef programme which will have a huge impact in Mexico, the challenge they have on that particular project is in order to sell Mexican Angus beef they are going to have to source cattle and great opportunity. Mexico are working hard on maintaining their good their health status. Request from Mexico – they have been using genetics from USA and Canada for a long time and would like the AAA and CAA to share some information on parent verification. They are using an American laboratory but if they could use the same lab and share information it would be easier for everyone concerned.

- New Zealand – Sires have been sire verified and have been for 6 years or more. In 2016 all replacement females going into the breeding herd have also to be sire verified. All replacement females are also sire verified from 2016;
- Portugal – from 2014 DNA sampling all bull calves DNA and females tested for sire and dam parentage, embryo calves require a sire verification; only exception for Spanish members;
- South Africa – every registered bull is DNA typed prior to registering calves from it; random DNA testing of calves from 6 or 7 selected breeders to ensure compliance;
- UK (AACCS)– all bulls for pedigree use are sire verified; DNA sampling since 2002; currently all animals entering the herd book need a DNA sample taken so that in future we can test them and get them sire verified. Going forward, females at official society sales have to be sire verified, hope to implement all females coming into the herd book need to be sire verified and all bull sold whether for commercial or pedigree use should be sire verified;
- Uruguay – still working with microsatellites will be converting to SNP in the future. 10% of calves registered are randomly DNA tested. They also request that the AAA share genomic test information.

The Chair enquired if member countries found the extra testing costly. The AAS is in the process of trying to get costs down. Canada parent verification is \$18; Australia – average \$25 parentage test; very like Canada and USA. New Zealand – like Australia around \$25 encourage to do higher test at \$68, talking to competing companies to bring the price down. Noted that it is in the interest of the breed that each country should try to have two strong competitive companies for testing.

(11) *With the growing counter-information of beef production on sustainability, health and animal welfare - how can we, holding a beef "quality brand", act to tackle the myths?* – it was agreed that the Technical Conference will address these issues.

## (12) Youth Presentations

The Chair advised that he was proud to present the following Youth Presentations to the Secretariat. He advised that the Youth delegates would not be in attendance all day due to other commitments.

- Australia (Lane Evans, Australia Red) (Black Dawson, Australia Black)
- Canada (Melissa Chalmers & Raina Syrnick)

- New Zealand (Patrick Crawshaw)
- United Kingdom (Callum Smith)
- Argentina (Agustin Curutchet)

### **(13) Angus Australia – Peter Parnell – Briefing papers:**

Peter Parnell explained that briefing papers on these subjects were included with the papers to start to think about collaboration between our countries to keep the dialogue moving forward.

- (i) *Development of pilot global genetic evaluation for Angus cattle (joint item with American Angus Association and Angus NZ)* – brief discussion on independent international genetic evaluation. If we can achieve a pilot genetic evaluation we can demonstrate to other countries what the challenges are.
- (ii) *Benchmarking genetic progress in global Angus populations* – he invited other member countries to contact him if interested in participating in genetic benchmarking analysis. He would be pleased to include other countries data to demonstrate across the globe the progress the Angus breed is making in genetic matters.
- (iii) *Mitigation strategies to protect Angus breed associations from potential threats to their businesses models* - the importance of protection of data for all breed societies was reiterated. Encourage the exchange of information on ideas on how to protect our data and our future assets.

### **Invitation to 2018 - European Angus Secretariat – Estonia**

Sanna Turu presented a promotional video and invited all delegates to attend the 2018 World Angus Secretariat in Estonia.

### **Invitation to 2019 - World Angus Secretariat – Uruguay**

Delegates were invited to discover the secrets of Uruguayan meat production and taste its culture during the World Angus Secretariat to be held in Uruguay in 2019.

### **Invitation to 2021 - World Angus Forum 2021 – Australia**

Peter Parnell invited the member countries of the World Angus Secretariat to attend the World Angus Forum in Australia in 2021. Angus Australia will celebrate its centenary in 2019 and the celebrations will continue during the 2021 World Angus Forum.

The Czech Republic intimated their hope to host the World Angus Forum in 2025.

## **Gift Presentation**

All delegates thanked the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society for their hospitality and hosting the World Angus Forum. Delegates from several countries presented the Chair with a gift of thanks. These beautiful gifts, ranging from paintings to traditional souvenirs and mementos, were very gratefully received by the Chair and will be treasured by the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society.

In closing, the Chair thanked member countries for attending. He summarised that one of the best things to come out of the meeting is the WAS working group and thanked Rob for putting forward that initiative and to Tim for agreeing to lead the group and he asked all countries to give their support to this platform for communication.

With no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 5.30pm