

World Angus Secretariat Meeting - Minutes

Tuesday 26th March 2019 2:30pm – 6:30pm

Punta del Este Convention Centre

Agenda

Authorities of the Host Association

Chairman of WAS 2019: Alvaro Diaz Nadal (President)

Secretary General WAS: Tim Brittain

Organising Commission

Coordinator: Gabriela Rohr

Technical Issues:

Financial Issues: Allen Moczygemba

Secretary: Myriam

Confirmed Members:

Argentina

Alfonso Bustillo – Vice President

Javier Martinez del Valle – CEO

Horacio Guitou – Genetic Evaluation Program

Australia

Brad Gilmour – President

Peter Parnell – CEO

Brazil

Nivaldo Dzyekanski – President

Milton Moreaes – Vice President

Mateus Pivato

Canada

Trevor Walsh – President

Myles Immerkar – CEO

Belinda Wagner – Angus Foundation

Colombia

Ricardo Beyoya
Antonio Jose Pineros Lara

Czech Republic

Miroslav Vrablik – President

Germany

Thomas Hilgert – President
Benamin Junck – CEO

Hungary

Andras Mihalecz - President

Mexico

Adrian Arras Jurado

New Zeland

John Bayly – Board Member

Paraguay

Myriam Diaz Jara
Tobias Van Humbeeck Llano

Peru

Carlos V Caceres – President
Juan Carlos Caceres Segarra

Portugal

Joao Espadinha – President
Helder Nunes – Breed Secretary

United Kingdom

Paul Jeenes – President
Barrie Turner – CEO

United States

John Pfeiffer – President
Allen Maczygamba – CEO

Uruguay

Álvaro Díaz Nadal – President
Luis Carrau
Luis Fernandez

(1) Registration and Welcome

Alvaro Diaz Nadal (President of Uruguay Angus welcomed the delegates and expressed that Tim Brittain (Secretariat General) would be Chairing the meeting.

(2) Secretariat Meeting Opening President of Uruguay Angus Association

Tim Brittain welcomed the delegates to the World Angus Secretariat at 14.30 and asked them to introduce themselves.

(3) Approval of Agenda

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

(4) Minutes of the previous meeting (Scotland 2017)

Minutes of the previous meeting held in Scotland 2017 were put forward for consideration. These were moved for approval by Peter Parnell and seconded by Paul Jeenes. Carried

(5) Consideration of New Members

New members from Peru were introduced to the World Angus Secretariat, it was moved for approval by Paul Jeenes and seconded by Christian Galeano. Peru was accepted unanimously to become a member of the World Angus Secretariat.

(6) Financial Report

Dan Moser (USA) presented the financial report of behalf of the American Angus Association. He presented the World Angus Secretariat balance in the net value of \$29,823.12 (US dollars). He asked for approval of the financial report as presented and on the proposal of Peter Parnell this was seconded by John Bayly. It was noted that some members were not up to date with their fees and that need to be collected
Tim Brittain reminded the members that in case of a change of address, members should update their information.

(7) Background – Reason for the Secretariat

-World Forums V Secretariat Technical Meetings

There is a basic difference between the World Forums and the Secretariat Technical Meetings. The original concept was having the World Forum every four years. Then the Secretariat Technical Meeting was created in an intervening period of 2 years, so as to have events every two years. The aim of this was to facilitate sharing of information between associates, the

maintenance of genetic purity, exchange of genetic information, promotion of the Angus breed and international youth exchange. The argument that it might result in being expensive for delegates to attend to major events every 2 years, rather than every four years was raised. The floor was open for comments, but delegates had no complaints about the format, so it will remain this way.

-European Secretariat

European secretariat will be a new opportunity for members to gather in a meeting in Europe. However, the issue that this may make calendars too full. The floor was open for discussions. Delegates were happy with carrying on with the present format.

(8) Code of Practice/ Articles of Association

-Proxy Update

In the World Angus Forum NZ 2013, the subject about allowing proxies was mentioned. It would be useful for countries that are unable to attend to vote through proxies. A proposed article was put before the meeting to accommodate this is the articles. This was drafted by the attorney of the American Angus Association. It was proposed that this appendix should be added to the constitution. Peter Parnell moved in for approval and Ricardo Beyoya (Colombia) seconded it Carried.

-Secretary General role

In Edinburgh 2017 a working group was formed and a recommendation to have Tim Brittain as Secretary General. The proposal sent out was that the initial term would be 4 years, with the right of one further term of 4 years, but not a third. Theoretically, a secretary general could be in his role up to 8 years. Peter Parnell proposed that Tim Brittain continues in his role, members voted unanimously for this.

Peter Parnell recommended incorporating, the role of Secretary General of the secretariat and the above mentioned into the articles. Paul Jeenes seconded this motion, it was approved unanimously, and will be drafted and included into the articles of the constitution.

(9) Update on development of International Angus genetic evaluations

-Peter Parnell – Australia

Peter Parnell presented a PowerPoint presentation. Member countries are working towards genetical evaluation. This will bring many benefits:

- Benchmarking across the world more effectively
- Improve evaluation of each country
- Import EPD from a wide range of countries
- Enhance better genetic improvement

Initially USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand commenced with data assembly. There were some challenges also. For instance, trait definitions, growth is different in different countries, and the most challenging one is identification of animals. Animals cannot have

different identifications in different countries. Moreover, imputation of genotypes to a common 50k standard.

USA has the biggest database, including data on yearling, weaning and birth weight. Between Australia, Canada and USA they have a database of 7500 animals. In the future in order to complete the evaluation, it should be possible to expand to other traits such as carcass and fertility.

Next step is the inclusion of data from other countries. At the moment it is restricted in order to have manageable amounts, but in the future the plan is to include more countries, in order to have data from across the world.

Peter recommended that any country willing to participate, should have a clear date of their traits, to have accurate cross reference of identification. Ensure to include on the data base the origins of the genetics and have accurate assembly documentation.

The secretariat concludes to set a target for the WAS in 2021 Australia. Hoping to have a number of other countries, including New Zealand. To discuss how frequent evaluations should be done, cost and effort required and look at the benefits.

(10) Policies and protocols for the exchange of DNA data between WAS members

-Peter Parnell – Australia

As discussed in previous meetings, exchange of information between countries is encouraged and a requirement when bulls are used internationally. It is important that there is free exchange of data between countries. Up for negotiation exchange arrangement between individual countries. USA offered information for free, delegates should email them and they would share happily.

(11) Strategies for the protection of breed association database assets

-Peter Parnell – Australia

Data bases are an important part of the business and future. Exchanging information is crucial but so is protecting our databases. Recommendations are to protect data:

- Physical protection of data: websites or EPDs estimated breeding values, set limits so that they cannot be mined.

- In Australia, viewers are required to log in if they want to look up details. It is not required to be a member, but to provide some information to log in to the site. In case of suspicious movements, there is some sort of identification to track the person down.

- Third one is how you have data stored. Protection of servers. Websites being attacked, whole systems stopped from being work correctly. Tighten back/ups to protect database from possible loss. If someone destroys your data base you should be able to recover it the next day.

- Legal protection – if you have bridge you have a law suit (e.g notices, conditions of use)

- Data exchange – for research purposes, when data is exchanged, impose a legal document both parties sign for the exchange of the data. Right of intellectual property for the data.

-Consider encoding identification of animals. When DNA samples are processed they could be recoded before sending them to the labs.

(12) Exchange of information on genetic evaluation systems/models used by WAS members

Item suggested by Peter Parnell, but each country should write a report. Peter started:

Australia: Many advances over the last 2-4 years, it is good to share as much information as we can.

Australia utilizes Angus Breedplan system, with other Australia's breed societies also. Since 1985 use Breedplan. Australia is the largest use of that technology and leader of enhancement in that period. Breedplan system evolved moved from blending process to incorporated genotype receival process. Requires very good information on your genomic type, resources required but this is available. Good systems in plan, suggestion for everyone is to have good documentarian. Single analysis fertility carcasses, very comprehensive. We also separate analysis, structure score, separately structure analysis. Also involved in research of breeding values are independent from other research groups, looking at more adaptability traits, heat tolerance, climate data and differences of climate temperature, to identify periods of heat stress, growth performance. Genetic evaluation for the future a reference population, 50k genotypes, fertility. Third area, meat prices meat composition traits, fatty acids, looking to develop new genetic measures.

Argentina: (Provided report at meeting) We have a training population, this year only with enriched step 1. Want to look at other traits such as meat performance

Brazil: In the future we are trying to look for traits which are harder to measure. The first one is the resistance of the tick (garrapata). We need to collect phenotypes of artificial and natural infections. We already have 1400 animals tested genotypically in order to prevent this trait. The genotype is a tool to improve. The size of Brazil makes it hard to manage and is one of the main difficulties. We also want to study the alimentary efficiency.

Canada: Integrate red angus, do further research on udders, hoofs and feet.

USA: trait of importance is feed intake. Continue the balance of that trait, increasingly important, carcasses, ultrasound pregnancy, EPDs, our scoring system is based in the Australian scoring system. Altitude in Columbia learning more about that. Research about the longevity of cattle, that trait. Experience single step genomics refine our models. Ours is more trait by trait and the correlations really matter.

México: We have been only basing our research on info that comes from the Angus Association. We also use the Facultad de Agronomia de Chamingo (University), that provides data to the Angus Association. However, we recognise all the work that is being carried out in other countries. But we are a young association, and as many other countries starting recently we are looking up to the more developed associations and trying to imitate their path.

NZ: close to Australia, it would be useful to create a rights agreement when sharing information with other countries. It is useful to share, but also to protect your information. Combine databases you do it with the agreement of both countries no one gets compromised.

Paraguay: We are only working with microsatellites. We are grateful for all the help we have been getting from Argentina.

Peru: is looking forward to create a methodology by having short and long term goals. The main goal is to have a collection of at least 100 bulls by the end of the year, but it might be tough. We are trying to adapt the technology which is very hard to implement. We want to develop the collection of data through the use of smart phones. Also we want to make formal our petition to form an alliance with Argentina.

Portugal: will send report.

UK: repeat plan like Australia, this summer launching our programme, Building our training reference our all male calves from 2019. We are going to use 54k snips. This will be mandatory for all males and females.

Czech Republic: member of intervic, for 5 breed angus

Uruguay: 9 traits in evaluation, we worked in building a genetic database, first to have reference population. Start to get reproductive EPDs.

Set a deadline for each country to provide a report of their progress. With deadline 30th of April.

**(13) Interference in the implementation of a Genomic Evaluation Program
Correct comparisons of Genomic EPDs from a National Cattle Program-
-Javier Martinez del Valle and Horacio Guitou – Argentina**

There are countries that have been working for years with genomic evaluation programs, but there are other countries that are just starting, so it is important to exchange information and experiences. When specific companies offer Molecular EPD to breeders in other countries, it can create a problem since the Molecular EPD are predicted from an equation based on reference populations of that specific company, which is not linked to our Angus population. This may cause interference with national programs and generates confusion among breeders.

Moreover, Molecular EPD never can improve its accuracy because they are never able to incorporate future own phenotype records neither phenotype information that comes from relatives.

The behavior of the marketing department of Zoetis in Latin-American countries is different than in the USA, and Argentina are trying to express that it should be equal.

(14) Requests to host future meetings

-World Angus Secretariat Technical Meeting 2023

Although the Czech Republic had previously offered to host the World Angus Secretariat Technical Meeting in 2023, some countries like Argentina, Mexico and Peru suggest Brazil

should host it. Delegates from both countries, Brazil and Czech Republic, were told to do a brief presentation on why they should be voted as Hosts. After the presentations, only financial members were allowed to vote. Finally, Czech Republic was elected as the host of the World Angus Secretariat 2023.

-World Angus Forum 2025

After hosting for last time in 1993, the American Angus Association offered to host the World Angus Forum in 2025. The forum will take place in November in Kansas, Missouri. The forum would have international speakers and be held at the American Angus Association convention. Since no other country offered to host, so it was declared that USA will host the next World Angus Forum.

(15) General Business

Tim Brittan explained that Zimbabwe, Norway and the society of Hokkaido (Japan) have not responded to any of the communications from the Angus Association. Therefore, he suggested contacting them one more time and in case of no answer for them to be deleted.

It was also proposed to create a constitution for the World Angus Secretariat, reviewing the actual code of practice and combining the documents. Over the next two years, Tim Brittain and Peter Parnell would work to create a constitution for the secretariat.

John Pfeiffer (USA) raised the issue, that as beef producers they are constantly being blamed for global warming. As a consequence, he suggested it is important to talk more about taking proper care of the soil in future meetings.

Uruguay brought up the idea to create a more user-friendly and dynamic website. This would allow members to have a better interaction and share valuable information through this means. This site would also include a way to offer internships for the youth to learn about angus breeding in other countries. Delegates voted in favour of using some of the Angus Association funds to support this project.

(16) Invitation to attend World Angus Forum Australia 2021

Australia expressed their desire to return Uruguay their hospitality, and also welcome all other member countries to attend the World Angus Forum in 2021 and visit Canberra and Sydney.

(17) Gifts and Presentations

All delegates thanked the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society for their hospitality and hosting the World Angus Secretariat Meeting. Delegates from several countries presented the Chair with a gift of thanks. The gifts ranged from paintings, traditional souvenirs from their countries, or special mementos, which the Chair gratefully received.

In the closing, the Chair concluded the meeting, thanking the delegates for attending. He summarized that it had been a great meeting, and the Secretariat had been a success and the handed a gift to each country. He also thanked Tim for conducting the meeting.

With no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 18.15.

