

American Shorthorn Association Board Meeting Minutes

American Shorthorn Association
Board of Director Meeting, Omaha, NE
Board Meeting Minutes for March 7 &
8, 2014

ASA Board members in attendance:
Mike Bennett, President, Mark Gordon,
Vice President, Marty Loving, Jim Freed,
Rick Leone, Robert Alden, Tom Turner, Ed
Kruse and Executive Montie Soules. Jake
Alden was present for most of the Friday
meeting.

The meeting was called to order at
1:05pm on March 7, 2014 by President
Mike Bennett.

A moment of silence observed in
memory of Lynn Nelson.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) were
reviewed.

The Board approved the minutes from
the January 17, 2014 meeting in Denver.

The finance report was given with
Kathleen Prosser, ASA Finance Manager, in
attendance; additional descriptions were
given to inform new board members. The
Board approved the financial report.

Committee Reports; from the Genetic
Evaluation and Commercial Marketing
Committees, ShorthornPlus Committee,
Breed Promotion and Image Committee
and Show Committee reports on Genetic
Defects (now referred to as Genetic
Conditions) and possible disclosure in sales
were reviewed. Each committee
recommended more testing for Genetic
Conditions and full disclosure of Genetic
Conditions in sale catalogs. (Committee
reports available on website: Go to Staff,
then Board of Directors and Committee
Reports)

Board commented on gaining more
committee participation: To enclose a flyer,
"How to become involved in committees"
with membership renewal mailings and
WHR assessments.

Discussion, with Jake Alden and Montie
Soules, on the process of handling test
samples by ASA and GeneSeek for both the
genomic 50K project and other DNA
testing. Lab pricing and procedure was
reviewed. The Board felt the finalization of
the agreement with GeneSeek should be
completed with legal counsel review.

It was approved to charge \$25 (normal
fee \$90) to breeders for testing the
remaining 300 samples needed for the
genomic 50K project. Any additional tests
the breeder requests will be at the breeder's
expense. Parentage will be tested on special
priced genomic tests at ASA cost. Motion
passed unanimously.

The board approved to amend the

previous motion to add, that animals must
have a .30 or better accuracy for BW, WW,
YW, Milk, REA, Fat, Marb and CW and
that the animals must be .30 or more
accuracy on 3 of the 4 carcass traits to
qualify for the special fee for testing the 300
head needed to finish the genomic 50K
project. Motion passed unanimously; with
the stipulation that Patrick Wall approve
that the qualifications meet the
requirements for the project.

The Board referenced the issue of
collecting samples. Now, with an actual cost
for the test at \$25 and a process for the
breeders identified, more participation is
likely. The Board stressed this information
be publicized. A list should be compiled of
the animals that meet the qualifications for
the .30 accuracies. This list should be
published in *Shorthorn Country* in hope that
breeders will volunteer samples.

There was a question concerning the
Genetic Condition ruling, made in the
September meeting, regarding the
description of not registering homozygous
animals DSH carriers. The minutes from
the September 2013 meeting show the
ruling has the correct terminology.

WHR program: The points of
discussions concerned the ruling that only
WHR breeders will continue to receive
EPDs after 1/1/2015. The Board also talked
about mandating breeders turn in data to
continue to get EPDs. Spoke of the
difference between TOC and WHR fees for
the cost of processing the performance data.
TOC breeders that turn in data now do not
pay for the service.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20pm

Meeting resumed at 8:00am Saturday
March 8, 2014

Conference call with Patrick Wall,
consultant for ASA: Genetic Condition
issues and Multi-Breed Genetic Evaluation
information

The report from Dr. Jon Beever about
DS (Digital Subluxation) was presented
with the definition of DS. The codes are
DS-F DS-C DSA and DSH. There is no
need to use DSA because DSA is a DSH
(Homozygote carrier). ASA would only be
aware of a DSA if a breeder supplies the
information about an affected animal; this
information does not come from a lab.

Patrick Wall provided further education
to the board about homozygous Genetic
Conditions (Homozygote carriers). The
motion from the September 2013 meeting
took care of some of these issues but not all
in educating the membership in this matter.
The importance of membership and
breeders being informed is very important.
To view more information on DS and
homozygous Genetic Conditions, go to
News and Updates on ASA website
homepage or find reference article in

Shorthorn Country titled *Homozygous
Genetic Condition Explanation*.

The board approved rulings for
Homozygous Genetic Conditions. This
ruling includes not registering progeny after
Sept. 1, 2015 from a homozygous genetic
condition until the progeny have been
tested to not be homozygous. Motion
passed unanimously. To see the complete
ruling, go to News and Updates on ASA
website homepage or find reference article
in Shorthorn Country titled, *Homozygous
Genetic Condition Ruling on
Registration*.

The board approved color coding genetic
conditions on pedigrees to identify and
disclose the risk of possible genetic
conditions in said animal from previous
generations. Motion passed unanimously.
To see the complete motion and ruling, go
to News and Updates on ASA website
homepage or find reference article in
Shorthorn Country titled, *Color Coding on
Pedigree to Identify Genetic Conditions*.

The board approved to amend the
previous motion from Friday March 7,
2014 pertaining to the 50K genomic testing
of high accuracy animals; The ASA is
requesting samples for snip testing from
animals that have accuracy of .30 or greater
on growth traits (BW, WW, YW, Milk) and
.30 accuracy or greater of three out of four
carcass traits (REA, FAT, CWT, MARB).
The ASA provides subsidy for the cost of
testing the first 300 animals that are
presented for testing. "Added Amendment
to motion" to include a deadline of sample
submission of June 1st, 2014 to get the
reduced special price. Also include priority
to be given to the highest accuracy animals
in order to receive subsidy. To include open
advertisement to the general membership
immediately that; Subsidized testing as
provided by the ASA and Shorthorn
Foundation will discount the member cost
to \$25.00 vs. the regular rate of \$90.00 per
sample. "All samples will be submitted to
the ASA directly Both cows and bulls are
eligible Initial samples will be eligible for all
genomically enhanced information both
presently and in the future as it is provided
through the ASA genomic evaluation."

Motion passed unanimously.

Patrick Wall reported on the Multi-Breed
Genetic Evaluation for Shorthorn. The data
ASA received from test runs for
comparisons looked good as expected. We
would be on track to hopefully be part of
the Simmental multi-breed evaluation by
June.

The board asked for the deadlines and
information on nominations for BIF
"Seedstock Producer and Commercial
Producer of the Year". ASA should
nominate Shorthorn breeders for this award
in the future.

The Board approved to change the term,

“Genetic Defect” to “Genetic Condition” in all future ASA references and any past references on the website and other ASA materials. Motion Passed unanimously.

A motion was made to allow genetic condition carrier influenced cattle, embryo and/or semen to sell in ASA sponsored sales, as long as all cattle, donors of embryos and sires of semen are tested for all known Shorthorn genetic conditions and the results would be prominently disclosed in the sale catalog for both free and carrier animals. Motion failed; 3 votes for to 4 votes against.

The board asked that sale managers of ASA sponsored events provide a complete sale report to the ASA with details of expenses, including income, buyer and any other sale activity information.

The board approved that all cattle selling in an ASA sponsored sale must be tested for all known genetic conditions known for the breed and be parentage tested and the EPDs be listed and disclosed in sale catalog and the percent of Shorthorn blood on ShorthornPlus animals must be listed and disclosed in the sale catalog. Motion passed unanimously.

The board gave a directive to executive to proceed with developing a recommended policy for handling genetic conditions and EPD disclosure in sale catalogs. The staff, sale managers and Shorthorn Country should work on this as a team.

A redesign of the current ASA pedigree is necessary due to the addition of the DS genetic condition codes.

Megan Brehm, Communications and Marketing Director, presented the new pedigree sample.

The board reviewed the newly redesigned pedigree.

The board approved to continue including the breeder's name on each animal in the pedigree and to add the DSH code for Genetic Conditions. Motion passed unanimously.

Montie Soules made note that any wording on the pedigree would be reviewed and pass legal counsel recommendations.

Megan Brehm, Communications and Marketing Director, gave a short presentation of ideas and activities to help promote Shorthorns. A brief discussion followed with suggestions from the board members.

A committee was formed to update the ASA bylaws. The committee has been working on the election process, possible redistricting for more equality, and changing the control of the executive committee. The board recommended the committee continue in the direction presented to the board.

The Board discussed the cost of ASA field staff attending sales, the values of this

and possibility of charging breeders.

The Board discussed the Louisville Sale and possibly changing from a futurity sale to a sale more like the Denver sale.

The board approved to change the concept from a futurity show/calf sale to be patterned more like the Denver sale to include all types of lots at the Louisville Sale at the North American. Motion passed unanimously.

The board approved to investigate having three Shorthorn sale managers work on the two National sales in Louisville and Denver as a team effort providing information on how they will promote the sales in writing: 1) How you will promote, 2) How you will obtain consignors, 3) How agent's commissions are handled, 4) Disclosure of the structure of the sale, 5) Complete report in writing after the sale to ASA. Motion passed unanimously.

The board approved the staff to determine the dollar amount to be added to premiums from ASA in Louisville and Denver National Shows. This amount would be approved by the Executive Committee. Motion passed unanimously

The board approved to have ASA staff to provide a judges list to the board at least 30 days before the June board meeting for the board to approve a formal “Judges List” for the Show Committee and Junior Board to use for judge selection. Motion passed unanimously.

Gwen Crawford gave a detailed report on the operations of the Junior National in June. She also reported on the activities of the AJSA as well as the success of the FTF Online Sale. Gwen provided dates and plans for the KEY Conference.

The judges for the Junior Nationals have been confirmed. The Bred & Owned Judge will be Brigham Stewart; the Owned Show Judge will be Jeff Gooden.

After the Junior National report, the board reinforced the mandate that heifers at the Junior National will be weighed.

The board approved to increase the cost of overnight packages mailed out by ASA to \$55.00. Motion passed unanimously.

The board reviewed the Performance Program that Simmental has for cooperative commercial herds that turn in data and carcass data for a breeder's fee up front. They left direction for the executive to investigate further and felt the ASA needs a similar program if the commercial herds can be located and ASA breeders are willing to pay the cost of the program.

The board approved to leave Lynn Nelson's position vacant until his term expires in November. Motion passed unanimously.

The board went into executive session.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. Saturday.

After reviewing recommendations the ASA board asked for in March, from Shorthorn Sale Managers. The ASA board approved the following rulings on May 15, 2014

The board approved to accept the sale manager's proposal and concept for the NAILE sale in Louisville for 2014. (To continue with the futurity heifer sale as a more national type sale - add steers to the sale and possibly older bred heifers, live animals only) Proposed system from sale managers working as a team on ASA sponsored sales.

The board approved for ASA sponsored sales that Genetic Condition tests are required on all cattle in such sales that are pedigree impacted by a possible genetic conditions (at risk cattle). Cattle assumed free by pedigree for Genetic Conditions need not be tested. Non-tested cattle will be denoted on each lot as “Not Tested for Genetic Conditions” and sell as “Free by Pedigree”.

The board approved that Genetic Condition Carriers be allowed to sell in ASA sponsored sales, provided they sell with the proper documentation as to their carrier status and the carrier status must be printed in the sale catalog for each lot. All cattle selling must have been registered prior to cataloging and the registration number must be printed in the sale catalog. All cattle selling must have EPDs and all the EPDs must be printed in the sale catalog. Steers selling need not be Genetic Condition tested or have EPD profiles in sale catalogs. The documented information for Genetic Condition testing, registrations and EPDs is not acceptable on a supplement sheet. All documentation must be printed in the sale catalog.

The board approved new Recommended Terms of Sale for ASA presented by sale managers and Montie Soules. To see the complete ASA Terms of Sale Recommendations for ASA, go to News and Updates on ASA website homepage or find reference article in *Shorthorn Country* titled Recommended Terms of Sale for ASA Members.

The board approved to accept the new revised requirements for AI Sires and Donor dams, concerning Genetic Condition and Parentage testing. To see complete AI sire and Donor Dam Requirements, go to News and Updates on ASA website homepage or find reference article in *Shorthorn Country* titled, AI sire and Donor Dam Requirements. □