



Ultrasound Guidelines Council

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UGC Board Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 18th, 2020

9am-12noon

Zoom Conference Call

Chair Kelli Retallick called the meeting to order at 9:04am. The full slate of UGC Board members and the Executive Director were present on the call: Patrick Wall, Shane Bedwell, Matt Woolfolk, Chip Kemp, Mark Henry, Rethel King, Becky Hays, Dean Pringle, JR Tait, Sean McGrath, and Jolene Grunhaupt.

Kemp Moved, Bedwell 2nd to accept the March 4th meeting minutes as emailed on June 15th, noting there was a conference call in between with Dr. MacNeil regarding the data analysis project. Motion carried.

Wall presented the current financial report as of May 29th, noting that year over year versus 2019, the balance has increased, and UGC was able to invest heavily in carcass data collection. Wall informed the Board that invoices to breed associations & labs will go out in July. Pringle asked of a budget discussion moving forward, though there was no known history of a previous UGC budget being drafted. Tait asked for clarification over concerns of an eroding balance. Tait moved, Bedwell 2nd to accept the financial report as presented. Motion carried.

SDSU Research Project Final Report from Dr. MacNeil was discussed at length. Wall agreed to request the thesis report from Dr MacNeil & grad student Bradie Schmidt. The trial was paid for in 2017. Hays asked for action points moving forward. Retallick praised the report for assisting in future modeling within AAA. An opportunity for Hereford to get pre-harvest scan of Shoot-out cattle was discussed. Other *bos indicus* influenced breeds were also mentioned to look at hide thickness versus IMF as well. Wall will offer up the opportunity at USBBC for breed associations to look at the potential influence of hide vs IMF & quality grade within their particular breed.

The UGC Field Certification set for Ames, IA August 4-6, 2020 was discussed. Some of the new challenges were: securing shackle space, EID costs, how to gather ether extract data, and the potential added costs of certification given the rescheduling and COVID-19 restrictions at packing plants. Wall agreed to pursue a liability waiver from legal counsel. The Board also agreed to offer a one year extension to anyone with special health risk considerations. Henry noted that they must pay for certification in 2020. Wall agreed to put together guidelines for exemptions should the need arise.

Wall briefly informed the Board of plans for a late fall UGC Field Certification in Manhattan, KS (October-November 2020). Bob Weaver at K-State was currently receiving some pushback on scheduling campus events for the fall semester.

The future requirements for UGC Certified Field Technicians was the most time consuming topic of the meeting. How often technicians need to recertify was debated. King explained that we might be too premature to make decisions until the data is summarized. The Board agreed that a 2 year re-certification process is sound for new technicians. Breed associations like the fact that new techs are trained via certifications and that new systems are tested with carcass data. Henry thought a 2-year, then 2-year, then 4-year re-certification was a sound protocol. Tait said that a 6-year recertification on experienced techs may be enough. Henry disagrees with the current head count, noting that it makes certification too cost prohibitive for new technicians. Hays thinks that field certification is too easy to pass, and standards should be raised. Tait mentioned that if Absentia certification is re-instated, it needs to be higher cost, a similar fee to on-site certification. The Board also discussed requirements for certifying on new technology when a technician buys a new machine. King moved Grunhaupt 2nd that Absentia certification be re-instated every 2 years for quality and head count, and that technicians need to re-certify every 6 years. Bedwell and Kemp agreed to hold off until data was collected from the final year of certifications. Tait moved, Grunhaupt 2nd to table the motion until the next UGC meeting after data from the next 2 field certifications is compiled and analyzed. Motion carried.

Wall reiterated to Labs to schedule fall Lab Certification exams by September 1st.

Pending approval by the US Beef Breeds Council, Wall informed the Board that Scott Greiner from Virginia Tech would be joining the UGC Board as the new industry/research representative, serving a 3-year term. Jerry Cassidy from the American Angus Association will be joining the UGC Board as well, serving a 4-year term as a breed association representative. Wall thanked retiring Board members Pringle and Retallick for their extended service to the Ultrasound Guidelines Council.

The Board entered Executive Session at 11:38am.