

ARBA Board of Directors Meeting

06 July 2021

7:30PM ET

Don Burgess, president, called the meeting to order at 7:32PM ET. Present were Don Burgess, Anne McIntyre-Lahner, Charlene Carlisle, Rick Trojanoski, Penny Swearingen, Carol Pasheilich. Melissa Wubben joined the call at 7:34PM. Emma Rodgers was absent.

**2021 Election Results:**

All candidates were contacted with the results. Results have been posted to the website.

Anne McIntyre-Lahner – President

Charlene Carlisle – Vice President

Emma Rodgers – Director At-Large

Marianne DiTaranto-Hromis – District 1

Penny Swearingen – District 3

**New Director for District 2**

Charlene spoke with Amy Miller, who ran for District 2 director, after Patricia Sanville's resignation; Amy is willing to serve the remainder of the term through the annual meeting 2022.

Charlene moved, Rick 2<sup>nd</sup>, to appoint Amy Miller to complete Patricia Sanville's term for District 2 Director through the Annual meeting 2022.

Voice vote was affirmative motion carried.

*Action approved by BOD:*

Appoint Amy Miller to complete Patricia Sanville's term for District 2 Director through the ARBA Annual Meeting 2022.

Charlene will contact Amy on behalf of the board.

**Member Feedback Review**

Don opened a general discussion on the feedback received, looking for perspective at this time.

Don commented on the multiple perspectives from members on how to proceed; it appears the majority who responded prefer to keep registrations in the flock book, but ensure proper procedures and rules are followed.

Anne added clarification on response from one member, who created his initial response based on the interpretation of the by-laws then sent a follow-up response after having been directly contacted by two former board members. Anne believes they are legitimate concerns but troubling that he had been contacted by two former board members, resulting in a change in his feedback. He could potentially could have received misinformation, like the misinformation included in their letters circulated to members.

Charlene – Some members questioned whether the ad hoc committee had reached out to the AI/ET committee from 2016. She asked for clarification on what was done or not done.

Rick clarified Emma contacted the former chair of the AI/ET committee asking for information, but never heard a response. Rick contacted another former board member and AI/ET committee member and spoke for about an hour; he asked for documentation from that individual but never received anything.

Charlene wishes someone from the 2016 AI/ET committee would clear up issues to help ascertain the truth.

Anne feels ARBA will need to post an objective narrative of the process once completed, which includes how this information came to light.

Regarding the claims of two former board members -without any information provided by individuals involved that might challenge the information in the ARBA records and numerous pieces of correspondence, the current ARBA board must rely on public record as found in board minutes, correspondence, and ARBA policy/procedures.

Don highlighted the silver lining is that the policy and procedures will be strengthened to ensure animals are not registered which lack information.

Don posed the question to the board on where to move forward from here as a board regarding the registration status of the involved animals, and whether adequate feedback was received or if additional research is needed for the Board to make its decision.

Anne commented when we updated the breed standard we received about the same number of people responding, so this is probably the extent we will receive from membership. Multiple members who provided feedback thanked us for reaching out to the membership, and understand how large the issue is. Anne also highlighted other member suggestions such as creating an exception to keep registrations in as well as the genetic testing question.

Carol has doubts the correct samples would be provided for DNA analysis and that the pedigree information on at least one of the impacted registrations may be inaccurate even though he tested as a pure Romney.

Anne considers the most important thing is: are the animals 'real' Romneys and do they test as Romneys? One genetic test indicates offspring from one of the rams in question are purebred Romneys, and that can give the association some comfort in accepting them as Romneys and keeping them in the ARBA flock book.

Don had similar ideas of testing original straws but expressed doubts of obtaining semen from the farm to genetically test. Don added that the suggestion to make an exception may leave a feeling of doubt regarding the breed purity of those animals. Carol & Melissa concurred on the exception suggestion. Melissa noted that moorit individuals are already designated separately with the M & MM prefixes and different color paper, so those wanting to avoid those bloodlines can already do so if they doubt breed purity.

Rick moved, Anne 2<sup>nd</sup>, to accept all currently registered animals into the ARBA flock book, but disallow registration of any future offspring directly out of Rosebank 59/03 and 86/03.

Rick amended, Anne 2<sup>nd</sup>, append "unless proof of registration as a purebred Romney in the Black & Coloured Sheep Breeders Association of NZ can be provided".

Discussion ensued on whether animals already born, but not yet registered, would be accepted.

Voice vote on amendment carries, with Melissa and Carol abstaining.

Some discussion occurred on the definition of future offspring and Don reiterated the need for objectivity. Anne reiterated the need for board members to separate how we got here and the need to register pure Romneys

Anne provided an amendment to change the motion on the floor, seconded by Rick , to “To accept all currently registered animals in the ARBA flock book and existing offspring; disallow registration of any offspring, born after December 31st, 2021, directly out of Rosebank 59/03 and 86/03, unless proof of registration of the sire in question as a purebred Romney in the Black & Coloured Sheep Breeders Association of NZ can be provided”

Amendment carries by affirmative voice vote; Melissa & Carol recused themselves from the vote.  
Motion as amended by affirmative voice vote; Melissa & Carol recused themselves from the vote.

*Action approved by BOD:*

“To accept all currently registered animals in the ARBA flock book and existing offspring; and disallow registration of any offspring, born after December 31st, 2021, directly out of Rosebank 59/03 and 86/03, unless proof of registration of the sire in question as a purebred Romney in the Black & Coloured Sheep Breeders Association of NZ can be provided”

### **Other related issues**

Anne believes there is overwhelming evidence that Rosebank 59/03 and 86/03 were registered after the owner had been informed that ARBA did not accept the animals to be registered. Discussion referenced [By-Laws Article III, Section 6](#) regarding Suspension and Expulsion of Members. It is possible the members could have misunderstood or made a mistake and the discussion turned to how the registrar did not catch the problem, and subsequently issued registration for the two rams that were rejected for registration by the board in 2016.

Penny raised a question regarding communication between the previous ARBA board, the AI/ET committee, and the registrar organization. This question needs to be pursued as part of the next steps in the effort.

Charlene questioned the possibility that someone on the AI committee agreed to approve the application since the member/breeder said they would send documentation of purebred status. Conversation focused on whether the AI/ET committee could have handled the situation differently; and whether the member/breeder could have received some indication it would be alright despite lack of information. AI/ET committee at the time said all policies and procedures were followed to the letter. Don commented there are a lot of unknowns regarding how the registrar registered those animals. Anne: can we really deal with the breeder/member until we understand the registrar question? Rick believes ARBA needs to let the breeder/member know that those two rams, 59/03 and 86/03, can not be used as sires in ARBA, via a certified letter.

Rick moved, and Anne seconded, sending a certified letter to the breeder/member detailing that Rosebank 59/03 and 86/03 are not allowed to be used as sires in the ARBA flock book moving forward, unless proof of registration in Black & Coloured Sheep Breeders Association of NZ can be provided. Friendly amendment to have the letter include the motion carried verbatim regarding Rosebank 59/03 and 86/03.

Motion carries by affirmative voice vote. Melissa & Carol recused themselves from the vote.

*Action approved by BOD:*

A certified letter will be sent to [REDACTED] (breeder’s name redacted) detailing that Rosebank 59/03 and 86/03 are not allowed to be used as sires in the ARBA flock book moving forward, unless proof of registration in Black & Coloured Sheep Breeders Association of NZ can be provided. The motion “To accept all currently registered

animals in the ARBA flock book and existing offspring, disallow registration of any offspring, born after December 31st, 2021, directly out of Rosebank 59/03 and 86/03, unless proof of registration of the sire in question as a purebred Romney in the Black & Coloured Sheep Breeders Association of NZ can be provided" will be included in the letter.

Letter will be drafted by Don, Anne, and Charlene and sent by Chris. (follow up note: the letter will be sent by the president or vice-president in the absence of an ARBA secretary).

#### **Follow-up with Registrar & Impacted Members**

Don will contact the registrar to inform that Anne will be president as of October, and will be the primary point of contact with the registrar on this issue; and will communicate the information the board is trying to gain in order to resolve this issue. Don will also ask the registrar for a list of impacted members to contact.

Charlene questioned whether it is possible there are other members not listed who could be impacted? Board members discussed the possibility that there may be individuals who have purchased affected animals, but have not registered them, in which case, we have no way to know who they are.

#### **District Directors Vacancies**

ARBA has a need to fill 3 district director vacancies.

One member from District 6 has been contacted by Carol to possibly fill the vacancy in District 6, but may not be in a position to sit on the board.

Two potential candidates have been identified for District 5; Carol & Anne will contact them.

Betsy McPherson could potentially provide contacts for possible District 6 directors.

Rick suggested all board members consider current members who may be interested in serving the board. Vacancies must be filled by active members residing in the districts with the vacancies.

#### **Follow up from the 2019 National Sale**

Payment of the commission to ARBA (\$5,294) from the 2019 National Sale is extremely late from Banner Sales Management. Follow up by Anne sent again yesterday (July 5<sup>th</sup>) stressing the importance to have payment. Anne pointed out that one board member who voted to support two breeders from her own district, received payment from ARBA for the 2019 National Sale but then returned those fees due to her integrity, and did not want to benefit from her position on the board.

ARBA needs to be prepared for next steps; possibility for free advertising in Banner Magazine in lieu of payment, potential court action, or other next steps.

Secondly, we know through statements from two AI/ET committee members that ARS was notified by the committee approving registrations of the two Rosebank rams in question. Actual documentation supporting their decision or notification of ARS has not been provided.

#### **Other Business**

Charlene provided a report on the All-American Sheep Show approximately 3,700 head of sheep, and 700 youth total. The All-American Show is now the largest single-species youth livestock show.

Approximately 100 Romneys were entered in the show by 24 exhibitors. The youth members had a great time; youth exhibiting Romneys received T-shirts from ARBA to celebrate the youth. NEYSS will be in approximately 2 weeks. The 2022 All-American Show & 2022 New England Youth Sheep Show will be back-to-back next year.

Penny requested Romney fleeces for the Michigan Fleece Festival on August 21 & 22, 2021.

The Big E will be held this year; Romneys are the featured breed in the fleece show. An article will be in the Ramblings.

**Next Board of Directors Meeting**

Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021 at 7:30PM ET

Rick moved to adjourn; Penny seconded the motion.

Affirmative voice vote for adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:23PM ET