American Brahman Breeders Association

Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

June 12, 2025, 3:00 PM CST

Teleconference

President David Miller called the meeting to order at 3:02 PM CST. Iridiana Ibarra called roll 10 present; a quorum was established.

Present
David Miller
Catherine Neumayr
Carolyn Falgout
Mark Forgason
Amy Wilder
Gary Buchholz
Steve Hudgins
Pasquale Swaner
Hatch Smith
David Domsch

Staff
Paul Maulsby
Iridiana Ibarra

Hatch Smith motioned to approve the minutes from the May 15th, 2025 meeting, and the motion was seconded by Mark Forgason. The motion carried.

The first item on the agenda was a pro forma registration that had been submitted to the ABBA office. The committee discussed the matter and reviewed the evidence provided. After consideration, the committee determined that the pro forma registration would not be approved, citing that the ABBA does not intervene in buyer-seller disputes.

Gary Buchholz made a motion to deny the pro forma registration. The motion was seconded by Carolyn Falgout, and the motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was a pro forma transfer of ownership. Iridiana Ibarra explained the situation, noting that a member purchased a cow from a sale barn and claimed it was sold to him as a registered animal, not as a per-pound animal. The member stated he had contacted both the previous owner and the sale barn multiple times but had not received a response. He was requesting that the registration papers be transferred to him.

The committee reviewed the circumstances and determined that the matter remained between the member and the sale barn, and therefore the transfer could not be approved.

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Hatch Smith made a motion to deny the pro forma transfer of ownership. The motion was seconded by Gary Buchholz, and the motion carried.

Paul Maulsby addressed the committee regarding the sharing of data with outside entities, referencing a prior lawsuit where ABBA data was used in a way not intended. He asked for input on whether performance data or other information should be released externally. The committee agreed that requests should be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and handled directly through the ABBA office, emphasizing that raw data should not be broadly furnished as it leaves room for misinterpretation and potential accusations of inaccuracy.

The committee noted that ABBA generates extensive reports several times a year, containing raw historical data that can be interpreted in different ways. While outside entities are free to conduct their own research, the association should only provide specific information when appropriate. However, furnishing raw data for others to manipulate in varying ways is not in the best interest of the association.

In response to a question from Carolyn Falgout, the office clarified that the data presented in court came from the Digital Beef *Breeder Counts* report, which is intended to reflect registrations per member. However, Iridiana Ibarra explained that the system was incorrectly generating counts based on breeder status rather than who registered the animal, leading to inaccuracies, particularly in cases of embryo registrations. ABBA later confirmed during lawsuit preparations that all members named in the case had, in fact, registered more than the required number of animals. Mrs. Falgout expressed her frustration that her name was mentioned in court based on a flawed report, stressing that it was never intended for vetting or compliance purposes and should not have been relied upon in court.

The committee discussed that initially ABBA did not have the necessary infrastructure to generate and release reports on a scheduled basis. It was noted that ABBA now has the infrastructure in place, and the best course of action would be to create an in-house calendar of reports. These reports would include the same categories currently being shared as raw data, such as: top producing gray sires (horned and polled), top producing red sires (horned and polled), top ten breeders (horned and polled), and Register of Renown standings.

Catherine Neumayr moved that ABBA create an in-house calendar of reports to be published on the association's website under the News section. The motion was seconded by Amy Wilder and carried.

Amy Wilder then moved to reconsider the motion, seconded by Gary Buchholz, and the motion to reconsider carried.

Catherine Neumayr subsequently moved to amend the original motion by adding the stipulation that ABBA cease the sharing of raw data with third parties. Seconded by Gary Buchholz, motion carried.

Paul Maulsby emphasized the need for stronger communication among committee chairs, vice chairs, and the membership, noting that committee work should focus on decisions benefiting the

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entire association rather than individual priorities. He acknowledged progress through online meetings but expressed interest in also meeting in person.

Mr. Maulsby added that scheduling a single date for all committees may be difficult but suggested July 10–11 or July 17–18 as potential options. He clarified this was not an action item but an opportunity for input on the concept and timing.

The next item on the agenda was discussion of the next board meeting. The board meeting will be held on September 25–26 in Gulfport, Mississippi, to coincide with the Mississippi Brahman Association cattle show. The format will mirror the recent Beaumont meeting, with all committee meetings conducted virtually, except for Finance and Executive, which will meet in person on Thursday. A breakfast and the General Board Meeting will follow on Friday morning.

Paul Maulsby noted the association still lacks a geneticist. While Allison Hajny has assumed many duties once handled by the Director of Breed Improvement, he suggested following other associations' models by hiring a geneticist on a consulting basis, similar to the attorney arrangement. This would give structured access to the Breeder Performance Committee, staff, and members while remaining cost-effective.

The Executive Committee agreed the approach was positive but stressed the need to remain mindful of the pending court case and budget limits. Carolyn Falgout suggested Mr. Maulsby increase his visibility at sales and field events to represent ABBA. He agreed, noting he is committed to the challenge and may eventually train someone to assist him.

The committee also discussed the potential role of a field representative, particularly to strengthen ABBA's presence in the commercial sector where the breed is performing well. Mr. Maulsby explained that such a role would be commercially focused rather than show-focused, citing instances like overlapping Brahman Bucks events. He reiterated that the position would only move forward if financially feasible.

The final agenda item regarding trademark updates and asked Paul Maulsby and Catherine for input. Mr. Maulsby explained that ABBA has historically held two trademarks: *Queen of the Cow Country* and *Crossbreeding Common Denominator*. He also recommended pursuing a new trademark for a phrase currently used in ABBA's marketing, *The World is Better with Brahman*. After consulting with Frank Carroll and his team, Mr. Maulsby learned that their firm could facilitate trademark filings at a cost of $5,000 per phrase. He stated that this fee was not feasible and, after further inquiry, was advised that ABBA could file the trademarks directly through the government website at a lower cost. He will proceed with this approach.

Catherine Neumayr reported on a conflict between the ABBA Constitution and the Rules. She clarified that this issue is related to the recent rule change on name changes adopted at the Executive Board meeting in Lake Charles, though it is located near that section.

The Constitution, which has precedence, clearly states that "membership shall not be transferable." However, the ABBA Rules contain an entire section outlining conditional transfers of membership, creating a direct inconsistency. Mrs. Neumayr explained that rules are often

amended rather than the Constitution because rules can be changed without a full membership vote, whereas constitutional changes require a mailed ballot to the membership.

She recommended that this matter be referred to the Constitution Committee to determine the best course of action—whether to propose removing the prohibition in the Constitution or to remove the provisions on conditional transfers from the Rules. She emphasized that the inconsistency should be resolved to maintain clarity in the organizational hierarchy and governance.

Paul Maulsby reiterated that a meeting is scheduled with Ron Stinson, the parliamentarian, in July to review and compile suggested changes for the Constitution Committee to consider.

It was noted that at this year's International Show there will not be sufficient time in the ring to present all of the awards typically given. As a result, the Show Committee suggested shifting most award presentations to the National Show. Since no membership meeting will be held during that event, an award ceremony could be added to recognize honors such as Show Bull of the Year and other time-sensitive awards. The show dedication would remain in the ring, but other presentations could be consolidated into this ceremony. Mr. Maulsby stated this does not require a formal vote at this stage, but input will be needed regarding the format and naming of the event.

For the last item on the agenda, Paul Maulsby reminded the committee that at the Lake Charles meeting, a new show was approved specifically for the spring. Mr. Maulsby clarified that the organizer has since encountered scheduling conflicts and requested through the show committee that the Executive Committee consider amending the approval to allow the show to be held in either the spring or the fall, depending on what works best for his schedule.

It was noted that, under the WBF constitution, the ABBA EVP serves as Secretary General and ABBA is responsible for finances and tax filings, with funds intended to support the upcoming World Brahman Congress in Mexico. While ABBA has filed taxes, dues collection and activity have been inconsistent due to leadership transitions. Members also shared bank statements from a second account, which she indicated will be closed since no funds were collected.

The committee agreed that all international communications related to the WBF should be centralized through the ABBA office to ensure consistency and alignment in representation.

Pasquale Swaner moved to approve the Code of Ethics as submitted by the Show Committee. The motion was seconded by Gary Buchholz and carried.

Carolyn Falgout made a motion to move into executive session, seconded by Pasquale Swaner, motion carries.

After no new business, Hatch Smith moves to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Catherine Neumayr, meeting adjourned.

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