American Brahman Breeders Association

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

May 22, 2026, 9:00 AM CST
The Stella Hotel
Bryan, TX

Officers Present:

David Miller, President
Catherine Neumayr, Vice President

ABBA Staff:

Paul Maulsby, Executive Vice President
Iridiana Ibarra, Office Manager/Recording Secretary
Allison Hajny, Director of DNA & Technological Support
Mark Allan, PhD, Director of Breed Improvement

Directors Present:

Jake Dixon
Joseph E Adams IV
Josefina Lecuna
Will Detering
Raymond Doreck
J'Boone Koonce
Ross Pruitt
Collin A. Hudgins
Catherine Neumayr
Steven E. Hudgins
Wes Schneider
O.W. Schneider
Michael England
Kathy Bailey
Hatch Smith
Amy Wilder
Kelvin Moreno
Steven "Pasquale" Swaner
Natalie Herzog
David Miller
Kevin Whaley
Scott Weber
Teresa Moreno
Bruce Van Meter
Jo Ann Manke
Salvador Baldizon
Billy Badilla

Past Presidents Present:

Craig Fontenot
Mark Forgason

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President Miller called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM CST.

President Miller led the group in prayer.

Iridiana Ibarra reported that a quorum was established, with 27 directors and 2 Past Presidents present at the start of the meeting.

President David Miller stated that due to attorney-imposed time constraints associated with a pending appeal matter, it would be necessary to move the Executive Session and Code of Conduct Appeal to the beginning of the meeting agenda.

Upon conclusion of the Executive Session, the Board returned to open session and resumed the regular order of business.

Vice Chairman Hatch Smith presented the Finance Committee report. He provided an update on the Association's financial performance, cash flow, investments, and operational budget considerations.

Membership activity showed a slower first quarter, with a notable increase in April following recent Membership Committee and Executive Committee approvals. Registration and transfer activity also reflected broader cattle industry trends, particularly as strong market conditions have reduced the urgency for some breeders to register cattle.

International sale revenue included delayed payments from prior transactions, which impacted the timing of income reflected within the financial reports.

The committee reviewed staffing changes and related expenses. Salary expenses have decreased due to staffing transitions, while contract labor has increased as certain responsibilities have shifted to outsourced or part-time roles. These changes remain below the cost of equivalent full-time salaried positions and will continue to be monitored.

Accounting expenses were significantly higher than originally budgeted due to the transition to a new CPA firm and increased reporting requirements across the Association's entities. Staff continues working to improve internal preparation processes to reduce outside accounting costs moving forward.

The committee was also advised of fraudulent activity involving unauthorized transactions on Association bank accounts, which impacted the financial statements. The matter has since been resolved. Corrective measures have been implemented to strengthen financial controls and prevent future occurrences.

Investment accounts continue to perform positively, with gains reported across the Association's portfolios. While long-term investment performance remains strong, the committee noted that short-term cash flow remains an area of focus due to ongoing legal and operational obligations.

The Association's overall financial position remains stable, with combined cash and investment reserves providing financial security while leadership continues to carefully manage expenditures.

Accounts receivable showed significant improvement year-to-date, declining substantially from earlier balances. Most outstanding receivables are tied to sale-related invoices and legacy account balances. The committee discussed strengthening collection procedures and reaffirmed the importance of timely payment enforcement, including account restrictions for members with delinquent balances.

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Mr. Smith provided an update regarding registry modernization efforts, including the continued transition toward paperless processes and ongoing collaboration with Digital Beef/701X regarding future software improvements. While some implementation challenges remain, these operational upgrades are expected to improve long-term efficiency and reduce administrative costs.

The committee recommended approval of an Aged Cow Moratorium for yearling and two-year-old-and-over females at a 50% discount, effective June 1 through December 31, 2026.

President David Miller addressed the Board and reflected on the importance of unity within the Association. He encouraged directors and members to move beyond divisions and focus on the shared goal of advancing the Brahman breed and strengthening its position within the beef industry.

President Miller emphasized that while disagreements will occur, the Association should focus on the many areas where members share common objectives rather than allowing differences to overshadow opportunities for progress. He noted that the challenges facing the breed and industry are best addressed through collaboration, open communication, and a commitment to working together.

He expressed optimism regarding several initiatives currently underway, including the Association's increased focus on genomic technology and breed improvement. President Miller specifically highlighted the expertise of Dr. Mark Allan and stated his belief that the Association's investment in genetic improvement and genomic-enhanced EPD development will help position the breed for long-term success.

President Miller also expressed support for the newly established Long-Range Planning Committee and the opportunity it presents to evaluate the future direction of the Association and breed. He encouraged directors to consider the legacy of the Association's founders and past leaders and to approach current challenges with a focus on the long-term advancement of the breed.

In closing, President Miller reiterated the importance of professionalism, cooperation, and maintaining focus on the Association's mission of promoting and improving the Brahman breed.

Chairwoman Catherine Neumayr presented the Communications Committee report.

The Communications Committee met via teleconference on May 18, 2026. Committee members, ABBA staff, and guests participated in the meeting. Chairwoman Neumayr reported that committee participation and engagement were strong.

An update was provided regarding the Association's trademarks, including "Queen of Cow Country" and "Crossbreeding's Common Denominator." The renewal applications have been submitted and are currently pending review by the appropriate governmental agency.

The committee devoted the majority of its discussion to improving the communication of Association data and information to members. Chairwoman Neumayr emphasized the importance of providing members with timely, accurate, and reliable information that can be

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utilized in the marketing and promotion of their cattle. Topics discussed included EPD releases, registration statistics, producing sire and dam reports, sire summaries, award recognition programs, and confidence in the Association's award prefix system.

The committee discussed the development of an official ABBA data release calendar. The purpose of the calendar would be to establish consistent timelines for the release of Association data and reports, allowing members to better utilize information for marketing, breeding, and management decisions.

The committee also reviewed the Association's social media performance. Chairwoman Neumayr reported that Facebook continues to be the Association's most effective social media platform. Current analytics indicate that approximately 82 percent of the Association's social media audience is male, with the largest demographic group falling between 25 and 44 years of age.

Chairwoman Neumayr concluded by stating that the committee's primary focus for the coming year will be improving the delivery of accurate and credible information that provides value to ABBA members and supports the promotion of Brahman cattle.

No action items or recommendations requiring Board action were presented. The report was received for information only.

Mr. Rodney Roberson presented the report of the Research & Breed Improvement Committee.

Mr. Roberson began by expressing appreciation to the Board of Directors for its support in engaging Dr. Mark Allan as the Association's genetics consultant. He stated that Dr. Allan's expertise will play an important role in modernizing the breed's genetic evaluation programs and ensuring the Brahman breed remains competitive and relevant within the beef industry.

The committee reported that its highest priority remains the development of a centralized genotype database capable of incorporating high-density genomic data from multiple laboratories into the Association's genomic-enhanced EPD program. Mr. Roberson explained that many breeders have invested in high-density DNA testing through laboratories other than Neogen, yet much of that genomic information is currently unavailable for use in ABBA's genomic-enhanced EPD calculations. The committee believes this issue must be addressed to ensure that breeders receive the full benefit of their investment in genomic testing and to improve the accuracy and usefulness of the Association's genetic evaluations.

The committee also discussed opportunities to increase the adoption of high-density genomic testing throughout the breed. As part of those discussions, the committee considered future requirements for donor dams, AI sires, and animals used in embryo transfer programs to have high-density genomic profiles on file prior to the registration of offspring. The committee believes increased genomic participation will significantly improve the quality and accuracy of future genetic evaluations.

Discussion was also held regarding the ongoing transition involving Zoetis and Neogen and the possibility of upgrading previously submitted parentage-only DNA tests to high-density genomic profiles. The committee expressed hope that a process may be developed in the future that would

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allow breeders to upgrade existing DNA records without requiring the collection and submission of new samples.

The committee reviewed concerns and questions received from members regarding parentage verification procedures. Mr. Roberson emphasized that parentage verification is an automated process based on laboratory-generated data and established verification thresholds. The committee recommended continued member education regarding the parentage verification process to increase understanding and confidence in the system.

Additional discussion focused on streamlining DNA submission procedures and reducing administrative burdens associated with sample processing. The committee reviewed potential improvements that may be incorporated during the Association's transition to the new 701X registry platform.

The committee also discussed the concept of centralized bull testing programs. After reviewing current industry practices and logistical challenges, members concluded that traditional centralized bull tests provide limited value in comparison to modern EPD systems and genetic evaluations.

While centralized bull testing was not recommended as a priority, the committee emphasized the need for additional carcass performance information on Brahman and Brahman-influenced cattle. Members discussed the importance of collecting actual carcass data from contemporary groups of steers to demonstrate improvements in carcass merit and strengthen the breed's credibility within the commercial beef industry.

The committee reviewed the Association's current selection indices and discussed the need for future improvements. Emphasis was placed on developing additional measures of maternal productivity, reproductive performance, and cow longevity. Members agreed that meaningful maternal evaluations will require the collection of more comprehensive reproductive and cow performance data.

To support those efforts, the committee discussed the potential development of a voluntary whole herd reporting program. Such a program would allow breeders to maintain herd inventories and report reproductive and management outcomes, creating opportunities for the Association to develop more meaningful maternal and fertility evaluations in the future.

Mr. Roberson concluded by noting that the committee addressed numerous topics during its meeting and expects to continue evaluating these initiatives as part of its long-term strategy for breed improvement.

The committee's recommendation regarding the implementation of a centralized genotype database and the proposed Helical agreement was presented later in the meeting following Dr. Mark Allan's presentation.

Mr. Val Walters presented the report of the Show Committee.

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Mr. Walters reported that the Show Committee met virtually on May 19, 2026. All committee members were present, along with several ABBA staff members. Approximately 138 individuals participated in the virtual meeting.

The committee reviewed several items pertaining to sanctioned shows, show administration, and future recommendations for consideration by the Board.

The committee's first recommendation was the approval of the Tulsa State Fair as an ABBA-approved show. Mr. Walters explained that the Tulsa State Fair had previously held ABBA-approved status but had lost that designation several years ago. At the request of Susan Lindley Perkins and in recognition of renewed interest and participation in Oklahoma, the committee recommended reinstating the Tulsa State Fair as an approved ABBA show beginning with the 2026 event.

Craig Fontenot moved to approve the Tulsa State Fair as an ABBA-approved show. Seconded by Natalie Herzog, motion carried.

Mr. Walters reported that the committee discussed the future of group classes at ABBA-approved shows. A proposal was brought forward for discussion that would have eliminated group classes at all shows except the National and International Shows. After discussion, the committee determined that group classes continue to provide value to exhibitors and breeders and did not support eliminating them.

The discussion then shifted to the scheduling of group classes during approved shows. Committee members reviewed the advantages and disadvantages of conducting group classes at the beginning, middle, or end of a show. It was noted that approved shows utilize a variety of formats and schedules, making a single mandatory schedule difficult to apply consistently across all events.

The committee concluded that show management should have the flexibility to determine when group classes are conducted based on the needs and structure of their individual events. The committee therefore recommended removing the requirement that group classes be conducted at a specific point in the show schedule and allowing approved show management to schedule group classes at their discretion.

Craig Fontenot moved to allow approved show management the discretion to determine when group classes are conducted during their respective shows. Seconded by Natalie Herzog, motion carried.

Mr. Walters reported that the committee discussed exhibitor feedback regarding awards presented at the Houston International Show. Committee members reviewed the quality and cost of recent awards in comparison to those provided in previous years and discussed the Association's current financial limitations.

The committee expressed support for enhancing future awards but acknowledged that additional funding sources would be necessary. As a result, the committee discussed establishing fundraising efforts specifically designated for Show Committee projects and awards. Members

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noted the success of similar fundraising initiatives conducted by other committees and agreed to explore opportunities to generate additional revenue for future awards and other show-related projects.

Mr. Walters reported that the committee discussed requests from members to reintroduce some form of weights and measures program at ABBA events. Due to facility limitations, scheduling constraints, and logistical challenges, the committee determined that implementation at the Houston International Show is not feasible at this time.

The committee discussed several alternatives and ultimately recommended reintroducing weight collection at the National Brahman Show. Under the committee's recommendation, bulls and females would be weighed and weight-per-day-of-age data would be calculated and provided to the judge as well as made publicly available. The committee's proposal did not include disqualifications or weight parameters and was intended to serve as a data collection and educational initiative that could be expanded in future years.

Discussion followed regarding the committee's recommendation, implementation costs, and the potential value of restoring a more traditional weights and measures program. Directors noted that the estimated cost of scale rental, calibration, staffing, and data management would be approximately $5,000 and that any implementation would be contingent upon the Show Committee securing sufficient funding.

During discussion, Mike West proposed reinstating the original weights and measures program, including the previously established parameters, at the National Brahman Show. Mr. West stated that many members have expressed a desire to see the return of a more traditional weights and measures system and believed it would help promote greater uniformity and accountability within the show ring.

Additional discussion was held regarding the feasibility of implementation, funding requirements, and the differences between the committee's recommendation and the former weights and measures program.

During discussion, Mrs. Catherine Neumayr expressed support for the collection and publication of performance data, including weight-per-day-of-age information, as a means of promoting transparency, accountability, and breeder education. She noted that making such information available to judges, exhibitors, breeders, and the public could encourage greater consistency and confidence in the show ring while providing valuable information for evaluating cattle.

Mrs. Neumayr stated that she supported the use of performance data as an informational tool and encouraged the Association to consider additional objective measurements in the future. However, she expressed concern regarding the reinstatement of disqualifications or penalties tied to performance measurements. She noted that most breed associations utilize such data for educational and marketing purposes rather than as a basis for punitive action and cautioned against creating standards that differ significantly from those used by other major beef breed organizations.

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Additional discussion followed regarding the role of weights and measures in promoting fairness, addressing concerns related to over-aged cattle, and maintaining confidence in both the show ring and the breed's performance records.

Additional discussion was held regarding the practical implications of reinstating the former weights and measures program. Directors noted that the previous system relied upon multiple qualifying opportunities throughout the show season, including the Houston International Show, where exhibitors could regain eligibility if an animal was disqualified under the weights and measures parameters.

The Board was reminded that Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo no longer permits weights and measures activities for any breed association, eliminating the opportunity for exhibitors to requalify animals through a subsequent weights and measures event. As a result, implementation of the former program at only the National Brahman Show would mean that any animal disqualified under the established parameters could remain ineligible until reaching a division no longer subject to weights and measures requirements.

Several directors expressed concern that reinstating the former system under these circumstances could create unintended consequences for exhibitors and limit opportunities for participation.

Mike England moved to reinstate the original weights and measures program, utilizing the previously established parameters, at the National Brahman Show, contingent upon the Show Committee securing the funding necessary to implement the program. Seconded by O.W. Schneider.

Following a standing vote, the motion failed with six (6) directors voting in favor and fourteen (14) directors voting in opposition.

Following the failure of the motion to reinstate the original weights and measures program, discussion continued regarding alternative methods of collecting and utilizing performance data at the National Brahman Show.

Mrs. Catherine Neumayr reiterated her support for the collection and publication of objective performance data and emphasized the value of providing judges, exhibitors, breeders, and the public with additional information regarding exhibited cattle. Discussion centered on the use of weight-per-day-of-age data as an informational and educational tool rather than as a basis for disqualification.

Catherine Neumayr moved to weigh the first two divisions at the National Brahman Show, calculate a weight-per-day-of-age measurement for each animal, provide the information to the judge for consideration, and publish the data following the show. Seconded by Natalie Herzog.

Following a standing vote, the motion passed with twenty-two (22) directors voting in favor and one (1) director voting in opposition.

Mr. Walters reported that the committee discussed the potential creation of Show Sire and Show Dam awards to recognize sires and dams whose progeny accumulate the highest number of show points or Register of Renown points during a show year. Discussion was held regarding the

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accuracy and reliability of the data necessary to administer such a program. No motion was made, and no action was taken.

Mr. Walters further reported that the committee began discussion regarding the frequency of judge assignments and whether any modifications to current policies should be considered. Due to time constraints and the breadth of discussion, the committee did not complete its review of the topic and no recommendations were brought forward.

The committee also identified several additional topics for future consideration, including artificial filling of show animals and DNA parent verification requirements for show eligibility. No action was taken on these matters.

During Board discussion, questions were raised regarding judge eligibility, potential conflicts of interest, and the process by which approved shows receive judge recommendations. Directors discussed methods for improving communication with show management regarding judge eligibility requirements and the availability of approved judges. It was noted that additional discussion regarding these topics would occur through the Executive Committee and future policy reviews.

No action items resulted from these discussions.

Mrs. Melissa Bendy presented the Youth Committee report.

Mrs. Bendy reported that the Youth Committee met virtually on May 18, 2026, with seven of the nine committee members present, along with ABBA staff and guests.

The committee received an update regarding preparations for the 2026 All American. Due to scheduling conflicts with another event at the Brazos County Expo Complex, move-in procedures have been adjusted. To accommodate exhibitors traveling from outside the area, designated staging and parking arrangements are being developed to help facilitate a smoother move-in process.

An update was also provided regarding stalling and pen availability. The committee was informed that the grass pens utilized in previous years will not be available due to needed repairs. Staff continues to work with facility management to determine the final number of available pens before making them available for purchase. Once finalized, exhibitors will be able to reserve available pens through the Showman app.

The committee reviewed plans for exhibitor check-in, color classification, and Register of Renown inspections. Adjustments are being made to streamline these processes and improve efficiency during check-in.

Mrs. Bendy reported that the committee plans to reintroduce several traditions that have been requested by exhibitors and families, including the recognition of new members by state and the use of state flags during opening ceremonies.

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Committee members were assigned responsibilities for various contests and activities during the All American. Each committee member will work alongside a Junior Board member to assist with contest administration, supervision, and the reporting of results.

The committee also discussed future promotional and sponsorship opportunities designed to enhance the All American experience and increase participation. Additional information regarding these initiatives will be announced at a later date.

Mrs. Bendy noted that committee members have maintained strong communication and expressed a willingness to assist staff throughout the All American. She stated that the committee remains committed to providing a positive experience for exhibitors and families and is looking forward to a successful event.

During Board discussion, questions were raised regarding pen availability and tie-out space. Staff reported that efforts are underway to secure additional tie-out areas if needed and that final decisions remain dependent upon facility conditions and availability closer to the event.

No action items were presented for Board consideration.

Mr. Kelvin Moreno presented the International Committee report.

Mr. Moreno reported that the International Committee met virtually on May 19, 2026, immediately following the Show Committee meeting. A total of eight committee members and guests participated in the meeting.

The committee received an update regarding funding available through the United States Livestock Genetics Export (USLGE) program. Staff reported that ABBA was allocated $40,000 for international marketing and promotional activities for the current year. The committee discussed utilizing a portion of those funds to support international outreach efforts and ABBA's presence at the 2026 World Brahman Congress.

The committee reviewed the schedule of upcoming international events, exhibitions, and promotional trips. Members were informed that information regarding these events will continue to be distributed through the Association's international communications and email updates.

Discussion was also held regarding the Panama Summit, which is being planned as an international event to be held during the years between World Brahman Congresses. The committee was informed that Panama is expected to host the inaugural summit in 2027. Additional details will be shared with the membership as information becomes available.

Mr. Moreno highlighted the upcoming World Brahman Congress, which will be held in Merida, Mexico, in November 2026. The committee noted that the Congress will take place immediately following the National Brahman Show and is expected to be one of the most significant international events for the breed during the year.

The committee also discussed a proposal to recognize Champion Showmen at international events judged by ABBA-approved judges. Under the proposal, a banner bearing the ABBA logo

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would be presented to the Champion Showman as an additional form of recognition. The committee is currently reviewing design options and associated costs.

An update was provided regarding the International Committee's semen fundraiser conducted during the Houston International Sale. Through the generous donation of semen lots by breeders, the fundraiser generated significant support for the committee. As a result, the International Committee currently maintains approximately $38,300 in its designated account to support future international programs and activities.

No action items or recommendations requiring Board action were presented. The report was received for information only.

Mr. Jake Dixon presented the Marketing Committee report.

Mr. Dixon reported that the Marketing Committee met on May 20, 2026, with seven committee members and one guest in attendance. He noted that the committee has resumed active operations after a period of limited activity and has begun focusing on initiatives designed to strengthen the Association's presence within the commercial cattle industry.

A significant portion of the committee's discussion focused on the reinstatement of the Brahman Bucks Program. Mr. Dixon reported that the committee has allocated $3,600 within its budget to support the program through the remainder of the year. The program will provide awards at selected commercial sales and is intended to increase ABBA's visibility and presence among commercial producers. The committee plans to participate in at least six sales throughout the year, including events in Texas, Louisiana, and the Carolinas.

Mr. Dixon emphasized that the primary purpose of the program is not the monetary award itself, but rather the opportunity for the Association to engage directly with commercial producers and demonstrate ABBA's commitment to the commercial cattle sector. Committee members and directors were encouraged to attend sales and serve as representatives of the Association.

The committee also discussed expanding ABBA's marketing presence at livestock auction markets and other commercial venues. Mr. Dixon reported that staff is developing promotional materials that can be distributed throughout the Southeast and other regions to increase awareness of the Brahman breed and the advantages of Brahman-influenced cattle. The committee believes that increasing visibility in commercial marketing channels is critical to maintaining and growing demand for Brahman genetics.

Discussion was also held regarding opportunities to collaborate with other breed associations to promote breed complementarity and the benefits of crossbreeding programs utilizing Brahman genetics. The committee expressed support for efforts to educate commercial producers on the value of Brahman cattle in crossbreeding systems and F1 production programs.

The committee reviewed the Golden Certified F1 Program and discussed the importance of maintaining the value and credibility of the Golden Certified designation. Mr. Dixon expressed concern that the program's original purpose has become diluted as additional registration options

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have been introduced. The committee discussed the importance of maintaining accurate parentage information and preserving the distinction associated with Golden Certified cattle.

Members also discussed the potential development of an F1 selection index in the future. The committee noted that meaningful evaluation tools would require accurate parentage information and reliable performance data in order to provide value to producers.

The committee further expressed support for future carcass evaluation programs and performance-based initiatives that could strengthen the marketability of Brahman and Brahman-influenced cattle. Members noted that research, breed improvement, and marketing efforts are closely connected and that continued investment in performance data will enhance the breed's position within the beef industry.

No action items requiring Board approval were presented. The report was received for information only.

Mrs. Amy Wilder presented the Membership Committee report.

Mrs. Wilder reported that the Membership Committee met virtually during the committee meeting cycle; however, only three committee members were present. As a result, the committee did not have sufficient participation to conduct formal business and no action items were brought forward for Board consideration.

Despite the limited attendance, the committee reviewed membership activity and reported that thirty-four (34) new memberships were approved during the month of April. Mrs. Wilder noted that membership approvals continue to be processed on a monthly basis and remain an important component of the Association's membership onboarding process.

Mrs. Wilder encouraged directors and members to provide suggestions for projects, initiatives, or goals that the Membership Committee could pursue during the coming year. She expressed the committee's willingness to evaluate opportunities that would enhance member engagement, improve member services, and strengthen the overall value of ABBA membership.

Discussion was also held regarding the distribution of new member information to directors by geographic area. Staff reported that efforts are underway to organize membership data by district and area so that directors may receive updated information regarding new members within their respective regions. The information will be distributed through Board communications and other Association publications as the process is finalized.

During discussion, questions were raised regarding committee participation requirements and the ability of committees to conduct business when attendance is limited. No action was taken on the matter.

No action items or recommendations requiring Board approval were presented. The report was received for information only.

Mr. Jake Dixon presented the Constitution Committee report.

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Mr. Dixon reported that the Constitution Committee met to establish priorities and develop a framework for reviewing the Association's governing documents. He emphasized the committee's commitment to transparency throughout the process and stated that both Board members and the membership will be encouraged to provide input as proposed revisions are developed.

The committee discussed the importance of creating a clear and understandable review process. Mr. Dixon explained that future drafts will include redline versions identifying proposed changes, allowing directors and members to easily compare existing language with any recommended revisions. The committee's objective is to improve clarity, consistency, and transparency while preserving the intent of the Association's governing documents.

A significant portion of the discussion focused on identifying areas within the Constitution that may benefit from clarification. The committee expressed the belief that clearer language could reduce confusion, improve governance, and minimize the potential for disputes arising from differing interpretations of constitutional provisions.

The committee also discussed the distinction between constitutional provisions and Association rules. Members expressed support for maintaining separate governing documents for constitutional matters and operational rules, noting that combining the two could make future amendments and routine rule changes more difficult to administer.

As part of its information-gathering efforts, the committee conducted an informal straw poll of directors and members in attendance regarding the concept of reducing the size of the Board of Directors. Mr. Dixon emphasized that the poll was not a vote and was conducted solely to gauge preliminary interest and gather feedback. No formal proposal was presented, and no action was taken regarding Board composition.

The committee also discussed the possibility of improving the clarity of voting eligibility requirements by providing members with a more easily understood definition of an active voting member. As part of that discussion, members considered the concept of publishing an annual list of active voting members to provide greater transparency regarding voting eligibility.

Additional discussion focused on the process by which future constitutional amendments would be presented to the Board and membership. Committee members expressed support for presenting proposed amendments individually to allow each recommendation to be evaluated on its own merits rather than as part of a comprehensive package.

Mr. Dixon encouraged directors and members to provide comments, suggestions, and feedback as the committee continues its review process. He reiterated the committee's commitment to ensuring that all interested parties have an opportunity to be heard as proposed revisions are developed.

No action items or recommendations requiring Board approval were presented. The report was received for information only.

President David Miller presented the Executive Committee report.

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President Miller reported that the Executive Committee met to discuss several matters relating to show rule enforcement, compliance issues, and the Association's exposure to increasing legal liability associated with sanctioned shows.

A significant portion of the discussion focused on the current process for investigating and enforcing show rule violations occurring at ABBA-sanctioned shows. The Executive Committee reviewed the challenges associated with enforcing infractions at events where ABBA staff and representatives are not physically present and where show management is responsible for conducting check-in procedures, reviewing registration documents, verifying eligibility requirements, and administering the event.

The committee discussed the increasing administrative burden and legal costs associated with investigating complaints and enforcing show-related violations after events have concluded. Examples were reviewed where alleged show infractions resulted in legal disputes and significant expenses to the Association. The committee expressed concern regarding the Association's continued exposure to liability for actions occurring at independently managed events.

Discussion also included the history of prior revisions to the Show Rules, including efforts initiated several years ago to provide greater autonomy to approved show management while reducing direct Association involvement in show operations. The Executive Committee reviewed several alternatives and concluded that responsibility for investigating and enforcing show-related infractions should primarily rest with the management of the individual sanctioned show.

Under the proposed framework, the Show Committee would develop and distribute updated guidelines to sanctioned shows outlining expectations and procedures for conducting approved events. Show management would be responsible for enforcing those guidelines at their respective events. The Association would retain oversight authority through the sanctioning process and could take action against a show's sanctioned status if the show failed to follow the established guidelines.

Board members discussed examples involving registration eligibility, animal verification, health requirements, and other compliance matters. Several directors noted that show management is already responsible for reviewing registration papers, health certificates, class eligibility, and other requirements during the check-in process and therefore is in the best position to identify and address potential violations before cattle enter the show ring.

The Board also discussed the practical limitations of expecting ABBA staff to investigate and enforce infractions occurring at dozens of independently managed events across the country each year. Directors expressed support for clarifying responsibilities and improving accountability at the show level.

During discussion, Ms. Melissa Bendy asked how other breed associations handle the investigation and enforcement of show rule violations and whether their processes are similar to those currently utilized by ABBA.

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Mr. Paul Maulsby responded that practices vary significantly among breed associations. He explained that some associations maintain direct involvement in only a limited number of major shows and do not administer a point system for independently managed events, while others utilize systems that share certain similarities with ABBA's current structure.

Mr. Maulsby noted that livestock shows present unique challenges regardless of breed association and emphasized the importance of maintaining appropriate oversight, eligibility requirements, and registration standards. However, he stated that enforcing rules at events where Association staff are not present can be difficult, particularly when alleged violations are reported months after a show has concluded.

Mr. Maulsby further explained that sanctioned show status is a privilege and expressed support for establishing accountability measures for shows that fail to follow Association guidelines. He noted that under the current system, the responsibility for investigating and resolving many show-related complaints falls upon Association staff and leadership despite ABBA not being directly involved in the operation or management of the event.

The Board discussed the importance of balancing oversight, accountability, and risk management while continuing to support sanctioned shows and exhibitors.

Prior to the vote, President Miller reminded directors of the importance of maintaining professionalism and respect during Board deliberations. He noted that AJBA members and future leaders of the breed often observe Board meetings and emphasized the responsibility of directors to model constructive discussion and appropriate governance practices.

President Miller encouraged directors to openly discuss issues, vote according to their conscience and the interests of their constituents, and respect the outcome of the Board's decision-making process. He reiterated the importance of conducting Association business in a manner that reflects positively on the organization and its leadership.

Kelvin Moreno made a motion, furthermore of the process started more than two years ago regarding the shows, the investigation and enforcement of the ABBA guidelines applicable to sanctioned shows shall be delegated to the ABBA sanctioned shows. The Show Committee will provide these updated guidelines to the shows within 14 days. Seconded by Amy Wilder.

Following a standing vote, the motion carried with nineteen (19) directors voting in favor, three (3) directors voting in opposition, and one (1) abstention.

President Miller reported that the Executive Committee reviewed and deliberated on three complaints referred to the Executive Committee by the Show Committee. Following discussion, the Executive Committee voted on the matters and directed that formal notification letters be prepared and sent to the affected individuals.

President Miller stated that because the notification process had not yet been completed, details regarding the determinations and any resulting disciplinary actions would not be discussed publicly at this time. He indicated that additional information would be provided once all parties had been formally notified.

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During discussion, a question was raised regarding whether the Executive Committee's review included all individuals potentially involved in the reported matters. President Miller responded that the Executive Committee considered all issues and parties identified within the complaints that had been presented for review.

President Miller also reported that the Executive Committee discussed concerns regarding historical inaccuracies and corrections associated with Association records and publications. As a result, the Executive Committee directed Mr. Paul Maulsby to coordinate with Ms. Victoria Lambert of The Brahman Journal to obtain a list of requested corrections and begin evaluating those items for review.

Mr. Maulsby noted that any correction process would need to be coordinated with the Association's ongoing transition to the 701X registry platform and Digital Beef modernization efforts. He stated that the timing of any updates would depend upon system capabilities and implementation schedules but confirmed that he would work with Ms. Lambert to review the requested items.

President Miller concluded the Executive Committee Report by announcing the formation of a Long-Range Planning Committee. He expressed his support for the initiative and stated that the committee would help evaluate the future direction of the Association and breed across multiple areas of focus.

President Miller then recognized Dr. Joe Mask to present the Long-Range Planning Committee report. Dr. Mask explained that the committee was established to help identify long-term opportunities and challenges facing both the American Brahman Breeders Association and the Brahman breed.

Dr. Mask thanked President Miller for the opportunity to serve as facilitator of the committee and emphasized the importance of planning for the future rather than relying solely on past successes. He stated that the purpose of the committee is to evaluate the breed's position within the beef industry and develop recommendations that will support the long-term growth and sustainability of the Association.

Dr. Mask noted that the committee's focus will be on ensuring that decisions made today positively impact future generations of breeders. He emphasized the importance of considering the perspectives of current industry leaders, past leaders, young breeders, and future generations as part of the planning process.

The committee was intentionally structured to include representation from multiple segments of the industry, including former Association leadership, active industry participants, and younger breeders. Dr. Mask explained that his role would be to facilitate discussion, gather input, identify opportunities and challenges, and ultimately bring recommendations back to the Board of Directors for consideration.

Dr. Mask outlined several preliminary areas of focus for the committee, including: Breed advancement and genetic progress; Member engagement and retention; Youth leadership and

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development; Marketing and breed promotion; Strengthening domestic and international partnerships; and Strategic growth and long-term sustainability of the Association.

He emphasized the importance of continued progress in areas such as performance data, genomically enhanced EPDs, commercial acceptance, and the promotion of Brahman genetics within the broader beef industry.

Dr. Mask stated that the committee plans to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the Association through a SWOT analysis, identifying organizational strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Input will be sought from directors, members, and other stakeholders to help guide the committee's recommendations.

During discussion, directors and members provided suggestions regarding potential committee priorities. Topics raised included expanding opportunities for F1 cattle and exhibitors, increasing emphasis on carcass merit and commercial performance, promoting the value of Brahman genetics within crossbreeding systems, and identifying strategies to strengthen the breed's market share within the beef industry.

Dr. Mask also encouraged members to focus on promoting the breed in a positive manner and emphasized the importance of presenting a unified image of the Association and the Brahman breed to the cattle industry and the public.

The report was received for information only. No action was taken.

Mr. Paul Maulsby presented the Executive Vice President's Report.

Mr. Maulsby provided an update on several ongoing operational initiatives and industry partnerships affecting the Association.

He reported on continued discussions involving the merger of Zoetis and Neogen and explained that ABBA leadership has been actively engaged in conversations regarding the potential impact of those changes on DNA testing, genetic evaluation services, and laboratory operations utilized by the Association. Mr. Maulsby noted that the situation continues to evolve and that updates will be provided as additional information becomes available.

Mr. Maulsby also discussed ongoing efforts to strengthen the Association's performance and genetic evaluation programs. He acknowledged concerns that have been expressed regarding Brahman EPDs and performance data and emphasized the importance of utilizing objective performance information, genomically enhanced evaluations, and scientifically supported tools to strengthen the breed's position within the beef industry.

A significant portion of the report focused on the Association's continued collaboration with 701X following its acquisition of DigitalBeef. Mr. Maulsby reported that he recently attended a 701X Innovation Summit where registry modernization efforts and future software development plans were reviewed.

Mr. Maulsby explained that DigitalBeef, in its current form, will be phased out by the end of 2026 and replaced with a new registry platform developed by 701X. He reported that the

transition is not optional for participating breed associations, as future software development and support will occur exclusively within the new system.

The Board was informed that the new platform is being designed to provide improved functionality, modernized infrastructure, enhanced registry management tools, and greater long-term stability. Mr. Maulsby stated that extensive planning has been undertaken to ensure a smooth transition for both staff and members.

To facilitate implementation, the Association will begin staff training during the summer, followed by a testing and evaluation period involving selected users. The new and existing systems are expected to operate simultaneously for a transition period, allowing members and staff to become familiar with the new platform while maintaining access to existing records and functionality.

Mr. Maulsby further reported that many requested enhancements and software modifications within the existing Digital Beef system have been difficult to implement due to limitations within the aging software architecture. He explained that many issues currently experienced by members are expected to be addressed through the transition to the new platform and its updated programming structure.

Mr. Maulsby concluded his report by introducing Dr. Mark Allan, who would provide a detailed presentation regarding genetic evaluations, DNA technologies, laboratory partnerships, and opportunities for future breed improvement initiatives.

President Miller recognized Dr. Mark Allan to provide a presentation regarding DNA technology, genetic evaluations, and future opportunities for genetic improvement within the Brahman breed.

Dr. Allan discussed the three primary areas in which DNA technology impacts the Association and its members: parentage verification and herdbook integrity, genomic-enhanced expected progeny differences (EPDs), and long-term breed improvement. He explained the importance of DNA parentage verification in maintaining the accuracy and integrity of the herdbook and noted that the Association's current DNA verification program has significantly strengthened pedigree accuracy and confidence in registry records.

Dr. Allan reviewed the role of genomic-enhanced EPDs and explained how genomic information improves the accuracy of genetic predictions, particularly for young animals with limited or no progeny records. He emphasized that genomic data supplements, but does not replace, performance records and pedigree information, and that all three components are necessary for effective genetic evaluation.

The Board received an update regarding the recent merger between Zoetis and Neogen. Dr. Allan explained that while the long-term structure of the merged organizations remains under development, both entities continue to operate independently at this time. He noted that ABBA leadership is actively monitoring developments and evaluating potential opportunities resulting from the merger.

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Dr. Allan reviewed current DNA testing procedures and discussed sample collection methods, noting that tissue sampling units (TSUs) provide the most reliable and efficient method for DNA collection and processing. He further discussed the Association's genomic database and genetic evaluation infrastructure, explaining that DNA information currently exists across multiple providers and platforms and that not all historical genomic information has been incorporated into the Association's genomic evaluation system. He outlined the benefits of creating a centralized genomic database that would allow information from multiple DNA providers to be combined into a standardized format for use in future genetic evaluations.

Dr. Allan explained that a centralized genomic database would improve the accuracy of genomic-enhanced EPDs, increase the utilization of historical genomic information, enhance parentage verification capabilities, provide greater flexibility for future genetic evaluations, improve data management and research opportunities, and increase the value of genomic testing for Association members. He further noted that genomic-enhanced EPDs provide breeders with substantially more information regarding the genetic potential of young animals and can offer accuracy levels comparable to having multiple progeny records available before an animal produces offspring.

The presentation also highlighted opportunities for future breed improvement through increased data collection, genomic testing, and expanded use of performance information. Dr. Allan emphasized the importance of continued investment in data quality, genetic evaluation systems, and genomic technologies to maintain the competitiveness of the Brahman breed within the beef industry.

Following the presentation, Dr. Allan answered questions from directors regarding genomic testing, EPD accuracy, DNA technologies, parentage verification, and future genetic evaluation opportunities.

Following Dr. Allan's presentation, Mr. Rodney Roberson addressed the Board regarding the importance of advancing the Association's genomic evaluation program.

Mr. Roberson noted that many breeders have made significant financial investments in high-density DNA testing over the past several years with the expectation that the information would contribute to genomic-enhanced EPDs and breed improvement efforts. He expressed concern that much of the historical genomic information currently available has not been fully utilized within the Association's genetic evaluation system and emphasized the need to maximize the value of those investments for breeders.

Mr. Roberson further stated that advancing genomic-enhanced EPDs is essential to maintaining the relevance and competitiveness of the Brahman breed within the beef industry and aligning the Association with the genomic tools and technologies utilized by other major breed organizations.

During the research and breed improvement committee meeting Mike West moved that the American Brahman Breeders Association contract with Helical to provide the services necessary to advance the production and implementation of genomic-enhanced Brahman EPDs. The

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motion further affirmed the Board's support of the principles identified by the Research and Breed Improvement Committee and recognized the initiative as a priority for advancing the industry relevance of Brahman cattle.

During discussion, Mr. Maulsby advised the Board that implementation of the proposed program would require funding that is not currently included in the approved budget. Dr. Allan explained that the project would involve both initial setup costs and the transfer of historical genomic data into a centralized platform. The estimated one-time implementation cost was discussed as approximately $15,000.

Additional discussion was held regarding the value of historical DNA information, opportunities to incorporate previously collected genomic data into future evaluations, and the importance of providing breeders with greater value from their DNA testing investments. Directors also discussed potential opportunities for educational programs and producer outreach related to genomic technologies and breed improvement.

Following discussion of the motion regarding contracting with Helical, a roll call of directors present was conducted. The roll call confirmed the presence of twenty-one (21) directors and one (1) past president.

Iridiana Ibarra announced that a quorum was no longer present. With only twenty-one directors in attendance, the Board did not meet the quorum requirement necessary to conduct business.

Directors Present:

Jake Dixon
Joseph E Adams IV
Josefina Lecuna
Will Detering
Raymond Doreck
J'Boone Koonce
Catherine Neumayr
Steven E. Hudgins
Wes Schneider
O.W. Schneider
Michael England
Kathy Bailey
Amy Wilder
Natalie Herzog
David Miller
Kevin Whaley
Scott Weber
Bruce Van Meter
Jo Ann Manke
Salvador Baldizon
Billy Badilla

Past Presidents Present:

Mark Forgason

Due to the loss of quorum, no further substantive business was conducted. Consideration of the motion regarding contracting with Helical was postponed until the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

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