

# **Heartland Highland Cattle Association**

## **Board of Directors Special Meeting**

### **Wednesday, July 23, 2025**

The HHCA Board of Directors conducted a Special Board Meeting by phone on Wednesday, July 23, 2025. Those participating included Harold Ramey, President; Clint Deardorff, Chris Batz, Katherine Faulk, Sue Ellen Ferguson, Sue Dyke and Becky Semmler.

While we were waiting for everyone to join the meeting, Harold related that he contacted our insurance company to clarify our liability coverage. He found that the association is covered in addition to board members being covered individually. They also informed him that if we are sued, their attorneys will provide assistance.

Harold then asked Sue how her battle with AHCA was coming. She related that had hasn't heard anything.

Harold called the meeting to order at 7:10pm. He asked Becky to explain what we need to do.

Becky related that we need to approve more money to pay our lawyers for the AHCA issue. She did not have a solid number, but said she was going by the activity the lawyer has done over the last month. She commented that the bills seemed to add up in a hurry this last month. We need to decide if we just want to cover what we owe to date, or approve more for future work. She stated that she was informed by the lawyers that AHCA does not want to litigate. But that they want us to sign some kind of agreement. They are not sure yet what the agreement will entail, but the attorney thinks it will be limiting. The attorney is waiting for their reply to his letter. Becky related that this month's lawyer fees were \$6800. This included phone calls, letters, and talking to lawyers in Colorado in case we go to litigation. This alone was \$1500. If the case goes to litigation, we will need to hire a Colorado attorney.

JoEllen related that she wished we would have known in the beginning that we may need a Colorado attorney. It would have saved us time and money.

Becky went on to say that is worth it if it gets us out of this situation, lets AHCA know that we are not going to fold, and backs up our position. It is the cost of doing business. She related that she didn't think it would cost us this much, however. Currently, we owe the attorneys another \$5143. She then reviewed what we have paid so far and repeated that we can either approve on only pay what we owe, or can approve to put more in escrow. If we do not use it, we will get it back.

JoEllen then made a motion to approve another \$5200, then wait for another bill. Sue seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

Harold related that Jennifer is currently on vacation. He asked Becky to call her Monday and inform her to pay \$5200. Becky agreed.

Harold then reviewed that insurance information for those who were not on the line earlier.

Harold asked if anyone had any other questions. He went on to say that there are only a few places left in the registry information that we need to remove AHCA from. These should be easy to delete. He related that they are also going to take off the names of the Canadian association as well as Scotland, to avoid any possible conflict in the future. It will state "other associations," instead of naming them specifically.

Sue then asked if we would be done dealing with AHCA when we were done with this. She asked if they could come up with anything else.

Harold related that he told our lawyer that we don't want our name mentioned in any of their information either. Apparently, the letter from when we broke away from them is still on their website.

Sue related that she had a friend that just joined AHCA and the letter was included in the packet of information she received from them.

Clint added that this is defamation.

Harold then asked if there was anything else.

Chris made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sue seconded the motion. Ayes all. Meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Batz