Minutes of the Executive Meeting of the Sheep Veterinary Society

Zoom Meeting

Thursday 22 October 2020

The meeting convened at 19h30.

**Present**: Amanda Carson, Nick Hart, Rebecca Mearns, Rudolf Reichel, Tricia Sutton, Hazel Rice, Mark Thompson, Hannah Kenway, Rachel Forster, Amy Jennings, Shona Mouncey, Clare Phythian, Harriet Fuller

**Apologies**: Ed Hill, Phillipa Page, Liz Genever

**1. Welcome:** AC welcomed the new members/new roles, Rudolf Reichel, Rebecca Mearns, Shona Mouncey and Ed Hill specifically and everyone else dialled in.

**2. Minutes from AGM** (zoom meeting) were approved.

Proposed: AC Seconded: RR

**3. Actions from last meeting**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Action Point | Person Responsible | Completed |
| Inform FAVS members about September meeting | RG | Complete |
| Look at issues with conference costs | TS/MR/RG/AC | Take Forward |
| Nominate FAVS student rep for SVS committee. Amy will email Catherine Corbett – possibly someone called Rhys/Reece? | RG/AJ | ongoing |
| Put copies of old and proposed constitution on website | AC/HR | Complete |
| Circulate ideas for webinars | All | Ongoing for discussion at website webinar meeting |
| Contact BVA for more info about medicines group. There need to be a SVS rep on this group. NH will put MT’s name forward for this. | NH | ongoing |
| Send meeting link to RF | NH | Complete |
| Nominees for awards |  | Complete |
| New JVP/committee members |  | Complete |

**4. Matters arising**

Nominate FAVS student rep for SVS committee. Amy will email Catherine Corbett – possibly someone called Rhys/Reece?

Contact BVA for more info about medicines group. There need to be a SVS rep on this group. NH will put MT’s name forward for this.

**5. Specific items:**

**a) AGM – wash up update from Tricia on costs**

**Virtual Conference Balance sheet**

**Income. Costs**

Sponsorship Ceva and MSD. £800. Flock Health £880.

Speakers gifts £311.04.

Thank you flowers £77.90.

**Totals.**  £800. £1268.94

Cost of Conference to SVS £468.94

**b) Divisional Contact Information – attachment**

****

AC -Specific contacts/officer roles were discussed. Hazel will send previously completed version for updating

**a) Working Groups**

AC – Amanda asked for volunteers for the working groups and names were added.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Welfare | CPD | AMR | Parasitol & AHR | Surveillance & Future Farming | Conferences |
| Lead | Nick |  | Mark | Shona | Amy | Phillipa & Moyna |
| Member |  | Yoav | Claire | Sian Mitchell | Sue Tongue | Judith Charnley |
| Member |  | Rudolf | Shona |  | Nanja Verkuijl | Bev Hopkins |
| Member |  |  | Rachel |  | Heather |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | Nick |  |
|  | Red Tractor | PSGHS | RUMA | SCOPs | RHAWG | Antibiotic Guardians |
|  | Nick | Harriet | Fiona | Davina | Moyna | Rachel |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Need official updates from those attending meetings (Red Tractor etc.) Can then be added to a newsletter/feedback to members – quarterly report as key points. Can go out with mailing of proceedings due end of November. The new website will facilitate this too and should reach more than the YAHOO sheep group.

Some discussion of what new website can provide.

**c) Red Tractor – Livestock Collection centres, Livestock Markets approvals – Attachments Nick Hart to update**

NH - Over last 6 months been involved with reviewing and amending beef and lamb flock health standards. Finished last week, now going out for consultation and further actions then come into action October 2021. Stricter requirements and more responsibility for vets involved. Red tractor planning a webinar over next months on this topic. Discussion if health plans will require stricter auditing/quality control.

SM mentions that farmers tend to ring vets the day before inspection is due and then vets don’t have time to check everything properly. NH – may need to be more pro-active to arrange these meetings/checks in advance.

NH -Standards for markets and collection areas also being reviewed. RM – housing in these standards don’t mention what should happen to lambs born at these places. NH – lambs born at these facilities represent an offence. NH offered to send the standards to anyone who wants to read it.

NH – Important issue to flag: Change to Red Tractor standards that it is no longer acceptable to kill/euthanize baby or neonatal piglets with a blunt instrument. But Red Tractor don’t currently want to change it for lambs. These questions may be asked of us – can we answer why it is allowed for lambs? Need to find the right words – NH will lead on this.

Perceived poor performance from vets and their role were discussed.

**d) Export Health certification and OV training (attachment) VPHA export certification – Nick Hart to update**

NH -Provided an update. Huge requirement for EHCs. 350 OV vets short to sign off these certificates. Opportunity for PVSs and take note that government money made available for training. This certification involves any product for export containing any animal origin –i.e. pizzas.

MT – Where will these vets be geographically required? NH -Wherever the product is produced.

AC – Standards not yet certain, especially when we get third country status.

MT – Requires time to “bed in” with the specific requirements of a specific product or factory, so will not necessarily be covered by the generic training from the government.

NH- We need to flag this to SVS veterinary members and ask vets to sign up to the training

**e) Register of Sheep Advisors (attachment)**

AC- mentions document sent round. Not sure if relevant to all members. NH has received it, and thinks it has been developed by NSA on the back of the pathway. The register was discussed and if private vets will see it as beneficial to join. AC – do we need to respond officially/formally? RM – to write a basic response to this letter/email and circulate for comment.

**f) SHAWG conference**

AC - Raise awareness that it is in November. We have been offered a bronze membership. It is free of charge. Details have been circulated via yahoo group and on website

**g) Sheep Scab Tender – England**

AC – Has gone live. To investigate hotspots and looking for groups of farmers to come together to come up with plans to control it in their area. Some interest shown already.

**h) PSGHS – Harriet Fuller**

HF – Provided an update. Notes have been circulated.



Mentioned Scrapie Monitoring Scheme**. See update notes.** In many cases famers have collected own samples and sent to non-registered labs, which are in breach of the scheme. This has been flagged. From end of year will only be accepted from UK approved labs.

MV scheme mentioned.

Discussion on how well some of the other sheep and goat schemes (I.e. Proposal for OPA) are managed and are they fit for purpose? May need some quality checks or regulation. Will need more detail on these schemes and then we at SVS need to consider if there are problems and or how to address this. AP- Amanda will talk to Tim Brigstocke (Chair of CHECHS) re this. Amy will keep us updated on what happens in Scotland re these schemes.

Harriet and Rebecca– Standards for these schemes may need more structured control? Nick – These schemes do encourage farmers to do more testing

**i) Conference planning – convene separate teleconference?**

AC – suggest as a separate teleconference. Will ask Philippa to set up another ZOOM meeting for this and what to plan/do for Cheltenham meeting and how to make conferences profitable

**j) Website & webinars – convene separate group for teleconference?**

AC – convene separate teleconference for this. Webinar Vet want a group of 5 webinars. They will host the meeting and we provide speakers and material. We have provided some in the past – need updating

**Interested people – Amy Jennings. Hazel. Harriet, Rudolf**

**6. Any other business**

**Sheep Vet Map Overseas members can be added**

AC – Bristol FAVS group. They want speakers. Rose may be able to help out. Not sure what exactly is required. No timetable provided. List of topics was provided. May consider those and then match speakers to topics.

NH – Sheep pathway. Progressing. Will have to be linked with new proposed environmental land management scheme? This should get a vet on a sheep farm once a year. A lot of detail and difficult to see how it will work in the real world. AC – different animal tracking systems in England, Wales and Scotland will/may add to the problem.

**Date of next meeting** – to be decided, but likely in the New Year.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 21h15

R Reichel, Honorary Secretary

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Actions Arising** |  |  |
| Look at issues with conference costs | TS/MR/RG/AC | Take Forward |
| Nominate FAVS student rep for SVS committee. Amy will email Catherine Corbett – possibly someone called Rhys/Reece? | RG/AJ |  |
| Provide ideas for webinars | All | Ongoing |
| Contact BVA for more info about medicines group. There need to be a SVS rep on this group. NH will put MT’s name forward for this. | NH |  |
| Add feedback/quarterly report from meetings with Red Tractor, Ruma etc. to the next Members’ newsletter due out end of November | AC |  |
| Find the correct words to explain why it is still deemed acceptable to kill neonatal lambs with a blow to the head with a blunt instrument. | NH |  |
| NH- We need to flag the EHC requirements (Brexit) to SVS veterinary members and ask vets to sign up to the government training.  Draft item to go on website/yahoo group | NH |  |
| Organise zoom meeting for Conference planning | PP |  |
| Organise telecom/zoom meeting for Website and Webinars | AC/HR/AJ/RR |  |
| Register of sheep advisors email - to write basic response to this letter that sheep vets don’t feel it is for them as they already have their own standards and specialist memberships | RM |  |
| Quality checks on existing health schemes for specific disease. Amanda will talk to Tim Brigstocke re this. Amy will keep us updated on what happens in Scotland re these schemes. | AC/AJ |  |