Draft minutes of the ICAR Board meeting (Berlin, Germany, 18th May 2014)

Under the Chairmanship of Uffe Lauritsen, President of ICAR, the ICAR Board held its meeting on 18 May 2014 at premises of the Berlin Convention Centre, Berlin, Germany.

Hans Wilmink and Jay Mattison (Vice-Presidents), Marco Winters (Secretary), Pierre-Louis Gastinel (Treasurer) and Reinhard Reents, Kaivo Ilves, Bevin Harris and Japie van der Westhuizen (Members of the Board) were in attendance. Josef Kucera and Neil Petreny, ICAR Inspectors, participated in the meeting. Apologies were received from Badi Besbes and Clara Diaz. The Meeting was attended by Andrea Rosati (Secretary General) and members of the ICAR Secretariat: (Elena Couto, Juhani Maki-Hokkonen, Charl Hunlun, Brian Wickham, Cesare Mosconi and Milan Zjalic).

1. Call to Order

Uffe Lauritsen, President of ICAR, called the meeting to order and proposed the agenda.

Motion: It was duly moved, seconded and carried that the agenda is approved as proposed.

2. Approval of the minutes of the Board meeting of February 27th

Uffe Lauritsen, President of ICAR, noting that the draft minutes were circulated to all members and corrected, proposed that the minutes be approved as submitted.

Motion: It was duly moved, seconded and carried that minutes of the Board meeting held 27 and 28 February 2014 are approved.

3. President's report on activities since Aarhus for General Assembly

The Board took note of the President's report to be presented to the General Assembly and suggested changes related to the accreditation of laboratories for parentage verification, exact name of technical bodies and some editorial suggestions.

4. Updating financial situation and membership fee situation

Andrea Rosati presented the report on financial situation, membership fee situation and the projections for 2015 budget.

The Board confirmed its decision related to the distribution of the part of the staff time and salaries between ICAR and Service-ICAR in 2014 and to introduce a new budgetary line "Expenses related to the implementation of the Future ICAR plan". The draft budget 2015 to be presented to the General Assembly would be modified accordingly.

The Board noted with satisfaction that up to April 2014 two thirds of ICAR Members have paid their membership fees for the current year. It requested the Secretariat to pursue contacts with Members having arrears from previous two years.

5. Administrative matters (ICAR/EAAP agreement)

Uffe Lauritsen summarised the development in the negotiations between ICAR and EAAP related to the new agreement on cooperation between the two organizations.

The Board appointed Jay Mattison, Marco Winters and Hans Wilmink to meet with EAAP representatives by the end of June 2014 and to conclude the negotiations.

6. Follow-up of Strategic Plan (Future ICAR)

Hans Wilmink informed that there were two conference call meetings and that a progress report prepared by Brian Wickham has been distributed to members of the Board. The content of the Future ICAR would be presented at the forthcoming session. Job description of CEO would be prepared in the coming months.

7. Review documents for General Assembly

7.1 Draft agenda

The Board agreed to the proposal made by Pierre-Louis Gastinel to amend the draft agenda with the information by the Treasurer on the new membership fee structure.

Motion: it was duly moved, seconded and carried that the draft agenda of the General Assembly be approved as amended.

7.2 Financial statement and inspector's report

The financial statement approved by the Board at the February 2014 meeting would be submitted to the General Assembly for the approval.

7.3 Draft budget 2015 and proposal 2016

The Draft budget 2015 and proposal 2016 approved by the Board would be submitted to the General Assembly for the approval.

7.4 Election new Board members

The Board took note that Kaivo Ilves and Jay Mattison were eligible for the renewal of membership in the Board and that there were three candidates for vacant posts in the Board. The proposed candidates will be submitted to the General Assembly for decision.

Uffe Lauritsen informed that he had received an information from Clara Diaz that she would resign from the Board, but did not send a written confirmation.

Andrea Rosati informed that AIA – the Italian member of ICAR – had sent a letter proposing Luca Buttazzoni as a member of the ICAR Board.

The Board decided to take up this matter at one of the future meeting if and when the official resignation from Clara Diaz has been received.

7.5 Approval of new guidelines

The Board agreed that the President should invite delegates to vote for proposed guidelines in view that all proposals were placed on the web site for comments.

7.6 Situation membership CoQ and Awards

The Board agreed that the President would read names of Members that were accorded the Certificate of Quality and invite their representatives to stand up. Certificates will be distributed by the Secretariat after the General Assembly.

The President would also read names of awardees while awards would be delivered at the meetings of related Sub-Committees and Working Groups.

8. Matters arising from SCs, WGs and TFs

8.1 ID workshops (Moscow and South Africa)

Andrea Rosati presented the program of the Moscow workshop on animal identification to be held 26 - 27 June 2014. ICAR would provide two invited speakers – A. Rosati and a person to represent Kaivo Ilves.

Japi van der Westhuizen informed that the planned FAO – ICAR workshop would be held in the period March - April 2015. He proposed that the meeting of the Board be held in South Africa at the same time to have some members of the Board as speakers at the workshop.

8.2 Animal Welfare

The Board invited Pierre-Louis Gastinel to remain in the position of the chairman of the Animal Welfare Recording WG till the nomination of the new chairperson.

8.3 Others

Brian Wickham informed on salient points related to activities of the ICAR technical bodies:

- Task Force Breed Associations would meet during the current Biennial Session to discuss ICAR programs identified by breed associations on the basis of an ICAR survey. A report of the meeting would be submitted to the next meeting of the ICAR Board.
- Accuracy Task Force – the scope of the Task Force and its terms of reference would be presented at the meeting of the Task Force Breed Associations.
- Board members were invited to attend meetings of Working Groups and to improve communication with chairpersons of the Working Groups; however, it would be necessary to look into timing of meetings which are held all simultaneously.
- Potential new activities include:
    - the establishment of a WG or TF to develop guidelines on recording of methane emission;
    - development of guidelines for recording of dry matter;
    - the establishment of a WG or TF on swamp buffalo;
    - continuation of cooperation with ISAG on SNP for parentage recording and genomic selection;
    - Linguistic editing of ICAR Guidelines.

9. Future meetings

Andrea Rosati presented information on the state of preparations for meetings in Krakow, Poland in 2015 and in Osorno, Chile in 2016. During the forthcoming General Assembly Members of ICAR would be invited to propose the venue of the meeting to be held in 2017.

10. Other Business

Reinhard Reents presented information related to the current Biennial Session and activities of INTERBULL.

There were over 600 participants registered for the current Biennial Session including 100 participants for the IDF Analytical Week and over 200 participants at the INTERBULL workshop.

He then referred to the genomic selection and informed that the GMACE could be implemented on the routine base. A set of SNPs was identified as a base for parentage verification which would help to avoid duplication of costs and work also to the benefit of the breed federations.

With regard to actions undertaken in the INTERBULL Centre he informed that a vacant post has been advertised and that the Centre is negotiating the overheads with SLU.

INTERBULL has organised a meeting during the current Biennial session with representatives of EU and national genetic evaluation organizations on the new EU regulation for animal breeding.

R. Reents was requested to submit to the next meeting of the Board a business plan and the budget for the project on the establishment of gene data repository.

11. Adjourn

Uffe Lauritsen thanked all members of the Board for their support and cooperation during the past four years and adjourned the meeting.