

BOARD ACTION

The American Hereford Association (AHA) Board of Directors met in Kansas City, Mo., Oct. 30. The following are highlights of the meeting:

Audited financials

The Board approved the audited AHA corporate financial report presented by Kennedy & Coe LLC. A copy of the financials was printed in the November *Hereford World*.

Election of officers

The AHA Board elected Bob Harrell, Baker City, Ore., as the 2009-2010 AHA president. John Woolfolk, Jackson, Tenn., was elected vice president. Craig Huffhines and Leslie Mathews were elected executive vice president and treasurer, respectively.

Land acquisition

The Kansas City Planning Commission continues to discuss the prospects of a downtown convention hotel. The AHA headquarters property has been named one of two prospective sites for the proposed hotel. The unknown issue of whether or not the AHA downtown property will be purchased during a down economic period remains.

Therefore the Board voted to empower staff to continue negotiations with the developer on the Sea Biscuit Park property near the Kansas City International Airport that AHA has had under contract for three years. Closing on the five-acre tract within Sea Biscuit Park has been delayed because of the development project stalling out during these tough economic conditions.

A new development partner has been identified that will have the wherewithal to see the project through completion. The Board is discussing options with the new development partner to determine how to proceed with a contract extension.

Breed improvement

The breed improvement committee hosted a technology-planning meeting at the Hilton President Kansas City where geneticists from U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Kansas State University and business developers from Pfizer Animal Genetics and Igenity were invited to report on the state of the industry. As a result of that meeting, the Board approved the recommendations of the breed improvement committee to:

- 1) Investigate the feasibility of developing a repository for Hereford DNA storage for future research.
- 2) Work diligently to identify the most critical economically relevant traits to conduct genomics research in an effort to discover gene markers that can be used to improve the current genetic evaluation and determine with whom and how a genotype database might be structured and managed.
- 3) Utilize all available populations of Hereford information with DNA samples including USDA 2,000 Bull Project, with more than 400 Hereford bulls included, NBCEC Consortium weight trait research, with more than 1,000 head of Hereford calves, and various feed intake studies that AHA has been involved in.
- 4) Work toward a program for collecting DNA samples on any sire that has a calf registered to him for storage for potential use of discovery or validation of future genomic technology.

Staff was also instructed to continue to move forward on research to properly characterize and implement heifer calving rate and cow survivability data derived from whole herd reporting.

NJHA activities

The AHA Board approved the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) board's recommendation to change the organization's bylaws that would change the age eligibility for becoming a board member to a minimum of 17 years of age and not older than 20 years of age as of July 1 in the year the individual is to be elected.

In addition, the AHA Board approved the recommended amendment to change NJHA regional representation requiring at least one director to be elected in each of the four regional quadrants and no more than four director representatives in any one quadrant.

The Junior National Hereford Expo judge recommendations were reviewed by the Board and approved. Announcement of those appointments will be forthcoming upon the individuals' acceptance. **HW**