

31. **ATTENDANCE**

Present: Alam Dastani (chairman), John Howe, Noni Seagrim, Tony Warren, Jolene Cole, Neil Clarkson, April Newman, Kim Stephens, Andrew Jonkers, Kylie Jonkers, Kerry Fowler-Smith, Belinda Hopley

April said she can only stay until 9.30. AERA meeting was last night.

In attendance: Helen Rich (Minutes),

32. **Conflicts of Interest declaration.**

None declared at this stage.

33. **Acceptance of minutes of meeting.**

General and New Business

34. **Appointment of Vice President, Secretary, Public Officer**

Alam said we had resignations of people that we need to replace. To move forward we need a secretary and public officer and we need to change the bank accounts.

(a) **Vice President / Child Protection Officer**

Alam called for nominations.

Neil nominated Andrew.

Belinda asked wouldn't we go with the second nomination from the AGM.

Some discussion then took place on whether to proceed with next in line from the AGM or take nominations. This would mean Kylie for the position of vice president. Eventually it was agreed that we would go with the AGM criteria. Kylie was asked if she would be willing to take on the position. She said she is happy to be the vice president but she would like to keep the ride calendar portfolio, so if everyone is happy for her to keep her portfolio she is happy to take on the vice president as well. Alam said this is out of the question for the moment. Portfolios are still to be decided. After a check with everyone present, it was agreed that Kylie Jonkers will become the vice president of the NSW ERA.

(b) **Secretary**

Noni was the next in line going on the above criteria. Noni said she is willing to take the position of secretary on. Unanimous support for Noni Seagrim and she was duly elected secretary.

(c) **Public Officer**

Kerry – said she is going to put a motion that the public officer effective from 24/02 is to be Noni Seagrim and Noni is authorized to submit that public form to the department of Fair Trading. No motion was put but the unanimous decision is that Noni Seagrim be the public officer.

Question from Kim on the form A12 - T2. Kerry asked John about this form. Not submitted but we have to redo it again. You do not require any financials to go with it. John said it just required a fee.

Kerry said it is more than 30 days from the AGM so we will cop late fees on that. John said he will put the form in in the morning. He will pay it himself and send the bill onto Kim for reimbursement.

35. **Change of bank signatories**

Alam said he sent an email regarding this. The best way to do this is find someone who is willing to be a signatory. At the local branch it is a massive drama. He spoke to John who said everything is there. Alam went to more than one branch of the bank, very difficult, no this is wrong, that is wrong. Running around in circles with CBA. That's why he suggests Neil providing he is happy then we can quickly get the signatures done. Does anyone object to Neil being a signatory to the bank account?

Noni – just had a thought. Nothing against Neil, but we do not know what his Zone delegate position is? Neil are you sure you are locked in for the moment? Neil said he could resign if this rubbish continues so he will be out of here anyway. There is a Zone 2 meeting in April. The Zone 2 election was a bit of a mess. Couldn't hear the meeting. Formed a quorum to elect a committee with Neil as President, Brad Jones as vice president and John Howe as treasurer. Also on the committee are Peter Bonham and Shelly Jones is the secretary. Only temporary until the April meeting. John said he couldn't see any reason for Neil to come off that committee; the only reason would be if he chooses to come off. Neil is in the role as long as he wishes.

Tony: I was just having the same thought as Noni. Think there was a post going around. There was another person nominated. Pretty sure that someone else was put up and if that person challenges again, then Neil may not be Zone delegate. Neil said that person was Shelly Jones and she is not interested. Neil is happy not to be the delegate. Only trying to help. John said he would like Neil to help him at this time.

Andrew: It was said at the AGM that zone delegates were not to be part of the executive. By that, and no offence to Neil, are we in contradiction by making a zone delegate a signatory on our bank account.

Alam: The only reason was Neil suggested was to save time with the CBA. Because of the locality. That does not mean he has any authority as an executive or anything else. All he is doing is pressing a button. He is not a part of the executive. There is nothing being contradicted here. This is a question for you all.

Bel: we require two signatures I believe and we have to give directions so she does not see a problem with Kim or Neil – they are directed by the SMC. The other person is just a signatory. Probably not a bad idea as it could be seen as having someone not on the executive taking this on. She has no problem with it.

Alam: why don't we just nominate someone who is not an elected member of the SMC. John said it is two to sign. Alam could just do all the approvals. We have a third just in case one of the other two are not available. That's why we have the third person who can step in if someone is away or just not available. Kim and Kerry are doing everything, merely swap it around so that Alam and John are doing it. Essentially we do not need to have a third person.

Kerry: What's happening at the moment, Kim and Kerry are the signatories with Tony. Kim sets up the authorisation, executive approved and Kerry hits approval on the COMbiz. The third person is just in case one of the other two isn't available at the time.

Noni: Tony would you be willing to do it? Tony happy to do it. Tony already a signatory. Will not be in Mudgee for the next two weeks. He can organise something and if necessary he could get there. John: when there is a change over with the signatures everything has to change over completely. Jacky Barlow had to have her signature reconfirmed last time.

John said we need the minutes from tonight's meeting. Neil said he is happy for Tony to do it so can we please move on.

Kim: Tony is already there as a signatory and she could give him the dongle and password. She could give him this on the weekend. Alam: said we all get a new dongle on the changeover.

MOVED Neil Clarkson, Belinda Hopley
THAT the signatories to CBA bank account of the NSW Endurance Riders Association will be:
Alamdar Dastani, John Anthony Howe and Anthony Charles Warren. Jacqueline Barlow to operate the Society Cheque Account and have view only access to all other Commonwealth Bank Accounts of the Association.
Carried Unanimous

36. TQ Agreement signing

Alam said this agreement needs to be signed. Sonia from the Tooraweenah committee said they have everything under control. The only issue was camping and John has sorted this. Can we please sign this document now? With all the stuff happened on Monday it was not done and if not concreted it will be a problem. John said he spoke to Peter Bonham, they had \$13,000 – they have since obtained three \$5000 sponsorship deals so they are in the black. \$1,000 of grass roots going to the Tooraweenah club as well.

Tony said this agreement needs to be signed because we will be in trouble if it isn't. Held off due to the budgeting of Tooraweenah, worried about their budget but we cannot avoid signing this, it just needs to be done and we need to help them. Just a little bit worried that it's the members' money that may be needed to prop up the event if anything goes wrong.

Belinda – could John provide a very detailed report for the next meeting so that we know what's happening moving forward? Alam – Kylie is on that committee as well. This has been discussed and it looks promising and good. They have prepared another budget. It's all under control.

Noted at the meeting it was decided Sonia will attend every SMC meeting moving forward. Are there minutes from the last TQ22 meeting? Alam said he has no idea about the minutes. Alam has notes from that meeting but no minutes.

MOVED John Howe, Andrew Jonkers.
THAT we immediately sign the TQ 22 final Agreement .
Carried Unanimous.

Alam said he will sign it right now. Send the form to John so he can sign as the NSW Representative.

37. Appointment of National Vet Panel representative (NVP meeting on the 31.3.22)

Mark Dunn sent an email on this. We need to appoint a vet before 31 March. Kerry: Is this for the vet panel? Alam said yes, it is. Kerry said normally we just appoint someone so that we can make sure we have the right person on the vet panel. She does not think we need to ask. She suggests Darien Feary.

Noni: Don't we have two representatives on the NVP. Thinks one is Darien. Some thought it was Matthew.

Alam asked that we sort this tomorrow by email. Kerry said let's see who is on the NVP. If Darien is not there Kerry wants to nominate her now. John suggested Emily Streckfuss. Belinda suggested Chris Dowey. He does quite a bit of vetting and he is a good riders' vet. Alam nominated Emily as well.

Kerry suggested: Darien, Emily and Chris in that order. **Resolved:** All in favour. We need to check that they are prepared to do this. Noni to email tomorrow.

38. Sarah Pollard-Williams vet accreditation application

Email went around where Sarah was seeking accreditation. In the forms she said she has done her three line vet rides, Windeyer, Tumbaramba and Eldorado. Completed the online accreditation course and all is good. Noni asked if anyone would like to see the form before final approval if so she can send it around. No disagreement so send the application on.

39. Appointment of NSWERA Chief Steward & Vet for TQ 2022 (secretary to call for EOIs)

Alam said we need an expression of interest, needs to be done ASAP. For chief steward, John has nominated. John needs to sign the paper. Noni said we have to put it out to everyone. Alam said he is just saying he has one nomination, that's all. John had to follow up vets and chief stewards. Please get the forms out for expressions of interest. Applications to close two weeks from now.

40. Affirmation of appointment of Belinda to AERA MC Vacancy affirmation of appointment of Bev Turner to AERA Delegate vacancy.

Alam: with the CS and vets, do they have need to have done a Quilty or would having done a 160 be sufficient?

Belinda said usually we ask everybody and they are asked what their experience is and what they can bring to the ride. If they were a novice we might not necessarily take them. Really depends on experience. Need to have experience of VGH as well.

Kerry: what we usually do is throw it out to all the CSs for 100 word rationale of what they have done. With vets we pick out three vets and we contact them in order until we find someone who wants to do it. Only ask for expressions of interest for the CS.

Tony: Suggests we go with the usual practice. Anyone can put up a name of a vet if they wish to. Open tender for chief stewards. Alam said we will go with that.

Noni to contact Matthew to see who is already on the panel. Kylie read out the names of various vets. Matthew Walker, Nadine Allen, Victorian vet Kym Hagon, Georgia Ladmore, Tim Cooley. Current as at December. Alam said he has Chief steward Tom McCormack, Mary Lou Locke.

Belinda: We need to look at vets to see if they are accredited. Belinda will check accreditation so we know who to look for. Needs to be updated for the newsletter anyway. Noni to speak to Matthew Walker.

Alam: Are you happy for Belinda to continue on the AERA? Noni commented on this too and asked if everyone was happy? No one said they were unhappy. Both appointments confirmed including Bev Turner.

41. Public announcement to thank Helen for Newsletter appointment of Ellen & Jax

Alam: need to send those letters. Alam would like to thank Helen on behalf of the SMC for the time and effort she has put into the newsletter. He asked if anybody else wants to say a few words. Other members made various comments at this time.

Noni to write up a statement and send it around for a new approval. Announce the appointment of Ellen and Jax. Belinda: offered Helen a vest but she declined.

Kerry: Newsletter. Couple of calls from people who want to send in ride reviews etc. Can we have contact details and introduce Ellen to the members and give out her contact details. Noni to follow up on this. Ellen sent a message to Ian who sent a reply. Also details of new secretary etc. to be put on line please. Update on social media.

42. Correspondence table

<u>OUT</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>IN</u>	<u>Status</u>
Letter to C. McKell	Done 22.3	Letter from Elringtons	Unacknowledged
Letter to B. Hopley	Done 23.3	Letter from Mullins	Unacknowledged
Nomination B. Hopley to AERA MC & B. Turner to AERA Delegate to AERA	Done 23.3	Letter from Zone One	Need a reply?
Letter to J. Barlow	Not done	Letter from B. Swan	Acknowledged
Letter to H. Rich	Not done. Noni asked to do this	AERA re appointment of NVP rep	Awaiting advice
Letter to E. Dunger			
AGM Minutes and 2021 Financials to AERA			

Endorsement of S.Pollard-Williams to AERA for accreditation			
NVP rep to AERA			
TQ CS & Vet EOIs			

Alam: We need to talk about the resignations statement to go on social media. Need to change some of the wording. Let's talk for 10 minutes please.

Andrew: Likes the second draft. Votes that it go as is. Says exactly what went on. The best way to do it. We would be punished for making things look nice and look pretty. Members want to know everything straight up. This is a straight up announcement.

Ian agrees with Andrew. Need to tell the truth. Leave the letter as it is. At the end of the day this is what happened.

Jolene – need to be up front. Our members are smart and they will question it if we are not straight up.

Alam – thanks to every members who made suggestions for the writing of this notice. It was tough for Alam. On the same draft where it says that second last paragraph NSW SMC have met and appointed the following: need to discuss the appointment of members to fill casual vacancies, something along those lines. **Resolved** to put the notice up on line. Alam asked if this could be done tonight. Noni said yes.

Kylie: So we are using the last draft that Noni sent out? Noni read the draft out to the meeting.

"NSW ERA state management committee have received resignations etc. ... despite a long meeting to reconcile differences ..." (Not fully reproduced here).

Noni: suggests we bring names back to our next meeting for invites to join the SMC. Call for nominations from the members. Costing – less than \$100 to do electronic vote from the entire membership. Look into it and discuss at the next meeting. Neil suggested we wait a week and see what happens.

Alam: if we can avoid having a special meeting until after the Quilty that would be best. If it comes before, could be a problem. Neil said if they say X days we have no choice. Round the table count – all happy with the proposal as listed. Noni put this on FB please.

Letters to go out for awarding of the tenders. All three tenders. Letter from lawyers from Noni. Noni could write to her lawyers or should Alam write. Yes, Alam, you as the president should write to Noni's solicitors.

Letter from Mullins on behalf of Kerry. Kerry will take care of this. No need for Alam to write. But Kerry doesn't mind if you acknowledge it or not.

Kylie – legally thinks the letters should be acknowledged. Neil agrees with Kylie.

Resolved Acknowledge the lawyer letters.

Letter from Zone One.

What to do with this one? Kerry: Thinks the SMC need to acknowledge this letter and she thinks we need to respond. Kerry declares a conflict of interest from now on. The Association needs to respond to Zone One, not just an acknowledgment.

Alam: it's tricky what to write. What Brian and Charlie say is this matter is done.

Noni: Conflict of interest declared. Would it be worthwhile writing that we consider the case closed.

John: From the meeting on Monday – felt Zone One said the matter is now resolved, it's now finished. Write as per instructions from your delegates at the meeting, came to a consensus that the matter is finished. Happy with the outcome. Nice simple sort of a letter. John offered to write to Zone One tomorrow and he can send it around to find something that everyone is happy with. John's offer was accepted.

Kerry requested that Alam read a confidential document to the meeting which he cannot locate at this particular time. Cannot send it around as it is 'in confidence'.

Neil said he started receiving phone calls about the meeting the other night. How do we answer? People are asking why did the new people resign. Not totally correct, two are still there. Neil still there and so is Jolene. How do we reply in a uniform manner? Alam said Ian said he doesn't really want anybody to know that anything dirty happened. He just wants to say, he just can't do it. From Brian's side, he cannot give us the time. Brian's was personal, doesn't have time. We have to go on what they wrote in their resignations. Charlie: from Zone One, who just went ok, I'm going overseas. He was going to resign anyway. Another personal ground. This is Alam's feeling. Then we have Scott who left because of what was happening. He didn't think it was right what was happening. He left for irreconcilable differences as did Ian. Two left for personal reasons and two on irreconcilable differences. What do the rest of you think?

Neil: it was the most horrible meeting I've ever had and it was a sad meeting and some stuff happened, unfortunately it happens. That meeting was in camera. Information is out there. Getting phone calls. Trying to be honest with everyone.

Alam: differences seemed to getting sorted and coming back and then it was lost again. Then coming back and then lost again.

Belinda: we just answer according to that statement (cannot hear most of her comments). Lot of angst, frustration and anger. Differences that could not be reconciled. Just say it as it is. Stick to the statement given out. This should be enough.

Alam: unfortunately after a long meeting ... two people left because of ... and two people left because of ...

Alam: went around the table to ask for opinions on this issue.

Andrew: The statement should answer a lot of the questions. LERC meeting last night and it is out there. We just have to answer it truthfully. Our statement is the SMCs answer. Just couldn't get on. Just wouldn't work. This will be my answer. People who left just couldn't put it behind them. Happy with the statement as it is and this should give clarification. Need to be truthful.

Kylie: we have just got to be honest and stick with the truth and the statement that is going out. Need to shut it down. Keep our responses as simple as possible.

April: Had a few people contact her and she said it was in camera. Lot of crap going on. Conspiracy theories and four people left.

John: Putting out a statement and that is hopefully the end. Some people came along with some expectations that were not met. Brian found that it was a lot different to what he was expecting. Keep it simple.

Jolene: Agrees. Say as little as possible and move on.

Kerry: Agrees with April, Kylie and Andrew, particularly. It is a very difficult thing to hear some of the stuff that is being said. Continues to get accusations levelled at her. Personally because of conflict of interest she will be saying as little as possible. Suffice to saying she is agreeing with everybody else and because of her conflict of interest she will be saying as little as possible.

Alam: Are you happy for your opinions to be made public or do you want them in camera?

Andrew said we don't need to go in camera. There is nothing he has said which he is ashamed of or has a problem with. If you don't want something in the minutes, don't say it. If we put this discussion in camera we will be in trouble again. Need to be transparent. John agrees with Andrew. We are doing a wrap up and there is nothing being said to fuel the flames, put it in camera, you have the question 'what else were they up to'.

Alam: Say what you want to say. Happy that you all agree with this. Proud of you all.

Neil: as long as we are honest. Fine, agree with all of you.

Kim: Just like to say thanks to everyone. We have all worked really hard and still here so thank you.

Tony: agrees with Andrew and Kylie. All linked in so let's play it as best as we can.

Noni: As the others have said and as Kerry said she will be trying not to enter into discussions and basically say it as in the statement.

Alam: Belinda do you have any comment. You are new at this time and none of this is your fault. You are not a part of what happened. Technically, I don't think you can say anything.

Belinda: when she was on the AERA, she saw the letter. Then the AGM happened so she knows the course of the events. Aware of some of the AERA reply. On the committee until last night. This matter caused a huge toll on a lot of people. What was said, it's what happened. Doesn't need it to be behind closed doors. Move forward.

Alam: thanks everyone. Best thing to do. Not hide anything.

Letter from Brian Swan: Sent to Alam and he will send to everyone. Alam cannot reply on his own in the way Brian is asking. Alam acknowledged it and will send around. Do it at the next meeting. **Agenda item for the next meeting.**

AERA appointment. Mark Dunn sent email to Alam. Need to update. Alam: Noni said she has the names and she will contact them and will work this out and take care of it in the next couple of days.

Let's do the portfolios in the next few days. Thanks for attending this meeting on short notice.

Alam: Really sad that some of the SMC members have resigned for whatever reasons. Wish all the very best for the future. They may want to come back in the future.

Noni: re written the second last paragraph for FB notice.

Next meeting: Tuesday 29 March at 7:30 and try to wrap up by 9:30. Routine will be awesome. Alam wished everyone a lovely night. Thanks for short notice. Statement on FB and let it be as is. Whatever happens, we are all volunteers, some get along and some do not. Everybody comes on their own terms they can leave on their own terms.

There being no further business the meeting closed 9:06.

These Minutes of NSWERA SMC of 24 March 2022 were approved on 19 April 2022 as per Item 54.