



WORLD HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN FEDERATION

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Event: 51st WHFF Council Meeting

Venue: Zoom

Time and Date: Wednesday 7th June 2023 20.00 – 22.10 CET (Paris time)

Minutes

Present:

Cherilyn Watson (President)	New Zealand
László Bognár (Vice President)	Hungary
Sartaj Sarkaria	Canada
Luis Alphonso González	Colombia
Thierry Menard	France
Martino Cassandro	Italy
Izumi Furuta (Translator)	Japan
Jos Buiting	Netherlands
Lindsey Worden	USA
Suzanne Harding	(Secretary General)

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence.

- Jens will not be attending this meeting. His last day at BRS is 31st July. His successor will be Stephan Schneider. Currently Stephan is working for Holstein International and will start working for BRS on 1st of October.
- Sartaj attended the beginning of the meeting and left after about 30 minutes
- Thierry and Martino joined the meeting a little late.
- Cherilyn welcomed the Council and especially Sartaj. Sartaj introduced herself and the Council introduced themselves to her.

Action: Review the Constitution – do we need to clarify that observers do not count as voting members and are not part of the quorum.

2. Approval of the Agenda.

The agenda was approved with one change – item 7 - the Conference date was changed to 2023.

3. Previous minutes of the 49th Council meeting at the Hotel Acquaviva Garda, Sirmione, Italy (WHFF 5103 49th Meeting minutes 2022 v2)

The 49th Council meeting minutes were approved with no changes. Moved by Jos and seconded by László.

Action: Suzanne to sign digitally for Cherilyn.

4. Previous actions of the 49th Council meeting at the Hotel Acquaviva Garda, Sirmione, Italy (WHFF 5104 49th Council Meeting Actions v1)

- a. The only incomplete action not on the agenda was item 14 - Jos to find out if nitrogen is included in the feed efficiency index. Jos gave an explanation which he will send by email to Suzanne to be included in the minutes.

Action: Jos to email explanation - see below

Nitrogen is indirectly measured and is included in the breeding values for Feed Efficiency. Feed for cattle contains Nitrogen (in protein and urea). Cows that are more feed efficient, produce more milk from the same feed ratio so, they are not only more efficient for the use of feed (energy) but for Nitrogen (protein, urea) as well. Though we cannot measure the Nitrogen Efficiency directly, the correlation with Feed efficiency is estimated to be in the area of 0,90.

- b. With this addition, the 49th Council meeting actions were approved.

5. Previous minutes of the 50th Council meeting by Zoom (WHFF 5105 50th Meeting minutes 2023 v2)

The 50th Council meeting minutes were approved with no changes. Moved by Jos and seconded by Lindsey.

Action: Suzanne to sign digitally for Cherilyn.

6. Previous actions of the 50th Council meeting by Zoom (WHFF 5106 50th Council Meeting Actions v1)

The 50th Council meeting actions were approved.

7. WHFF Conference 2023 update (WHFF 5107b Conference Speakers)

- a. Update on Conference plans/program (Thierry)
 - i. Changes to the flyer noted in red.
 - ii. Do we want the speaker reserves on the flyer?

The meeting agreed that the Council should stay in the Grand Siècle Hotel.

Thierry emphasised that it was an all-inclusive price.

Once the changes are completed for the program, the flyer will be sent out to the WHFF membership and placed on the website.

Thierry reported that the Registration website should be available 15th / 20th June, and that the early bird price will be extended to the 30th July.

Action: Suzanne to send out flyer once updated by Thierry.

Action: Suzanne to place flyer on website.

- b. Update on Speakers (Suzanne)
 - i. Session 1: It was agreed that László will Chair the session.
 - ii. Panel 1: The Council agreed that Suzanne should approach Finland and Brazil for a speaker. If either cannot attend Martino suggested Oscar Gonzalez- Rocio from Spain who spoke at the ICAR Conference.
Action: Suzanne to confirm with Finland and Brazil if they can provide a speaker.
 - iii. Panel 2: Esteban Posada (Brazil) cannot attend so we need a replacement – Martino suggested one of two Italian farmers.
Action: Suzanne to contact the farmers for the Panel 2
 - iv. A reserve is needed for Matthew Shaffer, Martino suggested an Austrian paper presented in Canada.
Action: Suzanne to contact the authors.

- c. CEO/President's meeting – do the Council want to have this meeting?

The request for this meeting was raised by Holstein Australia CEO prior to the 2020 Conference and was discussed by the Council in Mexico 2019. Jos said that the EHRC Secretaries meeting in Ireland was poorly attended and very limited in questions. László and Thierry agreed that it is difficult to get people to engage in a meeting.

Decision: The Council agreed not to have a CEO and President meeting.

László suggested that there could be an agenda point in the General Assembly to enable members to bring up any concerns.

Action: Suzanne to add 'General Business' to the General Assembly Agenda.

Thierry thought the attendees could be emailed and asked what they might want to discuss.

Action – Suzanne to send an email out to the members asking for issues they might want to discuss, so that the Council can prepare answers.

- d. Next WHFF Conference 2028. The Council need to approve the next Conference host. (Link sent to Council - <https://docs.melbournecb.com.au/Melbourne-s-bid-to-host-the-World-Holstein-Friesian-Forum-2028-3ZiDU8FxQMKJ>)

The promotional link from Holstein Australia was discussed. Suzanne asked if the Council wanted any additional information.

Approval was sought from the Council for this next Conference venue.

Lindsey was happy with the proposal and Jos supported proposal. Cherilyn asked for some more information about the Australian Dairy Industry/Holstein Breed in Australia to be added to the proposal.

Action: Suzanne to contact Holstein Australia thanking them and asking them to include Dairy Industry information.

- e. Does the Council want to create a Task Force to support Thierry organizing the 2023 WHFF Conference?

Cherilyn asked if Thierry needed any support. Thierry replied if he had any questions, he would ask the Council or Suzanne.

8. WHFF Working Groups Reports

- a. WHFF Type Harmonisation WG report (*WHFF 5108a Report for board WHFF June 2023*)
i. Venue for the 2026 Type Harmonisation Workshop – Hungary is proposed by the Working group (Gerben email dated 1/11/22)

Cherilyn asked the Council if they support Hungary hosting the 2026 Type Classification workshop. The Council agreed and László thanked the Council for approving the venue. Martino said he is planning the Italian Workshop for 15th – 19th April 2024.

- b. WHFF Monogenetic Traits and Registration WG report (*WHFF 5108b Monogenetic Traits Working Group Report May 2023; WHFF 5108b Genetic Condition Under Investigation Update 5-30-23.pdf*)

Lindsey gave her report, stating the Working Group had met in February and March and will be meeting again in July.

- i. She asked that the Council approve herself as the new Chair of the Working Group.
- ii. The Working Group have discussed different classes of traits.

- iii. They have discussed BLIRD and consider that to date there isn't sufficient documentation only Press Releases.
- iv. Early Onset Muscle Weakness Syndrome (previously Calf Recumbency) is a potential new genetic trait found in the US. More information is currently being gathered on this condition to answer the many questions.

Jos asked what information does the Working Group need from France in relation to BLIRD? Do they need a scientific paper?

Lindsey replied that they only have a press release - no research or scientific papers are currently available.

László agreed; he had a conversation at the EHRC Conference and chatted to the scientists, Dr Aurélien Capitan, Senior Researcher, Inrae and Gerben de Jong about BLIRD. The Scientists have promised to have a scientific paper published soon. The frequency calculation was much higher than in Tom Lawlors' report and the trait is appearing in more than one country, so it should fit in some other category with higher importance affecting health.

Thierry agreed and has asked for paper as well.

Jos said that it does not need to be published, just be available to the Working Group.

Lindsey agreed but they need to have scientific documentation – there isn't any evidence on frequency etc.

Jos said they have found a similar frequency in Netherlands population. He asked Thierry to contact people in France to speed up the documentation.

Thierry asked what the process is to propose a new trait.

Suzanne said there is a document on the WHFF website explaining the process.

Action: Lindsey will review the document on the process of reporting new genetic traits.

9. Milking Robots - Update from WHFF Inclusivity of more Production Data Task Force Task force (*WHFF 5109 Inclusivity of More Production Data Task Force Report – May 2023.pdf*)

Lindsey gave a brief update from Brad Eggink. There had been one meeting so far and he will keep Lindsey updated. She concluded that they would re-evaluate after the AMS Summit to be held in the Netherlands.

10. Update on Research proposal on Biodiversity in Holstein presented by Martino Cassandro

Martino reported that he has nine (9) countries signed up to the project. He will have a technical group from these countries to define sampling, etc and plans to do a presentation at the next meeting.

Action: Suzanne will contact countries who have shown interest and not signed up.

László thought it would be interesting to have countries in Oceania join the project. Cherilyn said she is working to get permission for data from New Zealand, although it is difficult with split data ownership. She will also talk with Australia.

11. ICAR

- a. Conference report – verbal report and update on who is the new CEO.

Suzanne reported that the new ICAR CEO is Marie Agnes Mouroit De Lathyle. Suzanne gave a short report and said that she will send through a complete writing report to the Council.

Action: Suzanne to send ICAR report to Council.

Jos said that at the manufactures showcase, the manufacturers were not very forthcoming. He also commented that there were several big groups networking together to complete research and projects on sustainability and resilience.

b. ICAR AMS Summit

This was covered under Item 10.

12.Virtual Cow update

Suzanne reported that she had tested the updated Virtual Cow and is very hopeful that it is now correct. She has sent it to Gerben and Tamás for checking.

13.Genetic Trends for Holsteins Update

Suzanne explained that Gerben has completed the run for the Holstein Genetic Trends as requested by the Council at the 49th Council meeting. She had sent out to the Council and asked for feedback.

Martino liked the information but wanted inbreeding included as well. Jos explained that for inbreeding to be included you need relationships rather than the numbers from MACE.

Martino had spoken to Toine Roosen, CEO of the INTERBULL Centre and he can provide the inbreeding figures.

Action: Martino will email Toine and cc Gerben and report back to the Council.

The next step is to ask permission again from the participating countries.

Action: Suzanne to email WHFF membership

14.Membership presented by Suzanne Harding

- a. Kazakhstan membership (*WHFF 5112 WHFF Application_Kazakhstan_Constitution; WHFF 5112 WHFF_application_Kazakstan_Form*)

László said that Kazakhstan is a fairly developed country in the perspective of animal husbandry, dairy breeding and is importing many good breeding animals and calves, and also technologies from the EU. Their milk production level is still low (as national average) but they want to follow the WHFF harmonisation process. The CEO and breeders are well educated, they have good animals and knowledge and want to join WHFF. Their membership strengthens the position of WHFF in Central Asia region, as maybe more countries will come.

Cherilyn asked for questions - there were none.

Decision: The Council agreed that Kazakhstan can join WHFF.

Action: Suzanne will invite them to give a short presentation at the General Assembly in France.

Full membership will be agreed by the General Assembly.

15.Finance presented by Suzanne Harding

- a. 2023 Accounts to date

The finance paper was explained; there were no comments.

The WHFF Ltd accounts for 2022 have been sent to the external auditors.

16.Website (*WHFF 5116 Monthly Website Report - May 2023*)

Cherilyn said that during the development she had had the opportunity to view and comment on the website. She continued that it was an efficient process and was good value for money.

17.Any other Business

There was no AOB.

18.Date Of Next Meeting

Cherilyn asked if the Council needed a meeting before November. It was thought not. If necessary, a zoom meeting can be called.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, followed by the date 20/11/23 written in the same ink.