

COLLEGE OF VETERINARIANS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: Saturday, September 10, 2011: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

LOCATION: CVBC Offices, North Vancouver, B.C.

MINUTES

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Dr. Ken Gummesson (President and Chair), Dr. Christiane Armstrong, Dr. Kevin Harris; David Dewhirst, June Clark, Bob Kucheran (Managing Director)

REGRETS: Dr. Rob McLeod, Dr. Avtar Ubi

GUESTS: Norman Stowe and Mike Cunningham (PACE) re item 6.5

PROCEEDINGS

ACTION

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

2. ROUTINE BUSINESS

2.1 Approval of Agenda

Motion R110911 – *Agenda approved with power to add. Carried*

2.2 Approval of Minutes

Motion R110911 – *Minutes of meeting of August 13 be accepted as presented.*

Carried

2.3 Task List

The Chair reviewed the Task List. Comments noted that the recorder should have the Task Arising list out as soon as possible after the Council meeting and move the review of the task list to late in the meeting.

**Managing
Director**

3. REGULAR OFFICE REPORTS & BUSINESS

3.1 President's Report

The President reported that:

- he contacted Carol Morgan, Chair of the Animal Welfare Committee (AWC). The committee is pleased to have been engaged by Council, after no referrals coming their way for some time. They are currently working on guidelines for euthanasia;
- the Provincial government is looking for input to a brochure for government employees how to identify animal abuse. The Government's Sled Dog Task Force that has been working on a set of guidelines is now almost completed its work and the AWC is reviewing those draft guidelines;
- he contacted RJ Senko (Ministerial Assistant) about a number of topics including, the proposed changes around federal inspection of slaughterhouses/abattoirs and indicated that CVBC would like to be involved. The Ministry of Health has subsequently been notified of CVBC's interest. A fall meeting is being scheduled in Victoria for further discussions about this and other topics. Mr. Senko expressed his appreciation of the communication that he has received from CVBC;
- he participated in a meeting with Don Yule, Mike Badaly (Manager of the captive insurance plan), Pat O'Grady and Dr. Avtar Ubi about the captive insurance. At present the only policies that will be managed are Directors and Officers Liability, and Corporate General Liability insurance for the CVBC. Work is underway to confirm the details of how claims would be managed. The Directors of the captive have asked to be kept in the loop regarding anything that may be directed to the captive. Meeting notes will be produced by Don Yule. There are two amendments to the policy that are going to be requested of government. One is a date change and they will also be asking for an amendment to allow for arbitration between the insurer and the insured, subject to agreement from CVBC Council. In answer to a question on the matter, Dr. Gummeson will confirm how costs would be paid for arbitration with the Captive. He will also confirm whether the arbitration will be final (i.e. not eligible to go to court); and
- the Legal Affairs committee met on September 9, 2011, with Heenan Blaikie lawyers, Peter A. Gall, Q.C., Robert W. Grant. The Human Rights Tribunal (HRT) starts again next week and Registrar Val Osborne is scheduled to start testifying in mid-October. Submission of evidence is expected to be completed this calendar year, but written and oral submission will continue into 2012. While the hearing is expected to be wrapped up by May 2012, it is expected that the Tribunal will take up to a further two years before rendering its decision. With regard to the Bhuller appeal, the lawyers are waiting for additional documents to arrive before setting a date to be back in court. As regards the Bajwa matter, we remain awaiting a court decision. As to the Bajwa disciplinary case, lawyers for Dr. Bajwa have filed a Leave to Appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada. Heenan Blaikie will prepare a rebuttal to that submission on behalf of the CVBC.

President

Growing out of this discussion it was proposed that it would be good practice to ascertain estimates for legal expenses that could be confirmed prior to such work being authorized. The Governance Committee is directed to craft such a policy statement for Council approval.

**Governance
Committee**

3.2 Operational Report

The Managing Director:

- brought a request from the Deputy Registrar to reschedule the date for the next Council meeting. It seems that the Deputy Registrar will be in a conference during the time of the normally scheduled meeting and will be unable to attend as a result. A poll of the Council confirmed that a change of meeting date to Saturday November 5th was not out-of-order.

By consensus it was agreed that the previously-scheduled date of September 29, 2011 will be cancelled and the meeting re-scheduled to Saturday, November 5, 2011.

Council

- informed Council that he will be away from the office for surgery which is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14, 2011. Nevertheless, he hopes to be back in the office on the following Monday if all goes well;
- noted that there is a concern that the re-start of the HRT hearing will impose an additional workload due to demands of document production that may require additional staff resources. Before considering hiring temporary help however, he will review whether this can be handled within the existing staff complement; and
- reported his initial impressions of the staff and administrative operations of the CVBC office.

Growing out of the ensuing discussion it was proposed that he prepare a thorough evaluation of the CVBC administration with recommendations and present his findings to the Human Resource Committee in time for consideration at the next scheduled Council meeting on November 5, 2011.

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3.3 Financial Report (No report)

3.4 Registration Report

- BEEP Report: Report received by Council for information.
- Registration Report: Report received by Council for information.

3.5 Change of Registration Class Report

Report received by Council for information.

3.6 Facility Names

- Approvals:

Motion R110912 – *That the name “Pacific Veterinary Internal Medicine Service” be approved as a practice of practice facility name effective September 14, 2011 in accordance with s.37 of the CVBC Bylaws. Carried*

Motion R110913 – *That the name “Lake Land Animal Hospital” be approved as a practice of practice facility name effective September 14, 2011 in accordance with s.37 of the CVBC Bylaws. Carried*

Motion R110914 - *That the name “Immel St. Animal Hospital” be approved as a practice of practice facility name effective September 14, 2011 in accordance with s.37 of the CVBC Bylaws. Carried*

- Changes: report received by Council for information.

3.7 Closed Facility Report (No report)

4. OTHER SEMI-REGULAR REPORTS

4.1 Inspection Committee (IC) Report

In the absence of a formal report the Managing Director was asked to ensure that Council receives the IC statistical report at each meeting, to easily understand changes and totals.

**Managing
Director**

The Council received and reviewed the recommendations of the IC for the appointment of new investigators:

Motion R110915 - *That Dr. Linda Crews be appointed as an Inspector of the College of Veterinarians of British Columbia pursuant to s. 49(1) of the Veterinarians Act SBC 2010 c. 15 effective September 10, 2011. Carried*

Motion R110916 - *That Dr. Kathryn Welsman be appointed as an Inspector of the College of Veterinarians of British Columbia pursuant to s. 49(1) of the Veterinarians Act SBC 2010 c. 15 effective September 10, 2011. Carried (with the following provision):*

This appointment has been made to recognize current significant workload issues, but Council is concerned about the experience being under 5 years for this candidate. Council advises that the inspectors who have limited experience not be assigned to complex cases too soon following training.

Motion R110917 - *That Dr. Benjamin Weinberger be appointed as an Inspector of the College of Veterinarians of British Columbia pursuant to s. 49(1) of the Veterinarians Act SBC 2010 c. 15 effective September 10, 2011. Defeated*

4.2 BEEP Report

Received by Council for Information

4.3 PIC Report

Received by Council for Information

4.4 NEB Report

Received by Council for Information. (Council discussed how standards of care might be established over time.)

4.4 HRC Report

Covered in item 3.2 Operational Report

5. CONTINUING BUSINESS

(In Camera and/or Privileged)

5.1 SCt & HRT Collateral Cases – update & issues

5.2 VAct decision Court appeals – update

5.3 Insurance Updates

5.4 Information Management – status

The Managing Director and Office Manager were asked to review the status and prioritize the implementation of IMIS data management project,

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5.5 Complaint closing letters

No letters provided.

5.6 Audit – status report

No report provided.

(Not in Camera)

5.7 Joshi Hearing – update

The date for this registration hearing has not yet been set. The process awaits confirmation from Joshi's lawyer that he wishes to pursue a hearing.

5.8 Post hearing case compliance report

No report provided. CVBC to pursue recovery of debt owing from Jones.

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5.9 Marohn & Schoyen Trial - update

The trial has been adjourned until the new year. Neither party is currently registered with the CVMA. SPCA has filed animal cruelty charges against them.

5.10 Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act Mandatory Reporting & SPCA – update

Guidelines for reporting are not yet completed. AWC has confirmed their interest in being part of developing these guidelines.

5.11 Sled Dog Task Force (SDTF) Update & Implementation Protocols

The AWC is represented on the SDTF in developing implementation protocols.

5.12 Government Employee Awareness Campaign - Update

Covered in 3.1 President's Report

5.13 CVBC/AWC Animal Welfare Issues - update & response

Covered in 3.1 President's report

5.14 Advisory Committee on Certified Technicians – Update & new Chair

It was reported that Kevin Harris is the new Chair as Rob McLeod stepping aside due to time constraints. A September 7, 2011 teleconference took place, with regrets from only one committee member. The committee started the review of the CVMA's task grid (with Alberta's recommended edits). Within the next month, it is anticipated that the draft scope of practice for RAHT's in BC will be complete. There was also discussion regarding whether and how grandfathering of existing technicians could take place.

5.15 Cat Crazy – Research Update

No copy of the letter was available. The President will seek a copy of the letter he was to have sent to Sherril Guthrie or if no letter is available, he will send the letter that was recommended.

President

5.16 Grewal case – Update

Dr. Grewal was denied a license and has reapplied under the new Veterinarian Act.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Cheque signing authorities

Motion R110918 – *That s. 10(1) of the CVBC Bylaws be amended to read:
Subject to further rules prescribed by resolution of the Council, cheques of the College may be signed by any two of the following: the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary-Treasurer, the Registrar, the Deputy Registrar and any other individual prescribed by resolution of the Council. Carried*

Motion R110919 – *That henceforth unless and until altered by further resolution of the Council, the Office Manager and the Managing Director (if any) are authorized to sign cheques of the College. Carried*

Motion R110920 – *That the Operational Policies be amended to read:
As matters of long-time practice and a further gloss on the above:
That cheques over \$15,000 may be signed by one Executive member and the Registrar or Managing Director (if any).*

Cheques of \$15,000 or less may be signed by either of the above, or by the registrar with the Deputy Registrar, Office Manager or Managing Director (if any) Carried

Motion R110921 – *That the maximum limit for non-Council signatories on cheques be \$15,000 pursuant to s. 10(2) of the CVBC Bylaws. Carried*

6.2 Bylaws – xxxxx

Possible typo – no information provided.

6.3 File 08-098 – Update

No information provided.

6.4 Governance

The Managing Director provided Council with a presentation regarding government relations titled: Special Interest Advocacy.

6.5 PACE Proposal

Mike Cunningham and Norm Stowe met with Council. Additional information is needed in order for Council to make a decision regarding whether to confirm a business relationship with PACE. The Managing Director was tasked to follow up and confirm whether there is a contract in place and/or the terms of engagement with PACE, determine what needs the

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College has regarding the type of services PACE can offer and recommend to Council whether and how we should continue a business relationship with them.

6.6 Annual Dues Bylaw Vote – update

It was noted that the last day for the vote was September 9, 2011.

6.7 'DVM' Initials

The substance of an email discussion by the Governance Committee was reported. In the ensuing discussion it was the sense of Council that the use of the title 'Dr.' or the use of the initials 'DVM' are matters of academic distinction. The CVBC does not have the jurisdiction to award an academic degree nor could the CVBC regulate the use of the title 'Dr.' should the veterinarian be registered with the CVBC. Nevertheless use of 'DVM' without having been conferred that degree may be seen as professionally inappropriate and possibly fraudulent. Veterinarians must only use the letters of designation or the degree that they have had conferred on them by their respective educational institutions. The Governance Committee was tasked to prepare proposed policy wording for the next Council agenda.

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6.8 Request for late fee waiver

The Managing Director advised Council that according to what is literally stated in the Act, the Council does not have the apparent authority to waive late fees although there may be a degree of 'implicit' authority to do so. Council indicated nevertheless that there is a need to allow for waiving late fees due in certain extraordinary circumstances. It was suggested that such a provision be recommended for inclusion in any proposals bylaws amendments. In the meantime the Managing Director was asked to ensure that a clarification of this issue be featured in the next newsletter.

6.9 Unauthorized Practice – Update

It was recommended that in all future communication with collegial professionals, even in the context of unauthorized practice, that we ensure that our communication to appropriately recognize the credentials of individuals with whom we communicate (e.g. Chiropractors are Dr. rather than Mr.).

6.10 CE postings on website

The Governance Committee was asked to propose new policy language in the context of a communications strategy.

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6.11 Registrant feedback re: budget

It was reported that Dr. Avtar Ubi successfully communicated with the concerned Registrant.

7. SELF ASSESSMENT

- In Light of the superb discussion regarding standards of practice, it was recommended that the Council be provided with an additional forum to brainstorm policy ideas/needs.
- It was recommended that in future agenda items that are presented for information only need only be provided in written form to Council, without having to go through them verbally in the meeting.
- It was recommended that in an effort to economise discussion time in Council meeting that an attempt be made to estimate and pre-determine and set fixed times for each agenda item.

**Agenda
Committee**

8. NEXT MEETING

NOTE – Meeting date CHANGED to Saturday November 5, 2011

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

X 

Dr. Kenneth Gummesson
President

X 

Dr. Christiane Armstrong
Vice President