



College of Veterinarians of British Columbia

COUNCIL MEETING

Video Conference

Friday, April 29th, 2022

Minutes of the Open Meeting

Council Members: Dr. Jane Pritchard (President), Mr. Chris Finding (Vice President), Mr. Gian Sihota (Treasurer), Dr. Josh Waddington, Dr. Michele Martin, Dr. Jane Mancell, Mr. Harinder Mahil, Dr. Tammi Whelan and Ms. Christine Arnold

Staff: Dr. Megan Bergman (Registrar & CEO), Dr. Stacey Thomas (Deputy Registrar), and Ms. Rosalee Magcalas (Executive Assistant)

Council came back after lunch at 1:00pm and resumed its meeting with the Open Agenda.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Pritchard at 1:02p.m.

1.1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Council would like to respectfully acknowledge that we work and live on the traditional ancestral and unceded lands of the Coast Salish, Squamish, Sechelt, Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh nations and we acknowledge all other first nations in British Columbia.

2. ROUTINE PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

2.1. Approval of the Open Agenda

Open agenda Item 3.5 Governance Training be held until the next meeting Item 3.6 Devocalization be moved up on the Open agenda to the 2nd agenda item discussed.

MOTION: THAT the Open amended Agenda be approved, with the power to add.

MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED

2.2. President's Remarks

In the interest of time, Dr. Pritchard kept remarks brief but wanted to thank everyone for their participation and engagement.

The President stated that the CVBC does not mandate the content of CE, we recommend some CE as a partnership with the SBCV, we only mandate required hours of CE for the profession and that CE satisfies the CVBC's approval criteria.

3.6. Devocalization

Dr. Thomas relayed to Council requests from several sources regarding devocalization and inquiring whether the College is considering or would consider adding it to the list of prohibited procedures. The merits of a ban on devocalization are presented in each of the messages received and reference the impacts on animal welfare, and the fact that other provinces have already proceeded with a ban on devocalization performed for non-medical reasons. Dr. Bergman made a public statement (in response to a media inquiry) indicating that the Council is considering the matter and outlined the process that the CVBC follows to consider amendments to bylaws and standards. .

Council agreed to work with stakeholders to review the practice of devocalization, and also to determine if there are any other cosmetic procedures that should also be considered in the course of the review.

The Registrar would like to see the Council, SPCA and SBCV to convene to review the work that has already been done on the practice of devocalization as well as conduct an evaluation on what other procedures may need to be considered and make a recommendation for input from registrants. Dr. Martin would be interested to participate in such a working group.

MOTION to consult with the SPCA and SBCV to do an evaluation of other cosmetic procedures that should be banned.

MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED

Direction: To set a meeting between SPCA, SBCV to review and discuss other potential cosmetic procedures to be banned.

Ms. Barker was asked if the BCVTA has an Animal Welfare Committee. She advised that they do not but agreed to reach out to their Board to see if there is some way for the BCVTA to get involved.

3.4. Role of Practising Lawyer on Council

Ms. Arnold asked for the opportunity to speak to Council. She has served on other Councils and Boards and wants to clarify that there are boundaries in terms of what a board member who is a lawyer can and cannot say and do, but she noted that it is her responsibility, not other members', monitor her own contributions.

She is a lawyer on Council and not a lawyer for Council; she does not represent Council as she has not been retained by Council. She clarified that she cannot give legal advice or legal opinions (eg. would not be able to give advice as to whether the College has jurisdiction over a matter and could not give opinions on Council liabilities). She however could provide legal information (eg. conducting research and direct Council towards relevant legislation or information) as a member of Council. She has the training to look for red flags and tell Council to seek a legal opinion from a CVBC lawyer.

Council appreciates the clarification and looks forward to her participation as a Council member.

3.2. Staff and Contractor Travel & Expense Reimbursement Policy

Council is being asked to decide which conferences they would like representatives of the CVBC to attend to ensure Council support of the use of Council human and financial resources.

The Registrar presented several upcoming meetings for Council consideration – the CVMA Workforce Congress, the WCVM Advisory Committee Meeting, and the Canadian Council of Veterinary Registrars (CCVR)'s annual meeting.

Council suggested that Registrar travel should be approved by the Council Executive Committee rather than be a matter for full Council discussion. Generally, with many of groups returning to in-person meetings after COVID, it is valuable for the CVBC to have an in-person presence at certain meetings. Some of the presented meetings are a yearly occurrence, and it makes sense to establish a standing approval for those (CCVR meetings, WCVM Advisory Committee meeting).

Council is supportive of attendance at the CVMA Workforce Congress, the CCVR Corporate Meeting and feel that the WCVM meeting is especially important to continue to build the relationship with the WCVM.

Currently there is no line item in the budget for travel Dr. Bergman would like this included as a stand-alone line item as the Council approves the budget.

At this point, the President suggested not revisiting the expense and reimbursement policies at this time as there is still so much left on the agenda to cover.

Direction: Registrar to go forward with confirming attendance at these meetings.

3.3. NEB Report

Accepted and not discussed as per the Consent Agenda.

3.5. Governance Training

Item pushed to next meeting.

Council asked Ms. Barker for an update regarding the BCVTA

She has nothing to add, except that the AGM went well, and she has not had an opportunity to talk with the board as their next meeting is in a couple of weeks. She has not received any feedback from the conversation at the meeting, but they appreciated having Dr. Bergman attend and it was good to be able to have that chat with the membership and everyone is looking forward to continuing with this positive working relationship.

4. REPORTS RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION

- 4.1. Report on New Registrants – Accepted and not discussed as per the Consent Agenda.
- 4.2. Change of Registration Class Report – Accepted and not discussed as per the Consent Agenda.
- 4.3. Name Approvals – Accepted and not discussed as per the Consent Agenda.
- 4.4. Report on Facilities, Closed, New & Reaccredited – Accepted and not discussed as per the Consent Agenda.
- 4.5. Task List – Accepted and not discussed as per the Consent Agenda.

5. ADJOURNMENT

5.1. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday June 3, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

MOTION: THAT the Open meeting be closed at 2:05 p.m.

MOVED/SECONDED CARRIED

Council took a short break until 2:25 p.m.