ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA

Minutes of the 52ndAnnual General Meeting of the Animal Welfare Board of India held on 13.09.2022 at Nagpur, Maharashtra

The following members attended the meeting on 13.09.2022 at 09.30 a.m. physically / through virtual mode:

1.	Dr. O.P. Chaudhary, IFS Joint Secretary, (AWD) MoFAH&D	-	Chairman
2.	Shri Rajeev Gupta, IAS (Retd.)	-	Member
3.	Shri Girish J. Shah	-	Member
4.	Shri Sunil Mansinghka	-	Member
5.	Shri S.P. Gupta, IAS (Retd.)	-	Member
6.	Shri Ram Krishan Raghuvanshi	-	Member
7.	Ms. Anjali Gopalan	-	Member
8.	Shri Mohan Singh Ahluwalia	-	Member
9.	Prof. R.S. Chauhan	-	Member} online
10.	Shri Ajit Sharad Kelkar	-	Member) online
11.	Shri Dhan Pal Singh	-	Member) online
12.	Dr. S.K. Dutta, Joint Commissioner (AWD)	-	Secretary In-charge, AWBI
	MoFAH&D		
13.	Mrs. Prachi Jain	-	Assistant Secretary, AWBI

The Chairman welcomed all the Members in the 52ndAnnual General Meeting of the Board present physically and in virtual mode. Thereafter, the Chairman requested the Secretary to present the agenda items.

Item No.1: Ratification of the Minutes of the 51st Annual General Meeting of the Board held on 18.11.2021.

The minutes of the 51st Annual General Meeting of the Board held on 18.11.2021 were considered and ratified by the Board.

Item No.2: Ratification of the Minutes of the 49th General Meeting of the Board held on 30.03.2022.

The minutes of the 49thGeneral Meeting of the Board held on 30.03.2022 were considered and ratified by the Board.

Item No.3: Ratification of the Minutes of the Grants Committee Meetings of the Board held on 20.01.2022, 22.04.2022 & 15.07.2022.

The minutes of 03 Grants Committee Meetings of the Board held on 20.01.2022, 22.04.2022 and 15.07.2022 were considered and ratified by the Board.

Item No.4: Ratification of the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the Board held on 15.07.2022.

The minutes of the 124th Executive Committee Meeting of the Board held on 15.07.2022 were considered and ratified by the Board.

Item No.5: Ratification of the Minutes of the ABC Committee Meetings of the Board held on 17.03.2022, 22.04.2022, 27.05.2022, 27.06.2022, 22.07.2022 and 26.08.2022

The minutes of 6 ABC Committee Meetings of the Board held on 17.03.2022, 22.04.2022, 27.05.2022, 27.06.2022, 22.07.2022 and 26.08.2022 were considered and ratified by the Board.

Item No.6: Ratification of the Minutes of the Honorary Animal Welfare Officer Committee Meetings of the Board held on 24.03.2022, 22.04.2022, 24.06.2022 and 15.07.2022

The minutes of 04 meetings of Honorary Animal Welfare Officer Committee of the Board held on 24.03.2022, 22.04.2022, 24.06.2022 and 15.07.2022 were considered and ratified by the Board.

Item No.7: Ratification of the Minutes of the Performing Animals Committee held from 10.03.2022 to 05.09.2022

The details of the meetings held of the Performing Animals Committee for considering the applications received for Pre-shoot permission and No Objection Certificate during the 45 meetings held from 10.03.2022 to 05.09.2022 and wherein 300 Pre-shoot permissions and 538 No Objection Certificates were issued by the Board were noted, considered and ratified by the Board.

Item No.8: Re-consideration of matter pertaining to change of nomenclature from Honorary Animal Welfare Officers to Animal Welfare Representatives.

The matter pertaining to the change of nomenclature of Honorary Animal Welfare Officer to Honorary Animal Welfare Representative was placed before the Board for consideration and decision.

During the discussion, Chairman AWBI informed the Board that it will minimize the impression / effect of the Honorary Animal Welfare Officers. He further stated that changing of HAWO name to Honorary Animal Welfare Representative will affect the little bit work being done by these HAWOs.

Shri Ramkrishna Raghuvanshi stated that many of the HAWOs are misusing their nomination and such HAWOs need to be removed.

Shri Rajeev Gupta stated that every District / Taluka should have the Animal Welfare Officer nominated by State Animal Husbandry Department as nodal officer to implement the provision of Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act, 1960 and to look into the cases of cruelty at grass root level. In case of change of nomenclature, the word Honorary must remain with Animal Welfare Representative and one focal point in every district need to be identified / nominated for catering the noble cause of animal welfare.

Prof. R.S. Chauhan suggested that the word "Representative" is more suitable then the word "Officer" but the work of the HAWOs need to be defined. He further stated that executive instructions need to be issued with approval and concurrence that the District Veterinary Officer to act as the Animal Welfare Officer and State Level Officer to be nominated from State Animal Welfare Board following the statutory system.

Chairman and Members of the Board decided to constitute a Committee to streamline the process of nominating Animal Welfare Officer at State / District level from the Animal Husbandry Department. Further, it is decided to change the nomenclature from Honorary Animal Welfare Officer to Honorary Animal Welfare Representative.

Shri Rajeev Gupta stated that he will send a proposal and the matter will be decided in the next Executive Committee Meeting. It was further decided that Shri Rajeev Gupta, Prof. R.S. Chauhan and Shri S.P. Gupta to work on the matter.

Chairman directed to issue the executive instruction after the approval of Hon'ble Minister, FAH&D for nominating of Animal Welfare Officer in every District/Taluka on finalization of the proposal of nominating District Veterinary Officer to act as the Animal Welfare Officer and State Level Officer to be nominated from State Animal Welfare Board following the statutory system.

Item No.9: Re-consideration of matter related to issue of Identity Cards to various committee members of the Board.

The matter pertaining to issue of the ID Cards to the members of the various committees of the Board was placed before the Board for consideration of the Board considering the repeated requests from many committee members for getting ID Cards as they are facing problems in representing themselves as the committee member of the Board at many occasions.

Prof. R. S. Chauhan raised the issue pertaining to the meeting organized by Shri J. P. Saxena at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh for the HAWOs and Animal Welfare activists.

Shri S.P.Gupta raised the issue that as to why the representative of the AWBI was sent to attend the program at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh organized by Shri Saxena.

Secretary AWBI informed that the Board has given permission to Sh. J.P. Saxena for conducting an awareness programme for animal welfare activists there. Secretary further informed that Sh. Saxena does any inspection or programme with the concurrence / approval of Board only.

Chairman AWBI stated that the content of the programme should be pre-approved by the Board before granting permissions / authentication for organizing such programmes using the name of Animal Welfare Board of India.

Shri Raghuvanshi stated that Smt. Monica Arora, Press & Public Relations Committee member is doing such works in Madhya Pradesh without prior approval of the Board and such permission should not be granted. He further stated that the sub-committee should be discontinued and all the work of AWBI should only be done by the Members of the Board.

Shri Rajeev Gupta stated that the Committee Members should only do the work pertaining to the concerned committee and attend the meetings and should not involve themselves in other works.

Chairman, AWBI asked the Secretary to clarify that why the representative of the Board was sent to Lucknow as participation of AWBI representative proved that the program has been conducted in tendon with the AWBI. Secretary, AWBI clarified and informed the Board that the representative of the AWBI was invited by the organizer and the Secretary & Assistant Secretary were not available hence HEO was sent to attend the programme.

Prof. R.S. Chauhan stated that the Board Members only to be consulted and outsiders need not to be given authority to speak on Board's behalf as it may bring bad name to the Board or misguide the trainees / public attending the program.

Ms. Anjali Gopalan asked whether the Board is having any control over the activities of the committee members.

Shri Girish J. Shah stated that the representatives' ID card for Committee Members should be issued so that they can prove their identity.

Shri S.P. Gupta stated that the Members of the Board are nominated by the Govt. of India through Gazette Notification but the co-opted members or the committee members are not notified by the Govt. of India, hence, there should be some different type of ID Card to the Committee Members of the Board.

After the suggestions of the Board Members, Chairman AWBI concluded that the nomination letter issued to the Committee Members is sufficient and there is no need of issuing ID Cards to the Committee Members of the Board.

Item No.10: Re-consideration of matter related to fees increased from Rs.500 to Rs.25000 for the animals depicted in background and natural scenes / computer graphics / stock shots / foreign shots in the films, TV serials etc.

The matter related to the applications of PSP and NOC having animal scenes of background, natural shots, Computer graphics, Stock shots, dummy, foreign shoots, the fees to be fixed to Rs. 5000/- per application as the animals are not performing as per Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001 was again placed before the Board for re-consideration.

The Board after due deliberation and consideration of the matter decided that Rs.5000/- to be fixed for background, natural shots, Computer graphics, Stock shots, dummy, foreign shoots.

Ms. Anjali Gopalan and other Members of the Board raised the issue pertaining to the RRAEC Fund generated by the Board and deposited / transferred to the Consolidated Funds of India. The Board Members suggested that the Board should seek permission from the Ministry to get permission for using the RRAEC Fund.

Chairman AWBI stated that as suggested by Shri Rajeev Gupta, the Board should provide funds to the State Animal Welfare Boards and SPCAs for awareness programmes.

Item No.11: Consideration of the matter pertaining to the Minutes of the Meeting of Secretary Dept. Animal Husbandry and Dairying & Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting regarding NOC to Films / Ad-films etc.

The matter pertaining to the meeting held on 13th June, 2022 under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), to address the concerns of the film industry regarding AWBI permission and to appraise the industry on the action taken on the issues raised during the workshop held on 30.06.2021 was placed before the Board for consideration. Chairman AWBI briefed the Board regarding removal of pre-shoot permission from PARR by giving affidavit by the producers stating that no cruelty has been inflicted during the shooting.

Ms. Anjali Gopalan said that it will be very difficult to check / stop the cruelty and it should not be accepted.

Shri S.P. Gupta stated that the Board should authorize local representative at district level to inspect the place at pre-shoot level.

Secretary AWBI stated that the pre-shoot permission allows the Board to check / stop cruelty during the shooting level whereas at the time of NOC, the Board could not see the background and the cruelty on the performing animals might have occurred.

Shri Girish Shah stated that there are no guidelines / rules for checking / stopping cruelty at WhatsApp / YouTube and other Social Media channels. There shall be some rules for the same to check / stop cruelty.

The Board does not agree for the directions given / suggested to AWBI in the MoM.

Item No.12: Consideration of the matter pertaining to change in the criteria of the Regular Grant from the existing slab for maintenance of the cattle / animals sheltered by the AWOs.

The matter related to the existing criteria for providing financial assistance to the AWOs was placed before the Board for consideration.

The Board deliberated on the matter and unanimously it was decided that the rates to be revised and the grants to the Gaushalas / AWOs to be considered based on the number of animals sheltered. The new rates of Regular Grants shall be Rs.50/- per animals / day for large animals and Rs.30/- per animal / day for the small animals from next financial year onwards i.e. 01.04.2023. Rs.100/- per animal / day for the treated animals were fixed. The criteria fixed for Rescued Cattle will also be given as per the aforesaid rates fixed for Regular Grant by the Board.

Shri S.P. Gupta suggested that few State Governments are providing funds to the Gaushala whereas other is not giving any funds to the gaushalas. The Board should advise all states for providing the funds to the Gaushalas for maintenance of shelters animals.

Item No.13: Consideration of matter pertaining to Acharya Jaimal Jain Gaushala, Bathinda, Punjab

The matter pertaining to the complaints received against Acharya Jaimal Jain Gaushala, Village Gill Patti, Bathinda by Shri Satnarain Jain and Shri Bimal Prakash Jain and letter dated 23.06.2022 received from the General Secretary of S.S. Jain Sabha (Regd.) Bathinda stating that the complaints are fictitious, false and made in revenge of defeat in election of

the President (S.S. Jain Sabha) and to malign the fair image of Gaushala and Jain Sabha was deliberated upon and discussed by the EC Committee Members and it was decided that since the embezzlement of funds released to the Gaushala has not proved at any level except for the change of the site plan / blue print of the gaushala without approval of the Board and moreover, the AWO has spent much more amount on the construction of the Gaushala as was evident from the various reports received from various Govt. Departments / Agencies. In view of the above, the Chairman and the Executive Committee was of the opinion that the matter needs discussed in the Board Meeting for acceptance of the Utilization Certificate submitted by the organization.

The matter pertaining to the closing the case of Acharya Jaimal Jain Gaushala, Village Gill Patti, Bathinda and acceptance of the Utilization Certificate of the Gaushala was placed before the Board for consideration and approval. The Board after due deliberation agreed with the decision of the ECM and approved the closure of the case and acceptance of the Utilization Certificate submitted by the Gaushala.

Item No.14: Consideration of matter pertaining to the letter received from Chairman, State Animal Welfare Board of Rajasthan for considering the financial assistance applications of the Gaushalas, AWOs and other organization on recommendations of the Rajasthan SAWB only.

The letter dated 25.08.2022 received from Shri K. C. Bishnoi, Chairman, State Animal Welfare Board Rajasthan requesting that all the proposals / applications of the Gaushalas, NGOs and other organisations from the State of Rajasthan seeking financial assistance from the Board should be accepted by the Board only on recommendations of the State Animal Welfare Board, Rajasthan was placed before the Board. The Board decided that the recommendation of the SAWB will be accepted on priority by the Board while considering / deciding the grant to the Gaushalas / AWOs of Rajasthan.

Item No.15: Consideration of the matter pertaining to the financial assistance to the AWOs in Hanumangarh and Rewa district of Rajasthan

The matter related to the financial assistance to the AWOs from the Districts of Hanuman in Rajasthan and Rewa in Madhya Pradesh which was put on hold as per the decision of the Grants Committee till re-checking of the existence of the AWOs and their credibility by the Members of the Board for proper utilization of AWBI grants given to the AWOs in these two districts was placed before the Board for consideration and decision.

Shri Girish J. Shah and Shri Ramkrishna Raghuvanshi were given the responsibility to inspect the AWOs / check their genuineness of the AWOs in Hanumangarh and Rewa districts respectively. As per the decision of the Grants Committee Shri Ramkrishna Raghuvanshi, Member AWBI has visited / inspected 8 AWOs of Rewa, Madhya Pradesh and the Board has decided that no grants to be released to these 8 AWOs of Rewa district of Madhya Pradesh based on the adverse report / remarks and non-existence of these AWOs as informed by Shri Ramkrishna Raghuvanshi, Member AWBI. It was further decided that the Board to check the details of the grants released to these 8 AWOs during the last 10 years and if any grant is released to these AWOs then the recovery process to be initiated and these AWOs to be blacklisted and derecognized by the Board and the details to be uploaded on the AWBI website. Also, penal action including filing of FIR against 8 AWOs in Rewa district need to be initiated.

As per the decision of the Grants Committee Shri Girish J. Shah, Member AWBI has provided the inspection reports of 36 AWOs out of 48 AWOs/ Gaushalas of Hanumagarh district of Rajasthan through his team. The Board based on the inspection reports / remarks submitted by Shri Girish J. Shah, Member AWBI decided that the Board to process the inspection reports and the grants to be decided based on the inspection reports / remarks of the Member of the Board / his team.

It was also decided that necessary action to be taken against the defaulter AWOs.

Item No.16: Approval of Annual Report and adoption of Audit Report and Audited Annual Accounts of the Animal Welfare Board of India for the year 2020-21.

The draft Annual Report of the Animal Welfare Board of India for the Year 2020-21 containing the Audited Annual Accounts of the Board and the Separate Audit Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India was placed before the Board for perusal by the Hon'ble Members of the Board seeking their approval and adoption of the Audit Report and Audited Annual Accounts of the Board for the year 2020-21. The Board adopted the Audited Accounts of the Board along with the Separate Audit Report of the Board received from Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year 2020-21 and approved the draft Annual Report of the Board for the year 2020-21.

Item No.17: Ratification of the matter pertaining to the Recruitment Rules of the officers and employees of AWBI

The matter pertaining to framing of Recruitment Rules / Regulations of the officers and employees of the Board which was circulated for approval of the Board Members on 18.07.2022 was ratified by the Board. The matter was further discussed and it was decided that the RRs / Regulations for officers and employees of the Board to be done at Ministry level and the

Schedules for these RRs / Regulations to be sent to the Board Members within 30 days for their information / suggestions / comments.

Item No.18: Consideration of the matter pertaining to the waiver of recovery of the excess payments made to the staff of the Animal Welfare Board of India

The letter No.V-11/15/2021-Admn.NLM, dated 27.07.2022 received from MoFAH&D pertaining to the waiver of recoveries from the employees of the Board for furnish specific recommendations whether the excess payments are to be waived off or to be recovered from the employees (existing/ retired/ resigned/ died) in the light of the DoP&T's OM No.18/26/2011-Estt (Pay-I) dated 06.02.2014 was placed before the Board for consideration and decision. After due deliberations on the matter, the Board strongly recommended the waiver of recovery of excess payment made to the employees of the Board (existing/ retired/ resigned/ died) in the light of the DoP&T's OM No.18/26/2011-Estt (Pay-I) dated 06.02.2014.

Item No.19: Consideration of matter pertaining to writing off the amount of Rs.2,98,050/- from the Balance sheet of the Board which is unrecovered since long.

The matter related to schedule 11 of Balance Sheet of AWBI under the heading "Loans, Advances and other Assets" shows some entries which are to be recovered since long and the C&AG, during the audit of the Board has also observed the same and recommended to make necessary provisions for unrecovered amount was placed before the Board for consideration and decision.

The details of amount unrecovered since long and still reflecting in Schedule 11 of the Balance Sheet and decision of the Board are as given below:

S. N	Particulars/H eading	Amount (In Rs.)	Remarks	Decision of the
0.				Board
1.	Recoverable from Sh. M. Basha, ex- employee of the Board for House Building Advance	48,354.00	Sh. M. Basha resigned in 2001-02 and last letter for his recovery was sent on 02.09.2020 on his both the address available with Board. However, the letter has been returning with remark "No person exist by this name"	for writing off from Schedule

2.	Training Course Advance	1,31,900.00	The Board has released advance amount of Rs. 1,43,900/- to 7 trainers for conducting public awareness programme and animal welfare programme during the year from 1997-98 to 1999-2000. Out of 7 trainers,only 1 trainer viz. Mr. Anand Vaman, Goa has refunded the amount of Rs. 12,000/-alongwith the interest of Rs. 2000/ The Board has issued many letters, show cause notice/ legal notice to the remaining 6 trainers. On communication from the Post office, it is informed that one trainer Mr. Shashank Manohar, Udaipur has died. The amount of Rs. 1,31,900.00 is unsettled for more than 23 years.	Approved for writing off from Schedule 11
3.	Festival Advance to Smt. R. Khurseeth Begum, ex- employee of the Board	2,250.00	Smt. R. Khurseeth Begum was unauthorized absent from April,2013 and resigned on 20.02.2017. However, no retirement benefits are paid to her till date.	Approved for settleme nt of the amount from her.
4.	Festival Advance pervious due	275.00	Untraceable amount.	Approved for writing off from Schedule 11
5.	Personal Computer Advance to Sh. A. Radhakrishna n, Ex-	400.00	Sh. A. Radha Krishnan has resigned on 21.02.2019. However, no retirement benefits are paid to him till date.	Approved for settleme nt of the amount from him.

	employee the Board	of			
6.	Interest Accrued Scooter Advance Personal Computer Advance	in and	1,14,871.00	The Interest on MCA & PCA are to be remitted to consolidated fund of GOI and it is a liability for Board. However, during the year 2016-17, the accrued interest on MCA & PCA has been considered as current assets which need to be settled on yearly basis from actual recovery. However, the actual recovery is being remitted to CFI without settling the amount of accrued interest. The Amount of Accrued interest may be settled in one time from Schedule-1, Corpus/ Capital fund. It will not affect the Board in financial manner but clear off the outstanding amount shown in the Balance Sheet of the Board.	Approved for writing off from Schedule 11

Item No.20: Consideration of matter pertaining to activities of the Regional Office of AWBI situated at Chennai and its future operations.

The matter pertaining to activities of the Regional Office of AWBI situated at Chennai and its future operations was placed before the Board for consideration.

Shri S.P. Gupta stated that the office of the Regional Office Chennai may be closed down as Mobile Animal Clinic facility is operational and a huge amount of expenditure is incurred for maintenance and running it.

Chairman AWBI stated that the assets of AWBI need to be maintained there and it may be utilized as training centre at Chennai for the southern region area for providing / running training courses there.

Shri Rajeev Gupta suggested for conducting next Board meeting at Regional Office, Chennai and the decision may be taken after visiting the place and checking the feasibility of trainings courses etc. there.

Item No.21: Consideration of the point raised by Shri Rajeev Gupta, IAS (Retd), Member AWBI pertaining to exorbitant rates of Bhusa

The matter pertaining to exorbitant rates of Bhusa raised by Shri Rajeev Gupta, Member AWBI along with his letter dated 01.09.2022 was placed before the Board for perusal and consideration.

Shri Rajeev Gupta briefed the Board about the earlier advisories / letters issued for reasonable rates of Bhusa and he was of the opinion that there is an urgent need for issuing an advisory for stopping the commercial use of the Bhusa so that it can be available for the animals at reasonable rates.

The Chairman after due deliberation and discussion on the matter decided that the Board to issue advisory based on the points raised by Shri Rajeev Gupta in his letter of September, 2022.

The following Additional Agenda Items were also taken up by the Board:

Additional Item No.1: Consideration of points raised by Shri Girish J. Shah, Member AWBI

 The matter related to have headquarter of the Board in New Delhi, near Krishi Bhavan for having easy approach and access of everyone to AWBI office was placed before the Board.

Secretary AWBI informed that the rent in that area for offices is very high.

Chairman AWBI stated that since that the NIAW is merged with AWBI then it won't be feasible to the Board to have its one more office at Delhi. He suggested that the Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog building in DMS, Delhi may be used as camp office of the Board.

2. The matter pertaining to promotion of 75 Model Gaushalas, 75 Animal Chairs / Study Centres, 75 Sanctuaries for stray cattle and establishment of 75 Gaushalas in Jails for celebrating Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav was placed before the Board. After due deliberations on the matters Shri Girish J. Shah was requested to work on these issues and to identify 75 Model

Gaushalas, 75 Animal Chairs / Study Centres, 75 Sanctuaries for stray cattle and 75 Gaushalas in Jails.

Chairman AWBI stated that videos of such identified organizations to be made and to be sent to the Minister with financial support from Samast Mahajan.

It was further decided that the Board to issue an advisory for establishment of Gaushalas in Jail in the country.

Shri Mohan Singh Ahluwalia suggested to honour such 75 Gaushalas which have completed 75 years of services in the field of Animal Welfare and also moving to the direction of self-sustainability. He further stated that the Gaushalas may be funded upto 7-8 lacs which will be supported by his organization "Gwala Gaddi".

Chairman suggested that this programme to be organized by Samast Mahajan.

- 3. The matter pertaining to the Mobile Veterinary unit ambulance ## project to be penetrated further pan India was placed before the Board and Board decided that infirmaries to be established in place of sanctuaries for animals.
- 4. The matter related to Lumpi disease to be declared as Veterinary emergency was discussed and the Board decided that a wholistic advisory to be drafted by Ms. Anjali Gopalan for vaccination and treatment of Lumpi disease.

General Discussion:

Shri Mohan Singh Ahluwalia briefed the Board about a project working on production of rich and nutritive Paneer to be launched in the market in the month of January, 2023 adding Sheep, Goat and Camel milk. He requested all the Board members to visit its plant and invited all the Board Members in advance to attend the inaugural function of launching the product.

Chairman has stated that the Ministry is going to start 5 schemes for animal welfare purposes. The details of the proposed schemes are given below: -

1. Cow & livestock parks

- 2. Cow hostels (picnic spots / cow tourism)
- 3. Production of cow-based products and their diversification
- 4. Training institutes for cow entrepreneurship
- 5. Waste to wealth to make bring sustainability

Shri Mohan Singh Ahluwalia suggested Milk Tourism also in the proposed schemes. He further stated that his organization Gwala Gaddi is providing milk in the country as well as abroad which is having very rich in Protein and other nutrition values.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.
