

ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA

Minutes of the 51st Annual General Meeting of the Animal Welfare Board of India held on 18.11.2021 at AWBI Hqs.

The following members attended the meeting on 18.11.2021 at 11.00 a.m. physically / through virtual mode:

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| 1. Dr. O.P. Chaudhary, IFS
Joint Secretary, (AWD) MoFAH&D | - | Chairman |
| 2. Shri S.P. Gupta, IAS (Retd.) | - | Member |
| 3. Shri Sunil Mansinghka | - | Member |
| 4. Prof. R.S. Chauhan | - | Member |
| 5. Ms. Anjali Gopalan | - | Member |
| 6. Dr. Hitesh Jani | - | Member |
| 7. Shri Ram Krishan Raghuvanshi | - | Member |
| 8. Shri Rajeev Gupta, IAS (Retd.) | - | Member} online |
| 9. Shri Girish J. Shah | - | Member} online |
| 10. Shri Mohan Singh Ahluwalia | - | Member } online |
| 11. Shri Ajit Sharad Kelkar | - | Member} online |
| 12. Shri Dhan Pal Singh | - | Member} online |
| 13. Dr. S.K. Dutta, Joint Commissioner (AWD)
MoFAH&D | - | Secretary In-charge, AWBI |
| 14. Mrs. Prachi Jain | - | Assistant Secretary, AWBI |

The Chairman welcomed the Members in the 51st Annual 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 48th General Meeting of the Board held on 27.03.2021.

The minutes of the 48th General Meeting of the Board held on 27.03.2021 through virtual mode were considered by the Board Members and the following issues were deliberated: -

Shri S.P. Gupta, Member AWBI welcomed the initiative of the Board to record the proceedings of the meeting and informed that the minutes of the AGM to be ratified in the AGM only. He further informed that many issues were raised by him and unfortunately

few of them were addressed and did not find place in the agenda. He also raised the issue of validity of the HAWO cards and reiterated that the validity of the HAWO card should be aligned with the tenure of the Board. Further, he also pointed out that the office do not maintain any record with regard to the communication made with the HAWO card holders regarding cancellation of the HAWO cards. He further suggested that the list of the earlier HAWOs needs to be placed before the HAWO Committee and then proper notice to be issued to them before cancellation of their cards.

Chairman directed that now onwards the proper procedure of conducting meetings should be followed and agenda to be taken from the members and draft minutes to be circulated to the members also for incorporation of their issues in the minutes before finalization of the same.

He further directed that no meeting should be conducted in short notice and proper time to be given to the members to raise their concerns and also obtain their travel plan. He also directed that the list of the earlier HAWOs to be placed before the committee and proper notice / letter may be sent to them to dismiss their HAWO cards.

Secretary, In-Charge, with permission to the Chair submitted that the Board was having more than 350 HAWOs but hardly 60/70 were active in the field of Animal Welfare and sending their activity reports. There was a question in Parliament seeking the information about HAWOs and the information was furnished in the house. Only 60/70 number of HAWOs were responding to the correspondence made by the Board to submit their activity report. The remaining HAWOs were unresponsive even after repeated communication with them for more than one year. Therefore, the matter was placed in the HAWO committee constituted by the Board as discussed in earlier Board meetings. The committee decided to cancel all the existing HAWOs and call for the fresh application as per revised application form alongwith the required fees of Rs. 500/-, activity reports of last three years and the recommendation letter. The applications are to be placed in the HAWO Committee for scrutinization before issuing fresh HAWO cards.

Shri S. P. Gupta also re-iterated that the HAWO has been discontinued without giving any notice to them.

Chairman advised that good people engaged in the work of Animal Welfare to be issued HAWO cards. In case some person engaged in the noble cause of animal welfare and left behind in submitting the reports then the person needs to be considered for issuing HAWO card and the Members of the Board must have knowledge of such people.

Prof. R.S. Chauhan informed that the work of issuing HAWO cards is being done by the committee in a transparent manner and on based on the recommendations on the applications. An authority letter is being issued for first three months and then on satisfactory report, the HAWO card for 5 years shall be issued to the HAWOs.

Chairman informed that the Board is having power to take decision on the HAWO cards and no pressure is acceptable. The people working for noble cause of animal welfare to be promoted. He further suggested that the police verification is compulsory. In case many family members are applying for HAWO ID cards then only one card is to be considered.

Chairman stated that the Committee's decision is to be considered for issuing of HAWO ID Cards. Few HAWOs are also misusing the HAWO ID, therefore, we have to be very careful in issuing these cards and have to bring people who are really involved in the good cause of animal welfare.

Shri Sunil Mansinghka also told that the Board should promote the people engaged in the field of animal welfare selflessly.

Shri Girish J. Shah informed that the Board is unable to issue 300 HAWO Cards so far even after recommendations by the Board Members. The procedure being followed by the Board is very lengthy. He further told that I have sent more than 50 applications for HAWO cards but nothing has come out so far. There should be some target fixed for making HAWOs.

With regard to issue raised by Girish J Shah, the Secretary, AWBI informed that out of 50 HAWO applications forwarded by the member, 11 participants have since been trained and 37 letters have been issued for seeking Police verification and the same was recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Prof. R. S. Chauhan informed the Board that all the applications received for HAWO cards have been processed and 51 HAWO letters have been issued till date.

Shri S.P. Gupta further told that the recommendation / verification by the MP / MLA should not be made mandatory as all people may not have good contact with them. He raised the issue of grant-in-aid is being released to the AWOs of Haryana and other states who have not completed 3 years of Board's recognition. Shri S. P. Gupta also suggested that all the matters / issues raised by him during earlier meetings held on 27.03.2021 to be the part of the Minutes. It was directed to add the points raised by Shri S.P. Gupta during the meeting held on 27.03.2021 as a part of the Minutes in the said meetings.

Chairman, after detailed deliberations, with all the Board Members and officials clarified the issue of the sanctioning / release of grant-in-aid to the AWBI recognized AWOs and stated that the AWOs who have completed minimum 3 years of registration in their respective states and have been recognized by the Board are eligible for getting AWBI grant immediately. Inspection may be conducted by the AHD / Member AWBI of the area concerned.

Shri S.P. Gupta also raised the issue pertaining to the letter issued by the ex-Secretary of AWBI regarding not considering the communication done by the Board Members.

In this connection, Chairman informed Shri S.P. Gupta and all the Board Members that few members are writing various things which are not acceptable. Criticising policies etc. are questionable by the Govt. Seeking protocol from the authorities for personal visits and when complaints are received against the members or if any member is going against the policies then the Govt. may initiate action. However, it was also informed that a letter was also issued in this regard by the then Secretary. However, the members may communicate on animal welfare or cruelty related matters specifically with the State Government within the Government norms under intimation to the Chairman of the Board.

After discussion, it was agreed that the issues raised by Shri S.P. Gupta will be part of the Minutes as Addendum.

Item No.2: Ratification of the Minutes of the Grants Committee Meeting of the Board held on 13.07.2021.

The minutes of the Grants Committee Meeting held on 13.07.2021 were considered and ratified with the amendment that the AWOs to be recognized by the AWBI on completion of 3 years of registration in their respective States or by the societies under society act and the grant may be released to the AWOs in the same year. Also, the Regular Grant may be considered as per criteria fixed.

Item No.3: Ratification of the Minutes of the ABC Committee Meeting of the Board held on 22.06.2021, 17.08.2021 and 18.10.2021.

The Board considered the Minutes of the ABC Committee Meetings for ratification held on 22.06.2021, 17.08.2021 and 18.10.2021. While discussing on the minutes, the Chairman informed that various complaints are being received regarding conducting of ABC/AR programme and doing forged ABC/AR.

Ms. Anjali Gopalan informed that the AWOs are doing substandard ABC/AR operations, therefore, the minimum rates to be fixed by the Board beyond the existing rates.

Chairman further informed that the Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary of the all the States / UTs to be informed by writing a letter to them to check the real status of the ABC programme in their respective areas so that the dogs do not suffer cruelty and the ABC/AR occurs in real.

Shri Sunil Mansinghka told that the ABC Program is failure. The Board should concentrate on the creative issues. He informed the Board members that Justice Guman Mal Lodha, Ex-Chairman of the Board initiated Aadarsh Gaushala Model during his Chairmanship from 1998-2004 and now the foreign countries are working on the power / resources of our cattle. The Board should discuss and put valuable time and energy on such creative issues. Gaushala centric works to be discussed to bring up the economy of the country.

He further informed that the Board members, 700 villages in West Bengal are adhering to Goseva and becoming self-sustainable and such network to be enhanced and replicated throughout the country. During Corona, the Gaumutra has increased the immunity of human beings by 104%. The Panchagavyas helped our rural community to an extent to save from the deadly epidemic. Therefore, the Board needs to change its view.

He also informed that now more than 100 Prisons (Jails) are having gaushalas and cow centralized system to be developed so that the rate of crime is reduced.

Ms. Anjali Gopalan informed in the discussion and submitted that the mandate of the Board is for welfare of all animals not for cow. She further requested to keep on record that the AWBI is not only for the cow but for all animals.

Shri Ramkrishna Raghuvanshi informed the Board that the Govt. of Madhya Pradesh is having Rs.900 crores budget for Gauseva and the self-help groups are working and providing jobs to many. The Board Members must visit such places.

Prof. R.S. Chauhan intimated that the Board has recently been completed 5 days training programme on dry dairy. Shri Sunil Mansinghka advised that more programme needs to be conducted in this regard.

Dr. Hitesh Jaani informed about the various programmes for saving the CISF and other organizations from Corona with the help of Panchgavya and Ayurveda.

Chairman informed that all the Board Members that the Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog (RKA) has been attached with AWBI to cater the work of Animal Welfare being carried out by it. The Board needs to enhance the peripherals to work more broadly. A separate committee needs to be created for the same. Chairman, also clarified that the Board always works for all the animals and not only for cow, however, the resources will be enhanced based on the cow centric planning.

Item No.4: Ratification of the Minutes of the Honorary Animal Welfare Officer Committee Meeting of the Board held on 24.05.2021, 02.07.2021 and 23.09.2021

The minutes of the HAWO Committee meetings were considered and ratified with the modification that the tenure of HAWO ID cards will be for 5 years.

Item No.5: Ratification of the Minutes of the National Institute of Animal Welfare Committee Meeting of the Board held on 19.07.2021.

The minutes of the 1st Meeting of the NIAW Committee were considered and ratified by the Board members.

Item No.6: Consideration and approval of draft Annual Report for the year 2019-20 and adoption of Audit Report and Annual Accounts of the Animal Welfare Board of India for the year 2019-20.

The draft Annual Report 2019-20 along with the Separate Audit Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India was considered and the Annual Accounts and Separate Audit Report were accepted by the Board. Further it was decided that the draft Annual Report 2019-20 will be circulated again to the Board members for seeking their comments. It was also discussed that the activity reports of the AWOs to be obtained from all the recognized AWOs for inclusion in the Animal Citizen Magazine and to be removed from the draft AR 2019-20.

It was also discussed that the AWBI Newsletter should cover all other important issues such Animal Hostels, Gochar land etc.

Item No.7: Consideration of matter pertaining to the revised fee enhanced under PARR for Computer Graphics, VFX, Foreign Shoot, Natural / Background shoot scenes used by the production companies as there are requests from the production houses to exempt the enhanced fees under this category.

The Board considered the above matter and following decisions / discussions were held during the meeting: -

Shri Rajeev Gupta told that the depiction of the animal cruelty should not be there in any films / ad films.

Chairman AWBI told that an affidavit cum self-declaration from the producer to be obtained while showing the film declaring that CG have been used for making such scenes and no animals have been used. The scene depicting animal cruelty are not shown in CG scene. No application is required for such films but the necessary documents are needed to ensure that the film is based on CG. There is also need to provide certificate / report from the Graphics Expert in this regard alongwith the frames of the CG Shoot.

Shri Raghuvanshi informed that though he is special invitee in the PAC since long but he was never been invited nor provided any chance to attend the meetings.

Secretary, AWBI told that the Shri Raghuvanshi will attend the meetings of the PAC next meeting onwards and all the meeting links to be shared with him.

Shri Rajeev Gupta told that depiction of cruelty should not be permitted even in the foreign shot films too.

Chairman also suggested that an affidavit cum self-declaration from the producer to be obtained in case of foreign shoot too declaring that the scene depicting animal cruelty are not shown in foreign shot alongwith the application as well as required documents for foreign shoot.

Secretary, AWBI informed that all systems will start by the end of this year online.

The fees for the events, polo races/ Elephant Safaris etc. were approved by the Board as per the details below: -

S. No	Particulars	Period	Existing fee	Proposed Registration / processing fee	Proposed renewal fee
1.	Performing Animal used in the event	To be renewed every five year	500	5000	5000
2.	Elephant Safari Registration	To be renewed every year	500	5000 per Elephant	5000 per Elephant

Item No.8: Consideration of matter regarding status / synchronization of AWOs on AWBI website.

The members of the Board was appraised that as per the direction of Niti Aayog the Board has developed online portal for recognition and grant to the animal Welfare Organization. The existing recognized AWOs to be on boarded in the portal. It decided that the AWOs will be given chance for on boarding without charging fees. The Board agreed to the proposal of on boarding.

Item No.9: Consideration of matter regarding Awards Function of AWBI (Prani Mitra and Jeevdaya Awards).

The matter was discussed and it was decided that the Prani Mitra Awards function to be organized in a grand manner and the Awards to be given by the President of India. It was also discussed that last year, the function was done briefly due to Covid-19 but now this year it has to be done by the Board in large scale.

Chairman suggested that these awards should be given with monetary benefits to encourage more people to have more love and compassion towards animals. It was decided to constitute a Committee for Award by the Chairman and immediately initiate the work of Award. It was also decided that the awardee will be decided by the Jury.

Item No.10: Consideration of matter regarding Recognition of SPCAs with AWBI and withdrawing the advisory to Establish and / or Active District Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCAs) in every district.

The matter regarding recognition to the SPCAs with AWBI was discussed and it was decided that the process will be continued and the HAWOs from the respective District will be nominated representatives in the DSPCAs or the name will be kept vacant till the Board provides any name for nomination.

All private SPCAs working in the name of SPCA to be discontinued and to be issued notice for cancellation of their recognition. Also, the Govt. SPCA may be informed to reconstitute the SPCA as per Establishment and Regulation of Societies for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Rules, 2001 and their recognition no. is being withdrawn as it is not required for Government constituted bodies.

Item No.11: Consideration of matter regarding revision of Committees of Board.

The Board considered and discussed the matter.

Shri S.P. Gupta told that the Board should constitute a committee for looking after the work of staff welfare / their regularization. Likewise, 3 schemes to be activated / systematized.

Secretary, AWBI informed that the staff welfare work will be looked after by the committee constituted in the Ministry.

It was decided that the list of Committee and its members to be circulated amongst the members of the Board for comments/ suggestions, if any before finalization.

Item No.12: Consideration of matter regarding issuing of Identity Cards to Members of the Committees.

The matter for issuance of ID Card to the members of various Committees were deliberated. It was suggested that there is no need of issuance of card to the members of the Committee as they are not the Board members. However, a letter may be issued to them as engagement as member.

Shri S.P. Gupta told that he is not having any ID card of the Board post his resignation from the Chairmanship of the Board. It was decided that he may be issued Card.

Item No.13: Consideration of matter regarding current status / inspection of the AWOs to whom the grant-in-aid under Shelter House and Ambulance Scheme has been released by the Ministry / AWBI.

The matter was discussed and Chairman suggested that the status can be reviewed at office level after due inspection of the AWOs.

Item No.14: Ratification of grants released under Training Programmes.

The matter was discussed and the Board ratified the release of a sum of Rs. 3,99,600/- towards the preparation of the "Training module for the gaushala managers/worker on management of gaushala and preparation of useful products from cow urine and cow dung" to G. B. Pant University, Pant Nagar, Uttarakhand as per the decision of the 48th General Meeting held on 27.03.2021. The Board has also noted the matter of conducting the "Online Training for the Gaushala Management and Care of Cows" which was conducted by Prof. (Dr.) R.S. Chauhan, Member, AWBI from 8.11.2021 to 12.11.2021 and also ratified the release of a sum of Rs.49,000/- towards the materials and other printing related work.

Further, the Board has noted the matter to conduct of National Webinar in collaboration with AWBI on "Cowpathy and Human Health" on 15-16, December, 2021 in which concerned scientists from India and abroad will participate and discuss the beneficial effects of Panchgavya (Cowpathy) on human, animal and environmental health. Papers from all the contributors will be compiled and published in the form of a book which will serve as a reference for future research and development. It will be a milestone in this area and will promote dry cow farming, production of Panchgavya (Cowpathy) products on the basis of scientific information leading to the self-sufficient (Atmnirbhar) gaushalas. This will provide a boost to the organic farming, reducing the load of chemicals in agriculture and food chain and ultimately leading to better human, soil and environmental health. The webinar is being organised by the Society for Immunology and Immunopathology, Department of Veterinary Pathology and College of Veterinary Pathology, GB Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, Uttarakhand. The request to support this event financially with a sum of Rs. 2.0 lac only (Rupees Two lac only) from AWBI to meet the expenditure of this webinar like pre webinar designing, printing, managing web and meeting platform, designing, editing and publishing proceedings etc. was approved by the Board.

Item No.15: Consideration of matter regarding status of Legal Cases of AWBI.

The matter was noted by the Board.

The Board also circulated the following Additional Agenda Items:

Additional Item No.1: Consideration of matter regarding issue of Animal Welfare Guidelines for Equines (Horses, Mules & Ponies) Employed at Brick-kilns in India

The matter pertaining to the issue of Animal Welfare Guidelines for Equines (Horses, Mules & Ponies) Employed at Brick-kilns in India was discussed by the Board Members and it was decided that the guidelines prepared by the Brooks India shall be circulated to the Board members for their perusal and further decision. The members appreciated the initiative and need of the same.


Additional Item No.2: Proposal for seeking grant in aid under the Regular Grant, Shelter House and Ambulance received from Swami Bhajnanand Aadarsh Gaushal, Gaushala Raod, Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh

The matter pertaining to consideration of Grant-in-aid to Swami Bhajnanand Aadarsh Gaushala, Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh was considered by the Board and it was decided that the proposal for considering Grant-in-aid under Regular and Rescue Cattle grant may be considered on obtaining 3 years Audited Accounts and Activity Report from the AWO and the proposals under CSS schemes will be considered as per the CSS Schemes guidelines.

Additional Item No.3: Points raised by Shri Sunil Mansinghka, member AWBI

The Points raised by Shri Sunil Mansinghka were discussed under Item No. 2 of the Main Agenda.

Additional Item No.4: Points raised by Shri Girish J. Shah, Member AWBI for consideration of the Board:

1. Advisory to be issued for use of cow dung to make Gobar diya  and Gobar sticks
2. Issues regarding HAWO cards
3. Film certificates are given in unnecessarily hurry, need to check it properly
4. Legal committee to be made aware of day to day Legal activity
5. Requesting central government to increase budget
6. Regular advisory's to be issued
7. AWBI is umbrella organisation, so we need to expand our reach to each and every organisation through SAWB and SPCA,

8. Meeting with Principal Secretaries of all AHD of all states to be organised to update them about PCA acts and it's provision

9. Long long pending corrections of various animal welfare related acts

The points raised by Shri Girish J. Shah, member AWBI could not be discussed due to unavailability of the Member. However, points raised were noted and recorded by the Board for necessary action as appropriate.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

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