AMERICAN LOWLINE REGISTRY
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING ~ *October 1, 2013*

Present: All ALR Board members present except Neil; Neil comes on at 7:25 PM.

Topic: Purpose of the meeting is to discuss the sudden change to the SNP test by GeneSeek now effective with no prior notice to ALR

President, Janis Black, called the meeting to order via conference call at 6:04 PM MST.

Sherry's Report followed by round table discussion:

Sherry submitted a FAQ letter for our review to send to the members to address the current situation. We want to get this letter out this week, if possible.

From her trip to GeneSeek she observed many facets of the operation. She found it to be impressive, clean, impressive staff, with regimented protocol, plenty of space, and perhaps short of space for the DNA samples that they received from Scidera. Obviously the quantity was greater than they had anticipated. Their lab is designed to use SNP's and it actually requires more training to use STR's. With a great volume of STR tests, they have problems.

One thing she learned is that calves under 6 months of age need to have a blood sample instead of tail hair. We need to share that new information with the members. We need to urge our members to communicate with Jessi, who is very good. The better information is sent to GeneSeek, the better information will be received in return.

There is concern for producer support through the transition. Many have been very discouraged with the lack of service and the great lag in time for getting papers. Others have had no problems. Currently, there is an 11 day turnaround. Sherry indicated that often confusion is created because of poor record keeping issues. Dean can add to his presentations, the importance of good record keeping, and what we can do to make each other successful in the entire process, including SNP verification. Larry suggested that we offer Calf Record books for a handout to our members. Sherry will get a quote.

Cross referencing of cattle DNA in the data base will prevent dishonesty—people should know this.

We have received many concerns about the costs and practicality of repeating something that has already been done. We need to emphasize the long term positives and be supportive through this process. The difficulty is we're now behind the eight ball because we weren't able to give the members advance notice.

Some of the blood samples from Scidera are too small for the SNP test, and therefore cannot be rerun. Yes, there can be some redone from old samples. Many of the blood cards were cut, which destroyed the bar codes on those samples, making it difficult for GeneSeek to track them. There may be some SNP parentage in Australia which we can fall back on. Obviously, the AI sire owners should be responsible to send semen (or other) samples for SNP test. There is no separate form for submitting semen for testing. Dead animals may pose difficulties, which will be treated on a case by case basis. There will be some that GeneSeek will have to run both STR and SNP—should not be a great number. Some decisions will have to be made by the board to accept some animals for registration when parent samples can't be found or used.

There was a good deal of discussion on optional financial support by the ALR, perhaps for 6 months to 1 year. The Wagyu breed has a cost of $80 to register a calf, for comparison. Costs need to be figured before we make the decision. We'll all talk to our members to get a good feel for what we need to do. We don't want to wait too long to get this letter out.

Surly members who are unreasonable with GeneSeek staff will be handled on our end.

We agree to saturate the next Ledger issue with this transition information. Instead of meet the rancher, have Jim write an article on this topic. Junior National power point presentation by Chris Ringwall could also be done in the Ledger. We could ask Elisa or Gary Felger from GeneSeek to speak from a marketing standpoint at the National meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM MST -- Motion was made to adjourn by John, seconded by Larry. Motion carried.