



Board Meeting Summary

7 May 2025

Key Decisions and Actions

Dressage Committee Initiatives

- The Board welcomed the Dressage Committee Chair to present two initiatives.
- The Youth Development Weekend focuses on training opportunities for young riders with a projected financial loss of \$375, requiring budget variation for judges, educators, and awards for about 20 participants.
- The Celebration of Dressage Event aims to celebrate achievements separately from the ESA awards night, planned to be cost-neutral.
- A discussion was held regarding the feasibility and potential engagement with assurances about interest from riders aged 12-14.
- The Board discussed financial risks and effectiveness in fostering community engagement.
- The motion passed unanimously to approve budgets for both initiatives.

Dressage Annual Budget

- The Board discussed deferring the overall Dressage budget until the FARMC review and the outcome of the EA's Fees & Levies communication.
- Motion passed unanimously to refer the budget to FARMC for further review before final approval.

Decision Register Implementation

- The Board discussed the introduction of the Decision Register to improve transparency and accountability.
- Comments were made about ensuring decisions are detailed. Discussion emphasised the importance of a structured approach to tracking decisions and actions.
- Motion passed unanimously to note Decision Register with representative to update system and present Actions Register at next meeting.

Board Meeting Minutes Approval

- The Board discussed the April 2, 2025, minutes with the Chair encouraging feedback.
- Suggestions were made regarding the Chair's update amendments to clarify the support person offer and state-based funding limitations.
- Agreement that future minutes would include an action items section for task tracking.
- The motion passed unanimously to approve the minutes with the discussed amendments.

ESA Board Work Plan

- The Board discussed the Work Plan as a strategic framework for activities and objectives throughout the financial year.
- Reviewed the previous year's plan, identifying successes and improvement areas.
- The Chair emphasised focusing on strategic issues rather than operational details.
- Proposed initiatives included Governance Training, Review of Current Service Provisions, and Identification of Alternative Plans if SLA reforms don't progress.
- Board members discussed the necessity of clarity and regular updates.

- Contractor to draft plan based on discussions for Board review and Sport and Recreation submission.
- The motion passed unanimously to approve the proposed activities and initiatives.

Board Summaries Review

- The Board discussed summaries with Directors, thanking the Board member for compilation efforts.
- A Board member mentioned that the statement about SLA progress could imply that an agreement was signed when it was not finalised.
- Suggestion to stop sentence at 'publicly'. Board members expressed concern about including specific names related to show sponsorship, believing naming could lead to scrutiny.
- Board noted summaries and will approve via circular resolution following changes.

External Correspondence Response

- The Board discussed the response structure to the letter received, raising concerns about EA's impact on ESA.
- The Board aimed to formulate a comprehensive reply, maintaining professionalism.
- A Board member volunteered to revise the draft, ensuring it reflects the collective views and addresses key points.
- Updated response to be circulated for final approval before sending.

Fees & Levies Update

- The Board discussed recent EA updates, with a Board member advising that EA had organised a new meeting and the current information was no longer relevant.
- A Board member raised a question about when the final Fees & Levies would be received for budget planning.
- The Board agreed that FARMC should reconvene after the EA meeting to assess the information and discuss ESA budget implications.

Office Leasing Considerations

- The Board discussed office space leasing and storage needs.
- Discussion focused on maintaining a physical office versus leasing the entire space and utilising storage facilities.
- Noted, the current office is underutilised, with some staff working from home.
- Acknowledged leasing could alleviate financial pressure, considering the proposed EA fee increases.
- Storage solutions emphasised for materials, documents and equipment with facilities available at \$150-250 monthly.
- The Board discussed the implications of work-from-home versus office arrangements, with concerns about staff isolation.
- Questions raised about member office visits. Board member tasked with researching storage facilities and costs.
- Board to evaluate options and consider staff feedback on working arrangements.

ESA Representatives for EA Meetings

- The Board discussed two requests for representatives to attend EA meetings.
- A Board member unable to attend the EA Health and Safety on Equine Welfare meeting with an alternative nominated.
- Board member nominated to attend the EA State CEOs meeting on ESA's behalf.

Board Conduct Discussion

- The Chair raised that the Board had received significant correspondence between other State Boards and EA, with ESA not being a party to the discussions, but advised that a Board member was involved.

- The Board engaged in a lengthy discussion concerning the Board members' involvement in external communications.