

**Animal Charity Evaluators**  
 Board of Directors Meeting  
 Type of Meeting: Standard Meeting  
 Date: 16 August 2020

In attendance:

Chairperson: Allison Smith  
 Secretary: Eric Herboso  
 Treasurer: Kieran Greig  
 Board Member: Jonas Müller  
 Board Member: Jeff Sebo  
 Board Member: Persis Eskander  
 Board Member: Zach Freitas-Groff  
 Board Member: Sarah Pickering  
 Board Member: Galina Hale  
 Executive Director: Leah Edgerton

Absent:

Quorum established: Yes

**1. Call to order:** PE called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m. EDT

**2. Approval of minutes:** Minutes were approved via email on 15 July 2020

**3. ED items**

- Financials
  - Q2 budget:

<b>QUARTERLY SUMMARIES— ACCRUAL</b>		
		Q2 2020
Income		
	ACE Contributions	\$103,227.89
	AARF Contributions	\$0.00
	Supported Charity Contributions	\$590,968.55
	Other Income	\$114,266.27
	<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$808,462.71</b>
Expenses		
	ACE expenses (non-AARF)	\$217,497.91

	AARF grants & expenses	\$49,027.78
	Supported Charity Donation fees	\$3,430.84
	Supported Charity Disbursements	\$351,664.50
	<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$621,621.03</b>
Investment account gain (loss)		\$27,629.76
<b>Net income/loss</b>		<b>\$214,471.44</b>
Assets		
	Total Balance at end of month (cash)	\$2,783,962.36
	Receivable	\$38,695.45
Liabilities		
	Accounts payable	\$14,645.05
	Allocated for Supported Charities	\$1,628,363.56
	Allocated for AARF	\$270,764.46
<b>Net assets (ACE)</b>		<b>\$908,884.74</b>
	Investment balance	\$268,456.31
	Months of Operating Expenses (total)	11.3
	Months of Operating Expenses (uninvested)	8.0
Property & Equipment assets > \$1,000		laptop & printer together is close to \$1,000

- Fundraising:
  - ACE: As of 7/31 we are 60% of the way to our \$1M goal
  - Influenced to our recs (including through RCF)
    - \$2,546,111.37 towards \$9M goal
    - Secured at least one matching donation to RCF for Nov/Dec campaign (at least \$300k), likely two matching donors (for a triple match)
  - EAAF
    - \$172,769.60 towards \$1M goal
    - Secured matching donor for Sept/Oct campaign (at least \$300k)
- Strategy
  - Intensive brainstorming sessions on 3-year strategic plan held at July staff retreat

- Scheduled board strategy session to ensure alignment on big picture questions.
  - AARF discussion: Settled on a strategy for AARF going forward. Team is building a fundraising proposal to circulate among potential funders. Most strategic elements and goals of the funds are the same as before, while optimizing process elements
    - We will hold the decision-making committee internally, with external experts to consult on specialized topics
    - We will align the application process, deadline, and review process internally for AARF and EAAF to ensure we are streamlining our two grant-making processes
    - We discussed the pros and cons of merging AARF and EAAF and ultimately decided against it because we expect that a combined fund will attract fewer donations than two separate funds
    - We discussed research priorities for the fund, and we plan to retain the three broad focus areas (farmed animal welfare, plant- and cell-based alternatives to animal products, and wild animal suffering) while publishing specific lists of our research uncertainties that result from our grant-making and evaluation processes. The researchers we consulted felt that a narrowing beyond that level would significantly decrease the amount of applications and exclude speculative proposals that could be of high value that we haven't identified in our internal decision-making.
- Activities:
  - FYI: we have a 2020 goal monitoring document that we review every other Leads meeting
  - Charity Evaluations
    - Well underway! We are on track with our schedule
    - Team is using Scrum sprints to manage the project rather differently this year and feel it's been a huge improvement for decision-making and improving the process
  - RCF
    - Disbursed mid-year grants
    - Withheld one grant pending evals decision
  - EAAF
    - We are in the process of rebranding this fund to make it easier to describe to our donors
      - Vote for new name is active
    - R3 grants are disbursed, but not yet announced
    - R4 tentative decisions have been made
    - Plan is to announce R3 and R4 grants in advance of launching Sept fundraising campaign
    - Will send out request for updates from R2 grantees shortly
  - AARF

- R8 grants have been disbursed but not yet announced. Drafting a “lessons learned” blog post
  - Discussed ACE pulling out of CARE conference.
- Staff updates:
  - Final interviews this week for Philanthropy Officer positions
  - On-call copy editor onboarded
  - On-call copy-editing work temp hire for the busy EOY season
  - Question regarding staff roles on other boards
    - COI policy to be revisited to specify any nuances between staff members involved in evaluations and grantmaking decisions, as well as to differentiate the policies between EAAF grantees and reviewed charities.
  - When staff should attend board meetings
    - We think it would be best for staff to only attend when invited to ensure board members can be frank with each other about staff matters.

#### **4. Officer items**

- PE: announce results of officer elections
  - Chairperson: AS
  - Secretary: EH
  - Treasurer: KG
- PE: discuss transition process
- AS: Q2 financials
  - Q2 financial summary
  - Q2 statement
  - Q1 and Q2 YTD vs budget

#### **5. Committee/Staff Liaison items**

- ZF: Discussion on ACE policy regarding culture issues with potential AARF/EAAF grantees

**6. Next scheduled meeting:** October 18, 2020; 12:00 p.m. EDT

**7. Meeting adjourned** at 2:48 p.m. EDT on 16 August, 2020, by PE

#### **Submitted by:**

Eric Herboso, Board Secretary  
Allison Smith, Board Chair