



QUAGGA PROJECT

**MINUTES OF THE QUAGGA
PROJECT ASSOCIATION
MEETING**
Elandsberg, 10H00 on 22 August 2019

Attendees:

Mr M Gregor
Mr C Lardner
Mr M Turnbull
Mr B Wooding
Mr T Turner
Mr B Le Roux
Mr F le Roux
Mr E Hahndiek
Mr R Kettles
Ms Z Steenkamp
Mr S Steenkamp
Ms A Bester-Treurnicht
Mr N Treurnicht
Mr JP Hugo
Mr M Dalton

Welcome from the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed everyone present.

Apologies:

Ms K Turner
Mr F Rueda
Mr S Mitchell
Mr H Louw
Ms L Louw
Ms P Swanepoel
Melandri
Dr G Burhman

1. SECRETARIAL

The minutes of the previous project meeting, held on 20 February 2019, were distributed and considered by all.

Referring to Financial Budget vs Actuals the Chairman suggested that barring unforeseen circumstances, the QP remains solidly funded for the next three and not two years.

2. MATTERS ARISING

- a) The members determined that a the QP should, in the absence of Prof. Harley, try to bring on board some new scientific expertise. Contributions from Stellenbosch University, with whom we are currently collaborating and Prof Peter Hayward, who has visited the project from the US, were both discussed.
- b) The marketing material of the project and in particular the posters need to be updated. This extends to the whole 'narrative' of the project which could be refreshed and clarified.
- c) Most importantly, CL reminded the meeting, as others have before, that there needs to be an exit strategy of some sort. In the QP's case, this has to include a long-term home for the best of the Rau quagga herd. CL proposed investigating the Paardeberg as a possible home for a representative sample of the project.

In the absence of the original SANPark collaboration, this critical question must be addressed going forward.

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. Coordinators Report

The Coordinator's report was presented by MT and is attached as **Annexure 1** below

b. Herd Report

The Coordinator's report was presented by BW and is attached as **Annexure 2** below

4. OTHER BREEDING HERD REPORTS

- JP from Arc & Ciel confirms that five foals were born.
- Boet from Vlakkenheuvel lost one foal due to new stallion.
- Albè from Middelpoos expressed the need for more mares as they want to move small herds to small camps in North West Province, where they have three farms.
- Zhaantel from Pampoenvlei reports that the new stallion, Lucky, has chased out 2 young males from his new herd and a young mare, also from this herd, joined the two.

5. FINANCE

- a. Account Balances

Audit & Tax

The good news is that we have now removed the Audit backlog.

Rau Quagga Breeders Society Registration

I think we finally have good news regarding the Breeders Society, but the wheels of registration turn terribly slowly.

The first bit of encouragement was when the Minister formally approved the Rau Quagga as a Recognised Breed. That was the previous roadblock.

More recently, the email below states clearly that our certification has been approved and can be issued. This is as both a Breeders Society and as a Registering Authority.

We have paid the Breeders Society but have no certificate yet. It was slightly worrying to be asked for copies of all our applications to be re-sent to the registrar. We have done that and hopefully that will be a formality.

You may remember that we also applied to be a 'Registering Authority' because every breed society has an obligation to make an annual return to the Registrar - and this must be done via a Registering Authority.

The upfront fee for that is R7.370 and I just wanted to check whether it was better for us (financially) to be our own Registering Authority or to use a third party. I have confirmed with the Registrar that this is a one off fee (not annual) so I think we are going to go ahead and pay for this certification.

Mmaphuti Setati [Registrar's Office]
to me

Good afternoon March,

It was good talking to you after such a long time. I'm in and out of the office because I'm registered with University of Fort Hare for MBA and it's keeping me too much busy. There were two applications that were made i.e. for breeders 'society and registering authority. The fees will be R1480 and R7370, respectively. After payment, we will issue out two certificates that will be emailed and posted to you. We thank you for your patience, there were many processes involved and we thank God that we finally made it.

Kind regards

Mmaphuti

What this means in practice is that we will continue to issue certificates as requested, as we have done in the last six months. The only thing that will change will be the design of the certificates to reflect the Breeders Society name and the registration number, etc.

 REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE RAU QUAGGA			
REGISTRATION NO.: KKR16M0265		DATE OF ISSUE: 23/01/2019	
NAME: Spring	BIRTH DATE: 01/09/2016	SEX: Male	M-CHIP: N/A
BREEDER: Quagga Project	OWNER: Kosiwkraal	HERD: KKR	DNA-profile: N/A
GRADE: A2	GRADE DATE: 19/02/2018		

		Sire Name: Michael Sire Reg: KKR10M0125 DNA Verified? <input type="checkbox"/>
		
		Dam Name: Nonnie Dam Reg: KKR12F0179 DNA Verified? <input type="checkbox"/>
		

This Registration Certificate has been issued by the *Rau Quagga Association*. Verification copies are available on request from registration@rauquagga.co.za. The Rau Quagga Association reserves the right to revise and refine the Grading Criteria in the future.

Grazing Agreements

Four properties participate in the Grazing Agreement scheme.

The first payment covering the whole of 2018 was made, earlier this year.

The Agreement says that fees will be paid twice a year, in arrears. Therefore a payment is now due for the period 01/01/19 - 30/06/19.

After this meeting, Bernard will calculate the average number of animals on each property during this period and we will ask for invoices to be submitted.

As always, thank you to all the landowners involved.

Wildlife Manager

The project benefits enormously from having access to a wildlife manager.

Bernard performs a number of tasks for us both administratively and operationally.

The clearest example of him doing both is when we plan a relocation. Identifying the right animals for relocation, applying for and chasing movement permits, contracting and managing vets and transport - it all takes time and experience.

There are some organisational changes underway at Elandsberg and Mike Gregor will speak to one aspect of that during the meeting. However, the upshot is that Bernard remains available to the Quagga Project which is great for us.

He is not an employee of the Quagga Project and his work for us is essentially a donation-in-kind which is both valuable and extremely generous. Sincere thanks to Mike for making this possible.

The Quagga Project as a selective breeding programme

The Project has a very specific mandate and a very limited amount of resources.

It also has a time horizon dependent on the continued participation of the current landowners which currently stretches no more than five years into the future.

The financial horizon, as measured by money in the bank, is even less than that.

All of these limitations can be overcome if there is appetite to continue (which I hope there will be) but they do focus the mind on making the best use of our time.

My point here is that we are having increasingly robust internal debates about how 'hard' to be on keeping or culling animals.

For the record, I think we should be almost ruthlessly hard; we are going to produce far more foals than we can absorb into the project over the next few years and we cannot afford to carry anything but the best.

However.... I appreciate that my outlook is not formed in the same way as those of you who observe your animals at close quarters over months and years!

It's an important debate and the more breeders we have around the project, the easier it will be to move animals on.

Incidentally, the ultimate example of a hard decision to make is Henry. I can report that he continues to enjoy a life full of reward with his harem at Wedderwill, having been retired from the Pampoenvlei herd!

1. Annexure 2: Bernard Wooding's Herd Report

Herd Report August 2019

Breeding Groups

There are 10 breeding groups on the 4 core herd properties .

The total number of animals in the Quagga Project herd is 79 animals, this, as expected, is almost the same as the number in the last meeting in February, as most foals are born over summer.

- Elandsberg -23 animals (3 breeding groups) of which 3 are stallions, 11 are breeding females 4 young females. The remaining 5 are yearlings.
- Nuwejaars North – 9 animals (1 breeding group) of which 1 is a stallion, 3 are breeding females and 1 young female, 4 are yearlings.
- Nuwejaars South – 11 animals (1 breeding group) of which 2 are stallions, 4 breeding females, 5 yearlings and young males
- Pampoenvlei – 19 animals (2 breeding groups) of which 2 are stallions, 9 breeding females, 8 yearlings and young males
- Vlakkenhuiwel – 14 animals (3 breeding groups) of which are 3 stallions, 10 breeding females and 1 yearling
- 3 mature nomad stallions being hosted by Arc en Ciel, Kosierskraal and Wedderwill,

Births:

3 births have occurred since the last meeting. These births were from a combination of established and new established herds.



335 FF19 - Freddy / Francis, Nuwejaars North



334 GF19 – Gio / Frederica, Nuwejaars South



336 Strepies – Henry / Henrietta, Pampoenvlei

Sales:

No sales were done over the last 6 months and none are planned for the rest of the year.

Internal Movements:

Some internal movements were done since the last meeting. A small breeding group was captured at Elandsberg and transferred to Vlakkenhuiwel to establish a 3rd breeding group there.

These animals were captured on Elandsberg as an established group to prevent the existing males at Vlakkenhuiwel from stealing the new females. The capture and delivery went smoothly and the animals have adapted well to their new home.

An experimental breeding group has been set up at Elandsberg. This is to take advantage of the very brown colouring of a young male, Neville (from NinaJ and Niel of Wedderwill).

He and 5 very good females (2 of which had not teamed up with a stallion yet and so were being “unproductive”), were captured on Elandsberg and transferred to a camp separate from the nature reserve in April.

These animals have settled down well and have bonded as a group. However no mating behaviour has been noticed yet, most probably as Neville is still immature at 2 years and 4 months.



It is planned to remove an older mare at Pampoenvlei (Raulene – C quality) to reduce numbers. Similarly an older mare is to be taken off Nuwejaars South (Rossalyn – C quality) in the near future. The stallion Gio was removed from the Nuwejaars South group to make way for the new selected stallion, Soetanys.

Grading

There are several young animals that need to be graded as they have reached 1 years old – this work will be completed by Bernard in the coming months.

Impacts of Stallion changes

The impact of the herd changes are still being felt with very little herd growth and we hope that this summer will be a bumper foaling year.