

Executive Board Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date	20 August 2026
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Participant	Position
Jim Berry	Meeting Chair, President
Richard Casey	Executive Director
Oscar Umaña	Treasurer
Liat Geller	Chief Community Officer
Cecilia Westerdahl	Chief Communications Officer
Lolita Bizune	Chief Partnerships Officer
Ellen van Nierop	Immediate Past President
Natasha Lee	Ordinary Board Member
Julie Stafford	Ordinary Board Member
Nalinika Obeyesekere	Ordinary Board Member
Veronica Leibaschoff	Ordinary Board Member
Derick Chibeu	Ordinary Board Member
Melanie Hicks	Guest, Chair Membership & Nominations Committee
Heather Bacon	Guest, incoming OBM
Soukaina Azib	Guest, incoming OBM
Mike Topper	Guest, incoming Treasurer

Consent	
C1	Minutes of the July 2026 EB Meeting
C2	Schedule for Krakow and Warsaw – excel sheet includes three tabs
C4	Pod Cast Reports – June and July
C5	2027 EB Meeting Schedule – includes dates for in-person
C6	Mid-Year 2026 Budget v Actual January to June 2026
C7	Financial Overview Report 2026 – for the General Assembly, reviewed and approved by current and incoming Treasurer’s
C8	Congress Status Report – 2026 - 2031
C9	Budget and Planning for 2027: • Committee Planning and Budgets for 2027 - Briefing to Committee Chairs • Budget 2027 - Timeline and Approval Points • Committee Review of Survey Results and Submitting Recommendations - Draft
C10	Agenda for Joint WSAVA FECAVA Europe Member Forum
C11	Ratify Adam Parrish - New Pain Committee Member
C12	Ratification of Dr Carla Maia as WSAVA One Health Award Winner

Consent Agenda ratified unanimously.

Membership		
M1	Membership Applications 2026 - Verbal Update MH and LG reviewed the membership applications submitted ahead of the 2026 General Assembly: 18 applications in total 8 new membership requests 10 current members seeking category extensions or change MH shared that the MNC identified a need to review the current membership criteria, which can be difficult for applicants and reviewers to interpret and apply consistently. The objective is to develop a clearer, fit-for-purpose framework that supports fair and efficient reviews while retaining appropriate discretion and responding to WSAVA’s evolving membership needs. A focused sprint review will be undertaken by a small group of selected MNC members, with input from regional EB members and Assembly representatives.	LG / MH

Strategy		
S1	Strategy 2027-2031 The EB reviewed the updated strategy framework following stakeholder consultation, noting that feedback had resulted primarily	RC

	in editorial changes for clarity and consistency, with no substantive changes to the vision, mission or strategic focus areas. Discussion focused on Focus Area 6, particularly the use of the term <i>human–animal bond</i> (HAB) and the visibility of animal welfare within the strategy. While recognizing the importance of the HAB concept, the EB noted that its interpretation varies across cultures and contexts and may not encompass all relationships between people, communities and companion animals. There was broad support for making animal welfare more explicit throughout the strategy. The EB agreed to adopt the revised Focus Area 6, “A stronger Companion Animal Veterinary contribution to One Health and One Welfare agendas,” and to include a companion animal health and welfare statement within the strategic principles, reinforcing animal welfare across all focus areas. Focus Area 5 was also amended to broaden its scope beyond digital technologies and explicitly reference innovations that improve companion animal veterinary care and welfare. Motions: Motion to revise the title for Focus Area 6 to “A stronger Companion Animal Veterinary contribution to One Health and One Welfare agendas” Motioned by JB 5 in favor, 2 against Carried Motion to include the animal health and welfare addendum as worded. Motioned by JB All in favor Carried	
S2	Reproduction Guidelines – Consensus Paper RC presented the revised ToR for the working group, following feedback from the group member and presented next steps in preparation for the General Assembly and continued work of the group. The EB also reviewed the proposed independent chair for the group, Sean Wensley. Motions by JB:	RC

	• Motion to accept the terms of reference as presented. Carried unanimously. • Motion to accept Sean Wensley as the independent chair. Carried unanimously. • Motion to accept the document to be presented to the General Assembly as written. Carried unanimously.	
S3	Future Association Leader Programme – Expansion in 2027 The EB reviewed the Future Association Leadership Programme, noting the positive experience to date and feedback supporting smaller cohorts to improve participation and accommodate different time zones. The importance of retaining the programme’s global and cross-cultural nature was emphasized, with opportunities for the two cohorts to interact during the in-person workshop and potentially at other points during the programme. The EB considered the additional cost of moving from one to two cohorts, noting that WSAVA’s contribution would increase from approximately USD 9,000 to USD 13,000, excluding tutor travel. The increase was considered reasonable given the improved participant experience, easier facilitation and modest increase in participant numbers. Motions by JB: • Motion to continue the Future Association Leadership Programme in 2027 - Carried unanimously. • Motion is to accept the two cohort option presented - Carried unanimously.	RC
S4	Request from MSAVA (Malaysia) - Discussion at General Assembly The EB reviewed a formal request from the Malaysian Small Animal Veterinary Association (MSAVA) concerning WSAVA’s governance, election processes, transparency and accountability. It was noted that many of the issues raised are already addressed through existing policies, procedures and recent governance reforms, although this information may not always be sufficiently visible or easily accessible. Some of the proposed changes could therefore be accommodated relatively easily, while the creation of a separate governance committee was considered unnecessary given existing structures and the inclusion of governance within the new strategy.	JB/RC

	The EB noted that MSAVA had been advised that its request would be formally considered and presented to the General Assembly.	
	Voting and Elections Policy The EB reviewed the proposed Voting and Elections Policy, with discussion focused on strengthening clarity and independence around election oversight. It was agreed that the Membership and Nominations Committee (MNC) would appoint scrutineers from within its membership, rather than leaving the appointment process unspecified. The EB also discussed the process for handling concerns or challenges relating to elections. To avoid the EB acting as a gatekeeper in matters where potential conflicts could arise, it was agreed that the policy would be amended to clarify that concerns would be referred to the MNC for review. Motion by JB to approve the voting and election policy as amended. Carried unanimously	RC

Governance		
G1	Pet Nutrition Alliance The EB reviewed the proposed transfer of tools and intellectual property from the Pet Nutrition Alliance (PNA), which is winding down due to funding challenges. It was noted that much of PNA's material overlaps with existing WSAVA nutrition resources; however, some tools, particularly its widely used dog and cat calorie calculator, would add value to WSAVA's resources and potentially strengthen engagement with the North American veterinary community. The EB discussed PNA's interest in maintaining some involvement following the transition and agreed that no dedicated position would be created within WSAVA. Individuals associated with PNA would remain eligible to apply for future vacancies on the Nutrition Committee through the normal recruitment process. Following approval, the detailed arrangements for transferring and integrating the tools will be finalized with PNA and the Nutrition Committee. Motion by JB to accept the PNA tools as part of the Nutrition Committee. Carried unanimously.	JB/RC

AOB		
1	Reminder to submit reports to General Assembly by deadline	RC
2	Update regarding ANCLIVEPA open debt - GA report ANCLIVEPA have reported that their bank accounts are frozen due to leadership change and have asked for a 1 year postponement on payment of dues.	RC
1	Ratification of Galia Shalev as Global Animal Welfare Award Winner Carried unanimously.	LG