Utility Farm Board Meeting - 1/5/2019

Meeting held: 2:00 pm EST on 1/5/19 by conference call
Members present: Ari Benjamin, Kai Meyer, Abraham Rowe (100% attendance)

Meeting called to order.

Abraham outlined proposed changes to organization:

- Merge with Wild Animal Suffering Research
- Adopt new name (Wild Animal Initiative?), keep WASR branding and logo
- Focus on research (cause prioritization, intervention reports, near-term interventions [insecticide and cat programs], communication strategies…) and outreach (podcast, academic outreach [contracting post-grads…])
- Roles: 4.25 full-time staff (Executive Director, Research Manager, Near-term Intervention Researcher, Communications & Outreach Manager, Part-time Operations Manager)

Abraham outlined near-term funding situation. We project to have a budget of
~$360,000 once Effective Altruism (EA) regrants $310,000 currently allocated to WASR. Last year the two organizations raised a combined $366,000. With additional funding opportunities we may be able to grow the 2019 budget to $500,000, depending on academic outreach priorities.

Programming discussed. Abraham raised holding more wild animal welfare summits, perhaps annually.

Abraham outlined the presumed process for the merge and associated changes: (1) approval by our board and the EA board; (2) adoption of new branding and development of new website; (3) public launch, possibly end-January; (4) hiring of Operations Manager and Communications and Outreach Manager.
Abraham raised the prospect of expanding the board and/or replacing board members. General consensus that Abraham shouldn’t serve as both Executive Director and a board member in order to avoid concentrating decision making power. Abraham reviewed potential individuals for staff and volunteer roles.

No thoughts or concerns were raised about the above discussion.

The Board approved the proposed merge and associated changes by a 3-0 vote.

Abraham reviewed aspects of our 2018 budget and expenditures found in the Profit and Loss Statement.

Meeting adjourned.