Clive Marwick: Well thank you very much for that Anthea. I think it gives us a lot of food for thought and new ideas that must be explored. I was personally in front of the portfolio committee for Justice and Constitutional Development, and on specifically on this very point of a single directorate for veterinary services. We did put down our thoughts on it.

But to change the constitution is a very difficult process. The portfolio committee referred me back to the way that the Act stipulated and how you get to the nine provinces plus one national authority. Why the nine is there and the one is there, and the fact that if you want to do it you cannot take away the complete veterinary structures within any province and make it national, because each province has a constitutional right for their services to their people.

So, you could perhaps look at the possibility of removing animal diseases from the provinces, but you are not going to be able to remove the social responsibilities that each individual province has. So, that is just a bit of information on this topic. We do look at this, we do push for these sort of things, because we see the good in doing that eventually.

Let us move on now and get input from the members to find out what they would like the Council to discuss?

We have had the suggestion here now that we consider a session on the mandates of the different stakeholders.

- The mandate of DAFF and Council; and
- Council and the SAVA, and there is a lot of other issues that can be discussed around that topic.

Are there any other suggestions on what people would like to hear over here today or at the next meeting?

Should we have a session on the veterinary strategic plan?

We can consider a lot of options and if we have got input we will go ahead with them otherwise the Council will debate on the issue and come up with the next Indaba.

Moshe Mathonsi: I think maybe what may also help is to have an expedition where we go to some of the areas from the state’s side to give exposure to the private veterinarians, especially to see exactly what are the activities that are needed in those communities. I think that will help us a great deal over and above the congresses, and represent what we do.

When we see the reality that we are faced with, possibly it will also help
us to be much more relevant and focussed to what this country needs. So, that, I mean the portfolio committee itself, from time to time go into those areas just to see exactly what the status quo is. If we can maybe have time to do that it may give us a different perspective.

Clive Marwick: Thank you. That is a suggestion. I have often thought that we need to debate why and how do we as a profession influence the politicians? I am not quite sure whether they know what the veterinary field is about. I do not think they understand the implementation. I do not think they understand veterinarians as such, and that discussion goes on.

I feel that I must become more active and that is why one of the issues that we are talking about is to look at the re-constitution of Council, to give the president perhaps more time to be involved in these issues. We need to debate them with the parliamentarians so that they can understand that there is a huge demand for our services.

On animal health technicians that are unemployed, should be employed, even if it is going to be for primary animal health care. They do not understand the numbers. They do not understand the numbers of our animal population that is out there in the far rural areas and compared to the numbers that are part of commercial farming; and they pay a lot of attention to the commercial farming and not enough to your far rural areas.

Thireshni Chetty: My suggestion would be to discuss the role of veterinarians within our National Development Plan [NDP]. I think when you are talking about issues of unity amongst the profession and public, private partnerships [PPPs] it is important to understand what your roles are in your environments.

So, if you are looking at our NDP, government has said that by 2050 we will not be able to provide enough food for an ever-growing population by that time. And our goals, our medium-term goal and long term goal for that period needs to focus on food security and food safety.

The problem is that if one is not on the same page about our roles within that process it is difficult for us to function and build these relationships of trust. And it is not only about veterinarians and para-veterinary professionals and veterinary teams. Our first source of disease identification and our first source of disease control are farmers and we cannot leave them out of the loop, because they are the first ones to identify diseases and if we do not build those trust relationships with them we have lost disease control, because we will not be the first port of call for disease reporting.

So, it is that whole process of primary animal health, public, private partnerships etcetera and unifying the profession to understand what
our roles are, because politicians are not going to come to me and define my role. I need to teach a politician exactly what my role is, and if they do not understand our value in contributing to our NDP we have already lost any integrity we have with politicians or engaging with them.

**Clive Marwick:** Thank you, you mentioned an interesting point as well about the PPPs. I think that is a discussion that we can have as well. I think the veterinarians especially must understand how PPPs work. It is not necessary a great form of income from the state, they do not have those financial resources anymore.

I think we need to perhaps involve the industry at our next meeting, that we can sit down and discuss that each industry should be totally responsible for the disease and health within that industry. PPPs are going to work at an industry level and then employ veterinarians and animal health technicians to do the work. Why is it necessary to employ veterinarians to go and do the basic testing of brucellosis or to do basic testing of TB at a far more expensive rate when animal health technicians can be doing the same function?

So, we got to look at that and we must see how they can be integrated if it must be with the private veterinarians, but these are the issues that we need to debate and to understand what is PPP and how is it going to function in South Africa. Are there any other suggestions?

**David Gerber:** Does the Council have a clear vision and a mission which is published and agreed upon by its members?

**Clive Marwick:** We have a very clear vision and a mission that you can view on our website. The implementation of course is another story. We have got good guidelines and that is why we get outside speakers to stimulate our own thoughts and we are going to pay more attention to see that we reach our goals.

**David Gerber:** Thank you, that is my ignorance then, I did look on the website, but I could not see it. I think it should be prominent that we know what the vision and the mission is and that our next Indaba it would make sense to me that we will discuss it so that we have a common vision mainly which we align to everything else that was said here in which direction we want to go.

**Anthea Fleming:** As the website helper I am so glad you asked that question, because as recently as in the last week we placed the vision and the mission on the home page of the SAVC’s website. So, if you go to www.savc.org.za on the home page we have got important updates, about us and then a vision and a mission.

**Clive Marwick:** Thank you.
Unknown: I think at the next year’s Indaba it would be beneficial if we included the training institutions who are offering these courses for the para-veterinarians and the veterinarians. Maybe it can help in the future for the upcoming students who will want to enrol for studies to follow careers of these veterinary professions.

And maybe also including the departments of education. I think it will be a good idea so that they can also understand what the progress is and what suggestions are of the people who are already in the profession, people who have experience in all that, I think it will be good.

Clive Marwick: Thank you, that can be considered. I think from the Council's side we have also added the Department of Education onto the list as one of our important stakeholders, so interaction process with the Department of Education to highlight the issues that are facing us are going to take place, but thank you for that.

Q Unknown: The Association of Animal Health Technicians will make sure that we send in discussion points and because we are representing AHTs, we will first hear from them, what is it that we must bring forward to the next Indaba. Lastly Dr Marwick, I am sitting here with a problem of AHTs who are not paying their maintenance fees.

It is a very serious problem, they used to ask me, but I do not know what will be your answer on that so that really this problem should be solved, because we want everybody to join. For two-, three- or five years now, they have not been registered and did not maintain registration, but they are working in state veterinary services in their respective provincial offices, so can you respond to that, what is it that really, they should do?

A Clive Marwick: The maintenance fees obviously must be paid if the person is in employment. The Council does have a policy that if a person is unemployed that the maintenance fee will not initially have to be paid, because we have got sympathy for the situation, it can happen that people can become unemployed or not get employment.

But if an AHT is practicing or working then those maintenance fees must be paid otherwise they will be de-registered and that is the end of the story. We do not have any mandate for any other alternatives in this matter and it is a serious event, because how can Council function without those maintenance fees.

Unknown: Good evening, it appears that there is no CCS veterinarian here today, which I find quite disappointing on behalf of my classmates. I wanted to agree quickly with Dr Mathonsi about the whole rural vet aspect. I think a lot of the CCS veterinarians have been put into rural settings an I think it would be important also for the SAVC to maybe have something about CCS at the next Indaba, maybe allow one of us
to present the shortcomings or the problems that we faced in our first year of practice.

I would like to say, hopefully that the veterinarians, the community service veterinarians are making a difference out there. I know personally I have done a couple of buffalo testings where the other state veterinarian may not have been able to go out or an AHT may not have been able to go out.

I am hoping that with the classes getting bigger coming out of Ondersteapoort, more and more of these vacant positions will be filled. Hopefully the AHTs will then not have to do all the work on their own and they may have a CCS veterinarian working with them.

I know personally I have learned a great deal from my AHTs and I know that they have a lot of shortcomings. In our province one of the big problems is they do not get enough kilometres in a month and the CCS veterinarians in general have a lot more. So, we can attend to a lot more cases together which I see as an improvement.

Clive Marwick: Thank you very much.

Q William Kutu: Dr Marwick I want to raise this again, I think we once discussed it in Council. I think let us put it out, because it looks like Council is toothless, especially when coming to maintenance fees of officials who are working, especially in state veterinary services and their Directors are not doing anything about it. Council is also quiet on it, just waiting to de-register people.

When the state advertises posts, they say we require the applicant to be the holder of a diploma in animal health, registered with the SAVC, and they all know the implications of coming with the deregistration. So as Council we need to have a method of making sure those departments ensure that everybody who is employed paid their maintenance fees.

We cannot leave it and wait to de-register people and we let the authorisation committee struggle with people who wants to come back. We must make sure that they do the right think. Thank you.

Clive Marwick: Thank you, William, thank you.

Unknown: I want to comment on the CCS veterinarians. I think that is part of where the challenge lies, because Council put something out to say a CCS veterinarian is a fully qualified veterinarian, yet in Limpopo province the province decided that the CCS veterinarians may for instance not sign any permits.

So, it is not something from the Council's side. It is something from DAFF's side that they decided to restrict the use of CCS veterinarians,
but I think that is something that Council should follow up and say but why do you people restrict these CCS veterinarians from doing their work? And I think you know if we are going to start with CCS veterinarians there are a lot of those issues.

I know in Hoedspruit the CCS veterinarian are not allowed to use any scheduled medicines. It is crazy things that they are doing, but that is on provincial level and I would propose if you said earlier we must start a discussion with those people, get the MEC of Agriculture of the provinces to come and discuss. Not the Director. He is reporting to the MEC.

Get the political guy here and explain to him all the problems that his Director is creating. In terms of the question about registration of AHTs, I as a Director of Animal Health in the Defence Force, I have a responsibility to report each year that every person that is working for the Defence Force is registered with Council.

Exactly that same liability is on each Director. So, if people are working in a province that are not registered with Council then that Director should be taken to task and s/he must explain why people working in his/her province are not registered with Council. That Council’s primary responsibility, is to take people to task, to say, but how can you allow people to work in your practice who are not registered with us?

Clive Marwick: Thank you. I would like to give Dr Mathonsi a chance just to answer on some of those statements, thank you.

A Moshe Mathonsi: I think if such things are happening where CCS veterinarians are restricted that it is very wrong. We are very upfront that a CCS is just a tool to take a qualified veterinarian to do government work or wherever we deploy them. So, they are fully functional veterinarians meaning that it not any different from employing any veterinarian without CCS.

So, if you have that information then you can chat with us, we will try to rectify it, thank you.

Clive Marwick: Thank you very much, we have another input?

Unknown: Mine is just a comment regarding what was said about registration and maybe what the Council can do with regards to non-registration of AHTs. I just wanted to say maybe it is a catch 22-situation and perhaps we must be very careful not to cut our noses just to spite our faces.

Because remember we said for unemployed AHTs they can be exempted from paying the maintenance fees, and those are the AHTs that are mostly looking for employment, but the very registration that is
needed is a requirement. Now if we say that if the same registration that they do not have, that they have been exempted from must be a requirement then it means that then they are blocked from the employment.

So, it is going to be tricky, I do not know how it is going to be monitored to say okay these ones they have been exempted from SAVAC so you can employ them even though they have not been paying the SAVC maintenance fees. We must also remember that when these applications are streaming in they just go to a HR person who is not even aware of these legal requirements that you must be a SAVC registered person and your maintenance must be up to date.

So, let us just be careful of – yes, it is a requirement.

A Clive Marwick: I can answer you, they are exempted from paying the maintenance fees, they are not struck off the roll. So, they are still registered, they just don’t pay maintenance fees, because they have no means of paying that maintenance fee. But when s/he does become employed he will then start paying his maintenance fees, but he is still registered as an AHT.

So, that is the process how it works at this stage. Thank you. More questions or suggestions?

Unknown: In closing, let me divert from this now, I was wondering if we could not next year dwell more on the law enforcement subject. Yes, today Mr Jan Nel was more on the procedure as to the challenges, he has not touched on them, because he did not have enough time to touch on them and we have got a lot of law enforcement challenges.

The playing ground is just not levelled in terms of the provinces. I was wondering whether we cannot discuss the challenges, there are a lot of issues that I can dwell on now, but for the sake of time; and it was also a finding per the OIE PVS report as far as I am concerned. So, I believe if you can do something about law enforcement, because it is important in the sense that, that is where we test our legislations in courts of law.

That is the only place where we test whether such legislation is implementable. So, with that I think we need to do something and check whether can we not have a central point, be it at DAFF, be it at the SAVC. For example, where I am working I am on the boundary of Gauteng, Free State, KwaZulu Natal, Swaziland. So, there are different ways of dealing with something, legislations, Meat Safety Act.

In KwaZulu Natal they have got a certain way, you understand what I mean. So basically, I think it is necessary that next year we discuss something on that, that is my humble request for now.
Clive Marwick: Thank you very much. I did think it very important to understand the law enforcement and I think everyone is really involved in some form of law enforcement. Even the private veterinarians, it is their responsibility to report diseases and you know what it is like once you isolate or you find a specific notifiable or controlled disease. All the shenanigans that go along with it, to try and encourage you not to report it, or whatever to do should be discussed.

So, it is important that we understand this and implement it. As far as the different boarders and different meat controls that are there in these different provinces, I think that can also lead to a very interesting debate and see how meat is handled and treated in South Africa, so that is something we should consider.

I think your knowledge is going to be great, we can hear it and see how it is implemented and how one can perhaps look at harmonising or suggesting harmonisation between the different provinces, that might also be very important.

I can tell you a story; when I started out as a young veterinarian the first international group that came to visit me, because I was a state veterinarian in Durban was a bunch of people from Japan and they wanted meat from South Africa. There was a contingency of ten people and we took them to the first abattoir it was a bull brand abattoir and all ten of them were there.

And then when I looked again there were only about five, when I looked again I was only speaking to the main deputation of this group. I eventually asked him but where are all the others, you know, we are going to meet for lunch afterwards and go onto the other abattoirs. He said no, we just sent them out into the district to go and have a look at all the small abattoirs that they noticed was in KwaZulu Natal.

And that was quite common in those days, we had little small abattoirs and the cow would just be slaughtered there; and they just said they wanted to see how animals were slaughtered there, because they wanted to know from us at that stage how can we guarantee that, that meat does not end up in those abattoirs and is exported to them?

And just there they turned us down; and said there is just too much of that happening and that was a problem for several years afterwards.

Sr Theresa Lotter: When it comes to one section of the law, that we have not touched on yet, it is the interlinking with animal welfare and I think that is possibly something that we can, under the same session, spend a bit of time on. The animal welfare side and the animal protection act.

Clive Marwick: Thank you very much. And just still one point and I
think Thireshni Chetty is here, because she mentioned it in a Council meeting and something that we really need to develop and she can perhaps answer on it more. She has more experience, if we are going to be involved in primary animal health care interactions that we should be looking at drawing in the Department of Social Development, because they are on the ground.

You have a direct interaction with the different areas of the social development, so that they know how to approach the community. You know how to do the technical work and it should be a team that you go out and do these interactions if you really want to be successful. So, I think perhaps we can have a look at the possibility of getting someone from the department of social development to come and talk to us and just to say how would they also see this type of interaction.

So, I think we had about a three-day conference now, but thank you very much for your inputs. Are there any more comments?

Peter Vervoort: I think we are pretty much at the end. Just from the dire hearts that are sitting here and some of the dire hearts that have left I just want to thank Council, because I think you guys placed a couple of questions on the screen, which only brave people put on screens. I think you have had some answers, maybe you expected and maybe a lot of answers you did not expect and I think that is great.

I am very, very glad that I am not on Council, because the amount of work that you guys have got for the next year, I think you better put the next Indaba off for three years. But I would really like to thank Council, for all of you who do a thankless task I think most of the time.

Most veterinarians just criticise Council, like politician bashing, it is the same thing, but I think we have had good speakers today and we have had some good inputs and if we can move on from what we build today I think Thireshni said it very nicely, she said we need to get together and understand each other properly before we even go and chat to the politicians. Thank you.

Clive Marwick: Alright, thank you Peter for those kind words, and I would just like to thank everyone that was here today for attending and the ones that have left to catch their flights. Without your input, Council is worth nothing really. Then we are just someone there to make sure that everyone is aligned, but with your inputs we can go further and we can use those inputs.

But a day like this does not just happen out of the air and I would like to thank the administration for all their hard work, for all their inputs, for putting together of the programs, for making sure that we understand what must be done, for helping with the presentations. It is a big thank you for you, you are a major part of the success of today.
And once again everyone and have a safe trip home.