

Eastern Alliance for Production Katahdins

Annual Meeting Minutes

July 8, 2023

BOD Present: Brad Carothers, Lisa Weeks, Kathy Bielek, Lee Wright, Roxanne Newton and Robert Walker with Tom Hodgman joining remotely.

President Brad Carothers called the meeting to order at 4:34 PM.

Old Business:

The BOD thanked Patricia Harrelson, Morehead staff and the EAPK Symposium Planning Committee for their work. They also recognized the KHSI Kreg grant support.

Approval of meeting minutes from July 9, 2022 Annual Meeting – Robert moved to accept the minutes as submitted. Tom seconded the motion.

Committee Reports:

Communications Committee – Kathy Bielek & Roxanne Newton

- Kathy reported that the committee has been busy creating newsletters and blogs. If anyone has suggestions for topics, let one of the communication committee members know.
- Robert reported that blogs generate a lot of traffic on the website and that we get a new membership following nearly every notice of a blog post.

Education and Outreach Committee – Brad Carothers

- Camren Maierle has been hosting the monthly EAPK forum on Zoom on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm EST. They have been well received with 15-20 participants each month.
- The committee plans to start a webinar series. Members were asked to email Brad with suggestions for topics.
- More field days are planned for next year. Volunteer venues are being accepted.

Symposium & Sale Committee – Brad Carothers

- There was discussion on the date for next year's Symposium. It was agreed to keep the date the same.
- An evaluation form was distributed and members were asked to return the forms with their recommendations and suggestions.
- Brad reminded consignors that they are responsible for staying until their sheep leave the sale. Everyone is required to be out by 10:00 AM Sunday.
- Feedback from consignors on their experience is welcome. Let Brad know.

Website/Social Media Committee – Robert Walker

- Robert reminded all the members that there is a place on the membership directory for farm logos and for an information blurb on their farm, as well as links to Facebook or their website. Send the information to Robert and he will add it to the website.

- Robert used Google ads to advertise for the 2023 Symposium. The cost was only \$60 and it generated thousands of clicks with 150-200 people going to the website.

NSIP and Genetics Committee – Tom Hodgman (via email report read by Lisa)

- Tom reported that genomic samples were now being submitted every two weeks.
- The turnaround for parentage reports has been about six weeks, with genetic conditions reports taking about eight weeks.
- Tom reminded everyone that even after submitting TSUs for genomic testing, we all still need to be measuring and submitting data.
- The replacement ewe sale for ewes sired by NSIP rams generates funds to help support NSIP.

New Business:

No new business was brought forward.

Announcements:

Brad announced that if anyone is interested in serving on a committee, they should reach out to him or the respective committee. Everyone is welcome; no experience is necessary.

Brad reminded everyone that there will be three director positions open in 2024, followed by two open positions in 2025. Nominations will be solicited next spring. Members were encouraged to consider serving on the BOD.

Brad announced the results of the BOD election and introduced the two new BOD members, Lee Holcomb and Isabel Richards. A BOD meeting with the new members will be held soon. Outgoing Board members Lee Wright and Tom Hodgman were thanked for their service on the first BOD.

Two changes to the EAPK bylaws were proposed and voted on. One was to add an honorary membership level to the current levels of full voting membership and associate membership. The second change was to permit voting by electronic or in-person means as determined by the BOD instead of the current in-person only voting. The two changes to the bylaws passed unanimously.

Marti Carlson made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Dan Ulry seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 PM

Respectfully submitted

Kathy Bielek, EAPK Secretary