

Eastern Alliance for Production Katahdins

Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes, August 24, 2022

Present: Brad Carothers, Lisa Weeks, Robert Walker, Tom Hodgman, Roxanne Newton, and Kathy Bielek

Brad called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM EST.

Old Business

- **Meeting Minutes July Board Meeting.** Lisa moved that the minutes be accepted as written. Tom seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Communications Committee – Kathy, Roxanne –

- Roxanne reported the results of an Education Survey that was distributed to attendees at the EAPK annual symposium. The most requested blog topics were Animal Health/Welfare, Parasites, Breeding/Selection, and Genetics/NSIP.
- Roxanne suggested Susan Schoenlan as a speaker at future events.
- Brad and Katie are working on some blogs on their pasture renovation project, and other blogs are planned for fall.
- The fall newsletter is planned for mid-September.

Education and Outreach Committee – Brad

- Brad reported that Cam Maierle is going to begin moderating the EAPK monthly forums. It was suggested that attendance on the forums could be improved by sending a reminder. Many people either forget or can't find the link. After discussion it was agreed that an automated reminder with a link will be sent a few days before each forum.

Symposium & KREG Committee - Brad

- **Field Days** – The next EAPK field day will be October 15th at Tom Perkins' farm in Fombell, PA.
- **Symposium** – Morehead State in Kentucky is being considered as the location of the 2023 symposium. Brad will have a planning committee meeting in September and will report back at the next BOD meeting. Robert is working on getting pricing for the event. He'll have more info by time of our next committee meeting.
- **KREG Grant** – Brad is working on the KREG grant report. He should have it done by next week so it can be published in the next Hairald. There is one more KREG grant request planned for this year to cover the fall field day. Tom Perkins hosted a very successful pasture walk this past weekend with NRCS, and will also be hosting the next EAPK field day. Tom plans to utilize the same format at the October event.

Sale Committee – Brad

- Brad is considering having a meeting with consigners like last year after the Expo. He may send an email instead asking for feedback. The sale committee will meet in the next few months to review and continue to fine tune the rules.

Website and Social Media Committee – Robert

- Robert is working on updating the Events page and adding a calendar. We need to buy a one-time plug-in to be fully functional.
- Robert also reported that our Mail Chimp audience has peaked beyond the free version limits. We need to either upgrade to a paid version or delete some names from the list. The paid version costs around \$30/mo. The current free level is 2000; 2500 for \$34. Robert thinks he can identify and delete people that don't open the notices. The original email list we're using came from the KHSI membership list. Robert estimates there are 1100-1200 people on the list that used to be KHSI members but aren't any more; some may no longer have sheep. He'll see what can be done.

Fecal Egg Count Ad Hoc Committee- Tom

- Nothing to report

Sheep GEMS - Tom

- There has not been much movement except for the 2nd webinar by Dr. Lewis last week. Dr. Lewis has decided that it's ok to use half scores for BCS. He wants to get data back from all flocks before we turn rams in this fall. There has been little movement on horn scoring. A separate form is being used for the hair coat pilot project. There is work being done on changing OPP reporting to haplotypes, hopefully by next year. It's being validated now with Neogen. The goal is to shorten turn around for genetic conditions to only one month, but the goal is always to have the data used for NSIP be correct which requires high levels of accuracy and specificity. Rusty and Dr. Lewis are aware and agree that the system needs to be more user friendly and less clunky, and are working on it behind the scenes.

Robert motioned to adjourn the meeting; Tom seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM.

Next meeting September 28th at 7:00pm EST.