

# Eastern Alliance for Production Katahdins

## Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2020

Present: Brad Carothers, Lisa Weeks, Roxanne Newton, Tom Hodgman, Kathy Bielek, Robert Walker, Lee Wright.

President Brad Carothers called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

### Old Business

The minutes from the last meeting were approved pending correction of the meeting date (11/18/20).

### New Business

#### Committee Reports:

##### Mentorship Program Committee

- Brad reported that the committee has started work, including developing topics but it's not ready to bring to the group yet. The idea at this point is that a questionnaire will be attached to a welcome email with areas of interest. The next planning conference call will be scheduled in the next couple weeks. If anyone is interested in being part of the committee, let Brad know.

##### Symposium & Sale Committee

- Brad would like to get the chair and committee members for both the symposium and sale committees lined up by the January meeting. Let him know if anyone is interested. It was suggested that membership be open to other EAPK members. The plan is for a July event – hopefully in person!

##### Communications Committee

- Lisa has developed a fact sheet with charts showing trends over the past 10 years in each trait. The group approved the fact sheet with one small change. Tom suggested that there were no units on the Index. Lisa will make that correction and send the file to Robert for posting on the website.
- The group discussed timing the email blast during the holidays versus waiting until after the first of the year. It was decided that Robert will send the blast on December 28<sup>th</sup>. Katie is working on the introduction letter. If anyone hasn't sent him their list of contacts, please do so in the next week.
- Lee reported that Dan Turner (KHSI NSIP committee) has asked him to send an announcement of the new NSIP production guide to his Va Tech mailing list. Lee plans to send a general email that would include the guide announcement, information about EAPK and the Va sheep symposium after the first of the year.

##### Website and Social Media Committee

- There was discussion about adding a “help” tab to the website. Robert suggested that a help button be added to the bottom of each page to click for more help on that area. There could be a pre-programmed email sent to an individual EAPK member or to the whole group requesting help. A distinction needs to be made between mentorship requests and help desk questions.
- A button could be added on the Contact Us page to request mentorship. It could be set up to trigger the questionnaire sent to the requestor before the request is sent to an EAPK member.
- Robert reported that we don’t have the capability at this time to have required fields on the website, so we can’t make Flock ID a required field to sign up with full membership.
- Robert reported that a list of committees will be added under the Contact Us tab.
- It was suggested that the membership form include a space to indicate who will vote for that farm. Robert will check to see if it’s possible.

#### Technical Committee

- Tom spent some time explaining the Genomic Project and how the procedure for data collection will work. The Genomic Project is going to take a tremendous amount of time and will affect what Tom can do on the SOPs and other work on the EAPK Technical Committee.
- Tom suggested that members of the BOD could join a Genomics Project planning meeting on 12/22. Let him know if interested. Alan Culham will send invitations.
- Tom reminded the group to register for the ASI meeting in January. There will be a section related to genomics. Suggested a link/info be added to our website.
- The certification program is being updated to include a new tier on level of accuracy based on genomics. Tom will keep the group updated.

Brad asked Lisa to see if she can design a letterhead that we all can use for correspondence. She agreed and will send some options to the group for review.

The next meeting will be on January 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm EST.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Kathy Bielek