

Eastern Alliance for Production Katahdins

Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes, February 22, 2023

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

Brad called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM EST.

Old Business

- **Meeting Minutes January Board Meeting.** Lisa moved to accept the minutes as written. Roxanne seconded.

New Business

- 2023 Spending Budget – Brad reported that he hasn't received budget projections yet from any of the committees. There are really only two committees with associated costs: the symposium and the website committees. The symposium budget will include the symposium as well as field days. Expenses should be at least partially covered by KREG grants. Robert said the website budget will include expenses for Facebook and social media ads. Brad asked that if anyone has other suggestions or needs to let him know. It was mentioned that Brad is currently using his personal Zoom account for BOD and committee meetings, and for the monthly forum. We could easily justify a separate EAPK Zoom account.
- BOD List – Roxanne reached out to Lee Holcomb and he has agreed to run for one of the open BOD positions. Either Mandy or Chris Fletcher have also agreed to run.
- BOD meeting at the symposium – There was discussion of how the BOD meeting at the symposium and the election would work. Paper ballots will be printed and handed to voting members at registration. Most likely ballots will be turned in at noon to allow counting before the annual meeting. The new BOD will meet either at the symposium (although with the sale it may be difficult to make time), or by Zoom shortly after the symposium. Election of new officers will take place at the first meeting of the new board. The rules outlined in the bylaws for making changes to the bylaws were discussed. A member in good standing can submit suggestions for changes to the bylaws at least 60 days prior to the annual meeting. The BOD will discuss the issue and vote to put it on the agenda for voting by the general membership. A list of BOD candidates and proposed changes will be sent to the voting membership at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting. To avoid a special BOD meeting, Brad asked that any suggestions be submitted prior to the April 26th BOD meeting. Kathy volunteered to go back through the minutes from the last several meetings and make a list of suggested bylaw changes that have been discussed, and share that with the BOD for discussion at the March meeting.

Committee Reports:

Communications Committee – Kathy, Roxanne

- Kathy reported that a couple new blogs have been posted recently. There are several blogs in the works. The next newsletter will be mid-March, then in early June to encourage participation in the symposium.

Education and Outreach Committee – Brad

- Brad reported there was good discussion on the open forum this month with 13 people on the call. Topics centered around lambing. Brad showed a video of a cyclops lamb; the lamb will be used as a specimen for the necropsy session at the symposium.

Symposium & KREG Committee - Brad

- **Symposium** – The symposium committee held a meeting last night. Speakers have all been confirmed, hotels reserved, and the program is being developed. There was also preliminary discussion of field days. Brad will get information on speakers to Kathy and Roxanne to include in the spring newsletter. There was discussion of which speakers should have expenses reimbursed. It was decided that anyone on the program presenting a prepared talk in an area of expertise or as part of their job should have travel expenses reimbursed and offered an honorarium. Honorariums will be paid on a case-by-case basis, but always offered.
- **KREG grant** – Nothing to report.

Sale Committee – Brad

- The sale committee met recently and reviewed the rules for the sale. One change proposed for this year is the wording for mature rams. It will now read “proven ram” Instead of “mature ram” (defined as a yearling or older with at least 50 progeny in NSIP). There was also text added stating that “all sheep must be enrolled in NSIP and born on the consignors’ farm except proven rams.” Everything else will remain the same as last year, including using Willoughby for the sale. The commissions and entry fees will remain the same as last year. Brad asked for a motion to use Willoughby to conduct the EAPK 2023 online sale using the same commission structure as last year. Tom so moved; Roxanne seconded. All approved.

Website and Social Media Committee – Robert

- Robert is working on a new layout for the membership directory, so hasn’t updated the website yet. The current version requires multiple manual steps once someone joins to get them added to the membership directory and map. The new option will be automatic pending administrative approval to be sure they paid.

NSIP and Genetics Committee - Tom

- Tom reported that the December genomics reporting should be released shortly. Apparently, there were issues at Neogen that slowed everything up. Tom just heard from Dr. Lewis today that he now has the genetic conditions for all sheep. Dr. Lewis is working with Rusty and hopes to have everything out by the end of next week. The report will include OPP haplotypes as well as explanations and a disclaimer.

Roxanne moved to adjourn the meeting; Robert seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Next meeting March 22nd at 7:00pm EST.