

Eastern Alliance for Production Katahdins

Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes, March 22, 2023

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

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

Old Business

- **Meeting Minutes February Board Meeting.** Lisa moved to accept the minutes as submitted. Robert seconded.

New Business

- Membership Fees – Brad shared that the bylaws currently state the BOD can change membership fees as they see fit, so we don't need membership approval. Roxanne suggested that membership fees for Associate and Individual levels be made consistent at \$30 for ease of bookkeeping. The Farm level would remain at \$50. Changes would be for 2024. Lee motioned to **change the membership fee to a flat \$30 for Associate and Individual levels beginning in 2024.** Lisa seconded. Motion passed unanimously. We will still need to differentiate between Associate and Individual levels for voting purposes. It was agreed that only those flocks who are NSIP enrolled are considered voting members.
- Bylaw Changes – Membership Levels - There was discussion of potential changes to membership levels. As previously discussed, if only the membership fee changes, a bylaw change is not necessary. However, adding an honorary membership or research/academic level would require a change to the bylaws. After discussion, it was decided not to add a separate research/academic level at this time, since those institutions can join at the Individual level. Brad proposed a bylaw change to **add an Honorary membership level.** Honorary membership could be nominated by any EAPK member by submitting the nomination to the president at least 60 days prior to the annual meeting. The honorary membership will then be voted on and approved by the BOD with a maximum of one approved by BOD per calendar year. A formal presentation can be made at the annual meeting. Kathy seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.
- Bylaw Changes - Voting Process – The bylaws currently state that all voting needs to be done in person at the annual meeting with voting by mail permissible only if a meeting cannot happen. After discussion it was proposed to change the wording to: **voting may occur by electronic or in-person means as determined by the BOD.** Kathy proposed the bylaw change, Rox seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.
- 2023 Spending Budget – this will be discussed as part of the individual committee reports.
- BOD List – Brad has not received any formal requests to serve on the BOD. We need to nudge people who have expressed an interest to contact Brad.
- Committee Chairs, Officers and appointees to other boards/organizational committees – The bylaws currently state that the BOD will have four officers. It was suggested that it would be beneficial to have all non-officers be chair of at least one committee to spread out the work load. Brad suggested that the person chairing the NSIP/Genetics committee be the same person representing EAPK on the GEMS project. This can be discussed later with the new board.

Committee Reports:

Communications Committee – Kathy, Roxanne

- Roxanne reported that the spring newsletter went out this week and that a couple new blogs have been posted recently. There are several blogs in the works. The next newsletter will be 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. There was a security breach issue with some people getting on as spammers. They were removed and the meeting locked down. Brad contacted Zoom and got suggestions to avoid problems in the future. Discussion was focused around renovating pastures, planting spring and summer forages, different techniques, and benefits. There was also discussion on alternative food stuffs to feed sheep. Budget needs – EAPK currently uses Brad's farm account for Zoom meetings. It was suggested that EAPK have our own account. Zoom offers a 50% discount for nonprofits, so \$75. Roxanne moved to add that amount to the budget and Robert seconded; it was unanimously approved.

Symposium & KREG Committee - Brad

- Brad shared the proposed budget for the symposium including food (breakfast, lunch and pizza for dinner), printing/paper, advertising, insurance and speaker travel expenses for a total of \$9,953 (\$9,453 without insurance). Robert suggested that we could possibly get American Lamb Board support for a lamb meal at lunch. A KREG grant would also cover some portion of the expenses. We would only be responsible for about 25% of the total amount. Katie is submitting requests for support this week. Kathy moved to approve the proposed budget and Roxanne seconded; it was unanimously approved.

Sale Committee – Brad

- No new information. Morehead is setting up and tearing down panels, so we won't have to deal with that portion this year. We will need a couple volunteers to help Lee with numbering sheep as they arrive.

Website and Social Media Committee – Robert

- Robert has finalized the changes to the membership directory. There are some plugins or features that Robert uses on the website that are paid for on annual basis. There are benefits to purchasing some of these as a lifetime feature (for example, \$200 for lifetime vs \$60-\$80 per year). Robert requested \$650 for three lifetime plugins plus \$350 per year for the other plugins. Robert suggested running a state-specific Facebook ad for two weeks about one month prior to the annual meeting (OH, WV, KY, TN, PA, VA) at an estimated \$10/day. There is already \$150 in the symposium budget for symposium advertising. Advertising in the Hairald is free (2 spots per year free). Kathy motioned to approve budget; Lisa seconded; it was unanimously approved.

NSIP and Genetics Committee - Tom

- Tom reported that everyone should have gotten their updated genetic conditions report. There has been discussion among the GEMS Katahdin group regarding hair coat scoring. More information will be coming from Jim and Ron. Lisa reported that 13 flocks have submitted paperwork for partial reimbursement for GEMS and genotyping through the incentive program.

Tom moved to adjourn the meeting; Roxanne seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Next meeting April 26th at 7:00pm EST.