

Eastern Alliance for Production Katahdins

Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes, May 31, 2023

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

Brad called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM EST.

New Business

- Lisa asked BOD permission to put ASI literature to put on the table at the symposium. Everyone on call agreed.
- Lisa suggested to put lamb jerky samples in the packets. She can purchase from Dan's NoName Cowboy at \$1.50/sample. Dan would also like to have display to sell. Everyone on call agreed. Motion to purchase 75 samples from NoName. Tom seconded.
- Rox and Kathy wrote Guide and would like to display and sell. Everyone agreed.

Old Business

- **Meeting Minutes April Board Meeting.** Lisa moved to accept the minutes as submitted. Rox seconded.
- BOD List – Lee Holcomb has contacted Brad with a formal request to serve on the BOD.

Committee Reports:

Communications Committee – Kathy, Roxanne

- Working on newsletter. Need to meet with Katie. Put several new blogs on website.
- Roxanne reported that a new blog was posted today, one other has been posted since the last meeting and there are several more in the works. The committee is starting to work on the next newsletter which will be sent in early June to encourage participation in the symposium and sale. Proposed changes to the bylaws can either be put in the newsletter or in a separate email.

Education and Outreach Committee – Brad

- Monthly open forum last month 18-20 ,typical number of participants. Couple new people.
- Brad reported that conversation on the Forum call was flat this month. They plan to start something new next month with a 15 min talk at the beginning on a specific topic, then open things up for discussion. Next month's topic will be "what to do with forage samples" including how to interpret and use the information. Camren will put something together.

Symposium & KREG Committee - Brad

- Talked to Dan yesterday. Alan forgot to put KREG proposal on KHSI meeting. Will have special meeting on Thursday to approve our proposal. There might be different way to review in future as more groups are applying more and larger funds.
- Katie said everything was well on its way.
- Brad submitted a proposal today for KREG grant for the symposium. Dan confirmed receipt and it will be voted on at next KHSI BOD meeting. All speakers are booked for the symposium, meals planned, etc. Roxanne suggested having a table that members could share gently used items for resale. Tom told about New England sheep group that has a very successful equipment auction. We

could put larger items (over \$200) on the Willoughby site, with smaller items on a table for individual sale. Brad suggested sending the suggestion to the sale committee and have them come back with a recommendation.

Sale Committee – Brad

- No new updates. Everything sent to Willoughby, put on website and open for consignment. Lisa reached out to Becky for lots and has not heard back. No lots added yet. Only 30 days out. Email blast sent out today to encourage members to start consigning. We do have vet confirmed to do health paperwork.
- Information on our sale is on Willoughby site and open for consignment. Willoughby will send an email blast to previous consignors in the next couple weeks. Robert requested sale details to post on EAPK website.

Website and Social Media Committee – Robert

- Robert had nothing new to report. Updated website with hotels today. Wants to run some Google ads for that area. Hit people who are searching for sheep and goat stuff in that area. Will get more bang for buck if we use Google ads instead of Facebook since we already have close to 11,100 Katahdin sheep breeders group and EAPK members share posts about symposium on that group. 200-300 members per month joining.
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NSIP and Genetics Committee - Tom

- Most recent NSIP meeting Ron. Ron will no longer be NSIP's technical committee chair. Will continue. Tom Murphy and Luis Frito (sp) and Andrew Hess (all three geneticists) will share duties. Brad Frecking will also share responsibility instead of single technical committee chair. Starts July. Ron is starting to release some information about Sheep GEMS. Tom is on advisory panel for US MARC. He presented some information then. Look at regional ecoregions differences like FEC and FAMACHA. Katahdin's largest data set. Accuracy of genomic analysis. Katahdin results includes 92,000 individuals used in genomic analysis. Presented on genomics recently. Biggest challenge is funding.
- Asked questions. Discussion

Rob moved to adjourn the meeting; Lisa seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Next meeting June 21st at 7:00pm EST.