

Eastern Alliance for Production Katahdins

Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes, February 23, 2022, Corrected

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

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

Old Business

- Roxanne moved that the minutes from the January BOD meeting be accepted as submitted. Robert seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.
- Robert reported that the membership map and list had been updated as of Feb 1st. It was noted that quite a few hadn't renewed, including three committee members. Brad will send an email to the committee members (Dan Turner, Allison Rudd and Judith Horvath), and another separate blast to others who haven't renewed. There were two memberships, Stanton Lanham and David and Sarah Burnham, submitted in October 2021 and the BOD agreed to allow both to apply to 2022 membership as well as 2021.

New Business

Committee Reports:

Communications Committee

- Kathy gave an update on recent blog posts and several that are in the works.
- Robert suggested a blog topic of preparing sheep for travel, taking care of animals at shows/sales, etc. He suggested Henry or Becky Schultz as writers and he will reach out to them.

Education & Outreach Committee

- It was agreed that the newly created Education and Outreach Committee will take charge of the webinars and open forums being planned. Brad requested a volunteer to chair the committee. Receiving no volunteers, Brad will chair the committee to start and will ask Tom Perkins to be the chair.
- The first Open Forum Discussion will be held in conjunction with the KHSI NSIP committee, via Zoom on the 3rd Monday of every month at 7:00 PM EST, starting in March. The format will be similar to the monthly NSIP forums with a moderator in charge of the meeting. The forums will start as a single Zoom group, with the ability to add breakout rooms in the future if attendance grows.
- The quarterly webinar series, which will be similar to NSIP and Extension webinars, was tabled until June. Brad reported that he had reached out to Tom Murphy. Tom is willing to help with some webinar content and virtual events.

Symposium & KREG Committees

- Brad reported that the first field day will be held June 11th in conjunction with NC State at Roxboro, NC. There will be a discussion on predator control, herding dog demonstration, parasites, selection for pasture genetics. Andrew has a grant from NC State and can use some of the funds for this event. The facility will be free of charge, so the only expenses will be for lunch

and to provide grazing sticks to participants. Andrew would like to offer free attendance at this event, the same as his other events. He requested EAPK to cover any expenses over what his grant would cover. The BOD discussed and agreed to fund the difference through a KREG grant. Lisa moved to work with NC State to cover expenses not covered by their grant. Roxanne seconded the motion.

- After further discussion, Robert amended the motion to include using KREG grant funds to cover expenses to allow both field days (June 11 and the one in October) to be free of charge to participants. Kathy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- Brad reported that Ron Lewis would be in the Netherlands during the Symposium. Tom Murphy is not able to travel due to USDA restrictions. He has not reached out to Dr. Notter or Bowdridge yet. The Symposium committee will meet again soon. Robert is working with local hotels to arrange a block of rooms.

Sale Committee

- Brad reported that the Sale Committee has received proposals from Willoughby and Zach. They are still waiting for Integrity.

Website & Social Media Committee

- The BOD discussed options for including past and upcoming events. Robert suggested one tab on the website for events with options for past or upcoming. The past events could include links to handouts and PowerPoint presentations.
- The BOD discussed whether to continue with the change to member benefits that made notices of blogs and newsletters available only to members. Robert noted that every time we send the notices to the broader email list, we get new members. After some discussion, Lisa motioned to change the membership benefits back to: Listing in membership directory on EAPK website; Ability to sell NSIP enrolled animals in the annual EAPK sale; Ability to post classified ads on EAPK website; and Fellowship of likeminded shepherds (eliminating exclusive newsletter and blog notices). Robert seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Tech/FEC Ad Hoc Committee

- Tom reported that he is working on the FEC SOP but has had to put it on hold with the GEMS project and lambing.
- Tom reported that sign up for the Sheep GEMS project has been intermittent with roughly 12-15 flocks signed up so far. There was discussion of making the first EAPK Open Forum devoted to concerns about the GEMS project. Tom will check to see if Dr. Lewis could attend the forum.

Robert motioned to adjourn the meeting; Kathy seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM.

The next meeting will be March 23rd at 7:00 pm EST.

Respectfully submitted

Kathy Bielek