

Eastern Alliance for Production Katahdins

Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2021

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

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

Old Business

The minutes from the last meeting were approved as written.

New Business

Administrative:

- Brad noted that the slogan at the top of the EAPK letterhead "Develop – Quantify- Educate for benefit of US Sheep Industry" had never been discussed or approved. After some discussion, it was agreed to drop the second line completely ("for benefit of US Sheep Industry") and to change the first line to "Quantify – Educate – Promote" to better match our goals and purpose. The group agreed to table discussion until the next meeting to allow BOD members time to think.
- Brad noted that the organization was originally set up as a 501(c)3. This needs to be transferred to a 501(c)5. This would be similar to NSIP, KSHI, other livestock/agricultural non-profits. The change is being made.

Committee Reports:

Mentorship Program – Kathy, Roxanne, Brad

- The committee gave an update on development of the mentorship program. A mentee form is being developed. Mentors will be needed in both generalist and specialist roles. EAPK membership is now close to 50 new members and some have indicated they would like more information about joining NSIP. Brad suggested two new members, Jessica Litzenberg and Allison Rudd be added to the committee to help with mentorship development. Lisa made the motion and Tom seconded.

Symposium & Sale Committee – Brad, Lisa, Lee, Robert, Kathy

- Robert will send an email to all members to enlist general members to serve on the committee. A date and location still have to be determined. It was noted that the Expo has been moved to the first or second week in August.

Communications Committee – Roxanne, Kathy, Robert, Lisa, Brad

- Robert reported that an email blast was sent in early January to 1582, which is about the same as the KHSI email blasts. He reported that 521 emails were opened, 139 clicked the link to the website and 19 unsubscribed.
- The blog is now active with the first article, "NSIP – What's In It For Me," posted last week. Robert suggested one person be responsible for creating new posts and Kathy was selected. Future blog posts will trigger an automatic email. After some discussion it was agreed that new blog post notices would be sent to the master list, while the newsletter would be sent only to EAPK members.
- Topics for new blog articles were discussed. Lisa suggested a decision tree for contemporary groups and she will get that started. Tom suggested an article on how to get started collecting data.
- Isabel Richards has agreed to join the Communications Committee and will be helping with writing the blogs and other materials.

Website and Social Media Committee – Robert, Katie, Brad

- Robert reported that there is no way to make flock ID a required field for full membership.
- It was agreed to add a list of committees to the website, but to include only the committee chair as a contact at this point, since at this point only the BOD members are committee members. Eventually, when we have other members involved, it was felt listing all the members would be good.
- Brad will send an email to all EAPK members asking for volunteers to serve on committees. The BOD will review, and if too many requests are received, other committees can be suggested. The Board will vote if necessary.

Technical Committee – Tom, Brad, Lisa

- Tom reported that he doesn't have time to work on the SOPs at this time because he is so involved in the Katahdin Genomics project. The group agreed the SOPs could be put off until later in the year as the genomics project is time sensitive and critical. Tom said if anyone else wants to start on one of the SOPs that would be fine.

Other Business:

Lisa asked that the email address be added to the membership list.

Reminder that the ASI convention is tomorrow (January 28-29). Sheep Genetics USA will be presented and Dr. Ron Lewis will talk at 12:15 EST. The NSIP annual meeting is the following week (February 3).

Next meeting February 24th. 7:00pm EST

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Kathy Bielek