

Eastern Alliance for Production Katahdins

Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

July 27, 2021

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

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

Old Business

- Roxanne moved that the minutes from the last meeting be approved as written. Lisa seconded and the motion passed.

New Business

Committee Reports:

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

- Kathy reported that Beckie Hotz has joined the committee. Roxanne explained that Beckie will be working on producer profiles. She will use a combination of stock questions and open-ended questions when she conducts her interviews. Interviews of EAPK members will be done on a random basis, and may include industry and university people as well. She will try to focus on different management systems, different areas of the country, etc.
- Brad shared that he had talked to Julie Bishop at the symposium about doing a producer profile on her farm. Julie has 600-800 ewes and grazes solar farms and sells her lambs into the ethnic market.
- Robert suggested that we limit to one profile per newsletter. His experience with the podcasts is that people often don't follow through on projects, and having an archive of profiles to pull from might be a good idea.

Mentorship Committee – Roxanne, Kathy, Lisa

- Lisa shared the results of the mentorship survey conducted at the symposium. General flock management had the least amount of interest. The committee will review the results.

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

- Roxanne is working on the Kreg grant report.
- Sale Issues
 - Most of the problems with Willoughby involve poor communication. They were consistently very difficult to contact, payments were slow, etc.
 - Brad reported that he plans to have a Zoom meeting with consignors in the near future to get their feedback.
- Future locations and dates were discussed.
 - It was agreed that we need to set the date and location by fall for next year.

- It was suggested that we keep the date the same each year. Various dates were discussed with July 8-9, 2022 being favored and will be confirmed at a later meeting with all BOD members present.
- Various options were discussed for the location, including staying at the same location in Virginia, or rotating between three different locations. Staying in the Virginia/Tennessee/Kentucky area was favored. Discussion was tabled until later in the fall with the entire BOD present.
- Robert will be sending out an evaluation to all symposium attendees later this week.

Website/Social Media Committee – Robert, Brad, Katie

- Now that we have more members on the various committees, it was suggested that all committee members be listed on the website to acknowledge their involvement. Robert will handle.
- Everyone agreed the tee shirts Robert designed were great. He can set up a store page on the website with EAPK branding. He will work on a hat next, and possibly a sweatshirt. If anyone has a special hat or other idea, take a picture of the inside with the label so he can order.
- There was some discussion on how to incorporate the tools Etienne Richards has created on calculating inbreeding, breeding planning, etc. It was suggested that a Resources tab be added to the website that could include links to Etienne's tools and possibly a link to Andrew's work. Robert will coordinate after the Expo.

Technical Committee – Tom, Lisa

- Back in May it was decided to form an ad hoc committee to work on comprehensive guidelines for FECs. Tom, Lisa, Roxanne, Brad, Kathy and Joan Burke were suggested as members. Brad will talk with Tom and schedule a meeting.

Lisa motioned to adjourn the meeting; Robert seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM

Next meeting is August 25th at 7:00pm EST

Respectfully submitted

Kathy Bielek