

Eastern Alliance for Production Katahdins

Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes, October 26, 2022

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

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

Old Business

- **Meeting Minutes September Board Meeting.** Brad pointed out a correction to the September minutes. Adding a new membership level would require a change to the bylaws and approval by **two** thirds (not one third as originally written) of the membership at the annual meeting. The change was made. Lisa moved to accept the amended minutes. Tom seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

New Business

- There was discussion regarding the election of new board members at the 2023 annual EAPK meeting. Two BOD members are to be replaced next year. According to the Bylaws, volunteers from the current BOD to relinquish their seat will be taken first, and if no one volunteers selection will be by a random drawing. Both Tom and Lee volunteered. As stated in Article IV Section 2.D, directors can be reelected, but neither Tom nor Lee plans to run again in 2023. Officers' terms are for one year after the first year when officers were elected for two years. In the future, all officers will serve one-year terms. A notice must be put in the next newsletter to be in compliance with EAPK bylaws. Article IV Section 2.C states that BOD members must have been full voting members for the two most recent years (2022 and 2021).
- Any amendments to the bylaws must be recommended to the BOD at least 60 days prior to the annual EAPK meeting, and be voted on at the annual meeting. Concern was voiced about the possibly low number of voting members at the annual meeting. The bylaws do include a stipulation that the BOD do have a mail or email ballot option. Discussion was tabled until the next BOD meeting.
- Brad reported that he has had several people who want to get involved on committees. He will work with Robert to update the website.

Committee Reports:

Communications Committee – Kathy, Roxanne

- Kathy reported that the next newsletter will be coming out in mid-December.
- The BOD was asked for suggestions for blog topics. Lee suggested Patricia Harrelson at Morehouse as a potential author. Roxanne will reach out to her about possibly writing on how she got started by getting involved, buying NSIP animals, etc.

Education and Outreach Committee – Brad

- Brad reported that the EAPK Open Forum this month had 20-30 participants, some repeat and some new. Most were actively engaged and there was good discussion. Pasture renovation and fall lambing were some of the topics discussed.

- **Symposium & KREG Committee - Brad**

- **Field Days** –The field day held on October 15th at Tom Perkins’ farm in Fombell, PA had 16-20 attendees. While that was less than expected/desired, people were very engaged. Because of the small numbers, the producer panel was changed to a round table, which led to more in-depth discussion. Brad suggested we consider a similar format for the producer panel at the symposium. Breakout sessions with smaller numbers might encourage more discussion. The field day definitely achieved our goal of reaching more people. It also pointed out the need for more outreach in norther states. It was a beautiful fall day and Katie got lots of great pictures.
- **Symposium** – Brad is appointing Katie Carothers to be chair of the symposium committee. She has extensive experience in event planning. The BOD voted unanimously to approve the appointment. Brad will serve as representative from BOD as he does on other committees. Katie is working on flier for 2023 symposium which should be available in the next couple weeks. It will be distributed by email blast, posted on the EAPK website, put in the newsletter and on our Facebook page. Patricia is working on the contract; the date reserved at Morehead is July 8th (in on 7th out on 9th)
- **KREG Grant** – Brad is working on the report for the fall field day, and will submit it to KHSI.

Sale Committee – Brad

- Nothing to report.

Website and Social Media Committee – Robert

- Robert plans to make some changes to update the website over the winter. Brad commented that we have enough funds in the bank to consider expanding our social media presence, expanding to a paid version of Mail Chimp and exploring automating the map feature on the membership page of the website.

NSIP Committee - Tom

- After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the Fecal Egg Count Ad Hoc Committee and the Sheep GEMS committee be combined into a single NSIP & Genetics committee.
- Tom reported that he had a lengthy conversation with Katherine Peterson at RI. She is submitting a SARE grant proposal to continue her parasite research which will be geared towards underserved communities, such as farmers of color, and women. One aspect of particular interest to EAPK is her goal to develop a mentor program to help people understand how to collect samples, enter data and use NSIP to improve parasite resistance in their flocks. It would apply to buyers as well as producers. She will consider small groups, one on one, webinars and other avenues. Tom felt it could be an opportunity for EAPK to help kick off our mentor program. Brad said it should coordinate well with EAPK’s education and outreach committee.
- The NSIP committee within KHSI is getting ready to launch the GEMS incentive program to help defray the cost of genotyping animals. The goal is to get the first submission out by the end of year. Participants should be getting a letter from Tom with details before the end of the year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Next meeting November 23th at 7:00pm EST.