



BOARD MINUTES

3 March 2019

Present: Greg Dike, Erin Harlacher, Ruth Higdon, Tim Hardy, Grant Pound, Brad Peterson

Presenting Visitors: Rick Tunney

Visitors: Robert Stuplich, Cutright family, Gene Fuhrer, Caren DeRochie

The February 2019 Minutes were approved (Harlacher, Higdon, 4-0)

The August 2018 minutes were approved (Hardy, Higdon, 4-0)

Ruth Higdon reported that there is \$5037 in the bank. There are two outstanding bills to be paid.

There are now approximately 350 animals registered or in the process of being registered. The association has one new recent member.

The on-line registration form currently functions even if a photo is not uploaded with the registration. According to association rules, a photo is required for registration. Until the on-line registration form is fixed, the Registrar will police this aspect of the registration process. . This issue has been reported to Robert Cissell.

The membership database is not currently automatically updating. Members with expiring annual memberships are not being automatically notified. This issue has been reported to Robert Cissell.

Tim Hardy reported that the whole genome testing of the additional yaks had given some significant insight into the nature of the mitochondrial DNA that GeneSeek has been reporting as "cattle". The recent whole genome sequencing has demonstrated that some (possibly most) North American yaks for whom the mtDNA report is "cattle", in fact have indicine mitochondrial DNA. This seems to indicate that yaks that were originally imported into North America were carrying two clades of mitochondrial DNA. One clade seems to be from the original yak mitochondrial "Eve", the other clade is of indicine origin. This means that taurus, indicus, and bison mitochondrial DNA is being reported as "cattle" mitochondrial DNA on the GeneSeek test.

Motion: The mitochondrial DNA portion of the Certificate and the paper Record of Registration will be changed to more accurately reflect the known mitochondrial DNA status of GeneSeek tested yaks. The Certificate and Record of Registration will now report mitochondrial DNA as "yak" or as "unknown". (Hardy, Harlacher, passed 4-0). It is expected that an improved version of the GeneSeek genetic test will enable the association to resolve the mtDNA status of yaks currently recorded as unknown.



Action Item: Tim Hardy is directed to determine which WGS'd yaks were determined to have indicine mtDNA. He is also asked to consult with the geneticists to ascertain if they have a position on whether the indicine mtDNA should be treated as yak mtDNA for the purposes of the registry.

Tim Hardy reported that discussions with GeneSeek regarding an improved yak genetics test were proceeding. Hardy had been advised that a major test revision would likely not be possible before fall. Discussions are continuing, Hardy will bring an update to the April Board meeting.

Motion: Tim Hardy and Peter Hackett will draft a plan for funding and organizational infrastructure so that USYAKS members can participate in the Tibetan Plateau semen program. (Hardy, Harlacher, passed 4-0)

Action Item: Hardy and/or Hackett will provide a progress report for the May 2019 Board meeting.

Rick Tunney reported that the "yak hotline" is up and running on the USYAKS website.

Brad Peterson reported on the "New Member Profile Form" that he and Ruth Higdon had been charged with creating. Brad mailed this form to Board members. Action Item: Board members should read the form and make appropriate suggestions to Brad. The New Member Profile Form may be included in the New Member Packet.

Action Item: The membership list will be divided between Board members so that all members can be contacted personally regarding the trace mineral serum study.

Rick Tunney reported on his progress on the development of the on-line yak curricula.

Tim Hardy reported on "match-a-yak", reporting that he had worked out the details to write the computer program. For USYAKS member utility, the program should be available for use on-line by every member who wishes to view potential pairings of any yaks in the database.

Action Item: Tim Hardy and Rick Tunney will design a preferred on-line format for this program.

Erin Harlacher informed Board that Terri Bowen Lindley was willing to offer yak training seminars at Yakspo 2020.