



## BOARD MINUTES

5 May 2019

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

Visitor: Caryn DeRoche

The April Minutes approved were approved unanimously. (Higdon, Hardy)

The Treasurers Report was accepted unanimously: \$8870.30 in the bank, the PayPal account has \$439.58. Outstanding balance \$1,138. (Hardy, Higdon)

Registrars Report:

Four hundred nineteen yaks are registered or in the process of being registered. The on-line Certificates are still missing: coat color pattern, location of birth, clickable link to SNP report. A tab has been added to the database edit board. The Registrar can now edit the errors out of the database.

Some registered animals remain absent from the on-line database.

There are 60 members of USYAKS.

Old Business:

The Board discussed the Seagal Herd. Dr. Jessica Petersen reported to Hardy that she believed there was possible merit in sampling the Seagal white yaks. Currently the GeneSeek test would be unable to determine if the Seagal herd differs genetically in a significant way from the current animals in the registry. It is expected that the improved GeneSeek test will be able to do this.

ACTION ITEM: Erin Harlacher will make efforts to determine if any information is available regarding the origin of the Seagal herd. She will also contact Anna Seagal to determine the progress on the Seagal infrastructure, in an effort to determine the sort of time window that USYAKS has to make decisions regarding the merits of sampling further yaks.

Tim Hardy reported that two samples have now been sent to Dr. Petersen for the mtDNA metabolism study. Dr. Petersen will need 10-20 more muscle samples to complete her work.

ACTION ITEM: Request for more samples will be distributed in next Newsletter.

The Board continued its discussion of the India Semen Project. Hardy pointed out that there are now two possible sources of Asian yak semen.

ACTION ITEM: Hardy and Peter Hackett will explore this further, and report to the Board.

New Business:

Greg Dike asked the Board more formally promulgate a policy regarding dual registrations with IYAK. Apparently IYAK does not always supply the Ted Kalbfleish report or the GeneSeek SNP report to owners of yaks who have registered their yaks with IYAK. It was also reported that IYAK does not accept USYAKS supplied GeneSeek test report with the accompanying report from Ted Kalbfleish for the purposes of their registration, even though the exact same test is being done by exactly the same people at exactly the same laboratory, and the results from that test go to exactly the same independent third party for exactly the same analysis.

Motion: USYAKS will dual register IYAK registered yaks that have had their DNA tested by GeneSeek. To be eligible, the owner must provide USYAKS with a copy of the original DNA report including confirmed parentage (if part of the report), call rate, COI, number of cattle alleles, type of mitochondrial DNA, and proof that the yak does not have persistent BVD.



The current cost to register a yak, given the above information would be \$25, provided the yak meets the USYAKS current registration threshold. (Hardy, Higdon) passed unanimously

**RELATED ACTION ITEMS:**

- 1) For the benefit of yak breeders, Greg Dike will write to the IYAK BOD informing them of our policy, and urging them reconsider their current position.
- 2) This information will appear in the Newsletter.

The Board discussed adding two new Board members immediately, in anticipation of the Stock Show. New Board members must be approved by a general election.

The Board will send a letter to Uschi Platt and her husband, Tim, hoping for their swift recovery following their traffic accident. Erin Harlacher will lead this.

The Board will send a letter to Cinde Moore thanking her for contributions to USYAKS, including her yearlong service as President of the Association. Tim Hardy, as Secretary, will lead this.