



BOARD MINUTES

8 March 2020

Present: Carlice Cutright, Caryn DeRochie, Greg Dike, Tim Hardy, Ruth Higdon, Brad Peterson, Erin Powell

Absent: Grant Pound (Director),

Visitors: Melissa Lunsford, Jessica Petersen, Jamie Sorum, Robert Stuplich, Una Taylor, Brenda Winter

The minutes of the February 8, 2020 Board meeting were unanimously approved. (Peterson, Cutright)

Ruth Higdon reported that the Association has a balance of \$6593.20. There are now 531 yaks registered.

Jessica Petersen made suggestions to the Board regarding identifying and tracking calves with possible congenital defects. Petersen will provide Tim Hardy with examples of forms used by cattle breed associations for this purpose. Hardy will draft a letter to the membership on the topic, and have it proofed by Petersen.

Petersen gave a preview of a revised DNA test to be implemented by GeneSeek. The improved test will have some unreliable SNPs removed and as many as 45 new SNPs added. The new test will also include tests for dilution and nose color. The current GeneSeek administered test will be compatible with the newer version. Although there are many details to work out, it is believed that currently registered yaks will not need to be retested.

Hardy will write a letter to the CSU judging team supervisor complimenting the 2020 NWSS judges for their expertise and professionalism. The letter will also express the Associations desire to continue our relationship with CSU.

Brad Peterson has made arrangements for Terri Bowen Lindley to offer a halter training class at his ranch in July 2020. The Board discussed ways that the halter training could be used to benefit the entire association. Ideas included having Rick Tunney video parts of the training, and to invite the CSU judging team to the event to further familiarize the team with yaks.

The Board created four ad hoc committees to deal with planning for NWSS 2021. These committees are asked to provide progress reports at the April meeting. The committees are as follows:

Pen: Jamie Sorum, Ruth Higdon

Halter: Tim Hardy, Carlice Cutright

Fiber: Una Taylor, Caryn DeRochie, Erin Powell, Melissa Lunsford, Brenda Winter

Promotion: Brad Peterson, Greg Dike, Brenda Winter



The Association unanimously approved support for Carlice Cutright in her 4H event to the sum of \$300. (Higdon, Peterson)

The Board discussed the schedule of the USYAKS Newsletter. It was decided that the newsletter would be issued quarterly, placed on the website, and emailed to members. Current USYAKS members will be asked to provide ranch profiles as part of the newsletter content. Greg Dike will write a letter to the membership to this effect. Jamie Sorum has agreed to help with the newsletter project.

Ruth Higdon asks NWSS 2020 attendees to send their photos to her. Ruth is writing a synopsis of the show for the newsletter and for the website.

Public events that feature yaks will be advertised on the website's event calendar. Members are encouraged to share information in this way.

The Board discussed ideas involved in marketing. Three ideas were mentioned:

- 1) The Board should follow up with its plan to certify yak meat, by creating an Association label that certifies meat as yak meat.
- 2) The Board should keep an up-to-date For Sale page on the website. The For Sale page should be independent of Yakzz.
- 3) For fresh ideas, the Association should confer with some marketing specialists. To this end, Greg Dike and Brenda Winter will initiate contacts.