



USYAKS April 5, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Present: Carlice, Melissa, Ruth, Ursula, Jeff L., Eric, Susan, Greg, Caryn, Sonya, Bob S., Peter, Kat T.

Excused: Sunshine, Brad

- Minutes from March 1, 2023 were approved.
- Ruth gave a financial update and USYAKS has 92 members and 1119 yaks registered!
- Peter stated Match-a-Yak needs more samples and the organization needs to report calving issues. Peter is worried recessive issues will be popping up. It would be advantageous if the three yak organizations could share information. GeneSeek is caught up and SKIM is too expensive to use.
- A motion was passed that access to the three databases with a nominal fee will be investigated.
- Greg volunteered to be the health committee chairperson.
- Jeff will be hosting another webinar on the 22nd. He will send links to the previous webinars to Caryn so she can send them out to the members.
- The meat study will include top chefs from around the country cooking yak meat and giving their professional opinion.
- Melissa has everything organized for the Yakapo in Colorado on August 5, 2023.
- Tina compiled a list of ten shows around the country for the board to review. What is the purpose of attending these shows- ribbons, fiber, marketing, meat and animal sales? Do we need a committee or have a large discussion to answer these questions?
- Kat is willing to evaluate yak fiber year-round and the ranches would pay her directly. This would help the breeders and her fiber study. Susan suggested a fiber competition with USYAKS but it would need to be organized quickly since fiber collection is happening now.
- The website needs updating or “under construction” needs to be placed on the front page.
- With much reluctance the board decided Sunshine needed to be replaced with a new member. A motion passed to accept Ursula as our new board member.
- The first AI yak was born last month but sadly without a tail!