

Minutes for Board of Directors Meeting  
September 26, 2017

**Officers:**

President Leah Hoenen: Absent  
Vice President Susie Wilson: Absent (Joined later)  
Secretary Jessica Duncan: Present  
Treasurer Teresa Daignault: Present  
Eastern Director Teresa Daignault: Present  
Central Director Heidi Quist: Present  
Pacific Director Martin Dally: Present  
Canada Director Veronica Verweij: Present

Other Members included Jeff Ahlseen and Michele Clawson

Both President and Vice President were absent at the 5:30 PST start time. Following procedure, Teresa made a motion to elect Jessica to conduct the meeting. Martin Seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 PST by Secretary Jessica Duncan.

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes from June 20, 2017 were provided prior to the meeting. Martin made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Heidi seconded, motion carried unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Interim Treasurer Teresa Daignault was elected by the Board via e-mail ballot on September 12, 2017 to fill the office of Treasurer due to Shelley Nussbaum's resignation tendered August 26, 2017.

A preliminary report was provided prior to the meeting. (See attached).

Teresa has received the check register from Shelley. Both the President (Leah Hoenen) and interim Treasurer (Teresa Daignault) now have signatory authority over the account. Shelley has been removed. In addition, the Secretary (Jessica) has online banking logon capability in an oversight capacity (non-signatory).

Notes: IRS Filing Fee; one time large expense. In the future a postcard filing with no fee will be required.

Recurring Expenses: \$56.00 quarterly to EDJE for website hosting, \$175 annually to Maryland Sheep and Wool for advertising, variable amounts to Associated Registry for registration services.

Jessica made a motion to accept, Veronica seconded, motion carried unanimously.

**Old Business:**

1. Proposed Bylaw Amendments:

3 Amendments have been proposed during prior Board meetings, and were distributed for final review prior to this meeting (see attached).

#### Quick Summary:

- Amendment 1: Article VI, Sections 6.8 a; Remove the AI committee Section II, 9<sup>th</sup> bullet; AI ram registration must be submitted by the semen importer to the AGSS Secretary, and must include a current registration in country of origin, a 3-generation pedigree, codon 171 status results, and must be 100% Gotland.
- Amendment 2: Article VI Section 6.4; clarifies that the Secretary and Treasurer may run for unlimited terms.
- Amendment 3: Changes the period of required registration activity needed to maintain Active membership from 2 years to 5 years. Also clarifies that an Associate member may pay the difference in fees and upgrade to Active at any time if needed to register sheep.

Susie moved to accept the bylaws changes as they are presented in the attachment for submission to the general membership for a vote to be held during the General Membership Meeting in October. Teresa Seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

#### 2. Registration:

Jessica suggested to the Board that her oversight is no longer needed for registration activity, and that registrations should be submitted directly to Associated Registry. She cited that most of the errors that she is finding are clerical in nature, and well within the scope of AR's capabilities. In addition, as the database grows with new sheep, the old data from AccuRegister that she is cross-checking will become less useful. This change would require the paperwork submission address to be changed on the registration forms posted online. Associated Registry will collect payment checks and submit them in batches to the AGSS Treasurer for deposit.

The Board also discussed the need for documentation on all codon 171 results that are to be reported on certificates of registry to avoid errors due to lamb grafting (mixing up ewe/lamb pairs), etc.

Heidi made a motion that we change procedure and allow registration paperwork to be submitted directly to Associated Registry. In addition, AGSS will require lab results to be submitted for all QR and RR results to be printed on the certificate.

Susie seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously

#### New Business

1. Upcoming Elections: The offices of Vice President, Treasurer, Canada Director, and Central Director are up for re-election this fall (new officers to assume duties 1/1/2018).

Jessica proposed an election timeline as follows: Submission of nominations to be held from September 27 through October 16, 2017. Ballots will be prepared and emailed to all voting members no later than October 20<sup>th</sup>. Elections will close October 25, 2017. Ballots will be tallied and election results reported at the fall General Membership Meeting.

Jessica made a motion that her proposed election timeline be utilized.

Heidi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

2. Newsletter: Leah and other members of the board have discussed the need for a newsletter to disseminate AGSS news, as well as general Gotland sheep and sheep husbandry information. The general feeling is that the newsletter would help keep AGSS members engaged in the organization, help

them to understand our goals, and benefit Gotland sheep in North America as a whole. During the discussion, several points were made:

- E-mail newsletters are the most cost-effective and popular option currently available to us
- We need a good name for it!
- We need to ask our members, as well as the Board, Gotland-specific experts, and sheep experts to contribute

Leah has volunteered to spearhead the Newsletter, with the goal of having the first edition ready to distribute at the beginning of the next membership year.

### 3. Rhinebeck

Sheep show is in October. There is no Gotland-specific show this year, but Gotland is the featured breed for their Fiber Product show, which generally generates more interest in the breed.

### 4. Future Wool Shows:

AGSS attendance at future wool shows was discussed. It was agreed upon that the physical presence of Gotland breeders is important for generating interest and answering questions. It is also extremely important to have an AGSS member near the show who can receive mailed fleeces and enter them for distant AGSS members. Historically, AGSS sponsors a Gotland-specific fiber show or holds a National Gotland Sheep Show every 2 years. We did not do one in 2017, so we need to start planning for 2018. Historically, the cost to AGSS is around \$200.00; \$100.00 donated towards judging fees, and \$100.00 for ribbons and medals.

The general consensus was to sponsor a Gotland fiber show.

Suggestions were taken for our 2018 show: NY/Rhinebeck has historically been supportive, as well as Maryland Sheep and Wool. Heidi has attended the Wisconsin Sheep and Wool festival and recommended it as a new venue that we haven't been at before. It was then discussed that it is important to bring the Gotland breed to festivals that may be unfamiliar with the breed.

After some further discussion, Susie made a motion that AGSS will pursue holding a Gotland Fiber Competition and Show at the Wisconsin Sheep and Wool show in 2018 (Heidi volunteered to be our point person), and to look into Rhinebeck as a second option in case WI isn't receptive (Teresa is contacting Rhinebeck). Martin seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

5. Martin was asked about the status of semen imports. The short summary concerning Gotland semen is that one of the rams isn't producing enough semen due to off-season collection. The other ram's semen is still under post-collection quarantine. Semen will quite possibly be available for next year, but is unlikely to be available for this breeding season.

At 7:20 PST, Susie made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Veronica Seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.