

Minutes for AGSS Board of Director's Meeting Held 1/13/2018
Meeting #1 for 2018

Roll:

President Leah Hoenen: Present

Vice President Nancy Bentley: Present

Treasurer Teresa Daignault: Present

Secretary Jessica Duncan: Present

Eastern Director Jeff Ahlseen: Absent

Central Director Heidi Quist: Joined 1:50 pm PST

Pacific Director Martin Dally: Present

Canada Director Veronica Verweij: Present

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm, PST by President Leah Hoenen.

Agenda:

1. Minutes from our General Membership Meeting, October 27, 2017:
Teresa made a motion to accept the minutes as attached. Nancy seconded, and the motion carried with all ayes. Martin abstained.
2. Treasurer's Report: (see attached):
Teresa updated the current cash balance to \$799.21, with a \$26.50 invoice due from Associated Registry.
Jessica made a motion to accept the report as given, Nancy seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
3. Update on 2018 AGSS National Gotland Wool Show at Wisconsin Sheep and Wool :
Heidi hasn't had a recent update, but as things stand, it sounds positive and likely to occur. They are still looking for an appropriate space in which to hold the show. They did mention the possibility of AGSS hiring our own judge. Martin mentioned that this could be problematic, as the fleeces are also competing in the show-wide fleece competition, and those judges aren't going to accept a fleece they haven't judged. Martin stated that in the past, we have contributed \$100.00 toward the judging fees for the show-wide judge, who then also judges the Gotland National Show. Martin also stressed the importance of ensuring that only AGSS fleeces are entered into the AGSS National Fleece Show, as we are sponsoring it and thereby promoting our organization.
Heidi agreed to follow up on these recommendations, and the Board reached a general consensus to follow up via e-mail.
4. US Foundation Ewes:
This is an ongoing discussion, originating from concerns about genetic diversity brought up at prior meetings, as well as the "Canada Foundation Amendment" that was recently passed. Teresa brought up the fact that the way the current bylaws are written, foundation ewes MUST be bred via AI. Jessica proposed allowing "North American Purebred 100%" AGSS rams (rams with an actual percentage of 96.5% or greater) to breed foundation ewes. A discussion ensued, during which it was agreed that the bylaws were written when AI was the only option, and they are now out-dated.

Martin made a motion to allow AGSS registered 96.5% or greater (North American Purebred Gotlands) to be eligible to breed Foundation Ewes and produce 50% recordable progeny. Jessica Seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Outside Organization Cross-registration:

Leah has been approached several times by members about allowing genetics from other US Gotland breed organizations into AGSS to improve our genetic diversity.

Teresa stated that she is not against this, as long as the sheep have non-NZ genetics (the concern being that NZ does not have a national registry, therefore the pedigrees of NZ Gotlands are not verifiable). A lengthy discussion ensued, generally in favor of allowing outside genetics. Four major goals were identified: 1.) Increase the Swedish (and other) genetic diversity within AGSS; 2.) Increase AGSS membership; 3.) Protect our registry from NZ genetics (all of which originate in un-registered animals because NZ does not have a Gotland registry) and 4.) upholding our breed standard.

It was discussed that 4 generations show up on a typical pedigree, making 4 generations without NZ genetics fairly easy to verify. Beyond that would require input from past breeders, which is difficult and unlikely.

With these goals in mind, Martin made a motion that we draft a bylaw amendment allowing Gotland sheep to be registered in AGSS providing that they are currently registered in another organization, of registered Gotland origin, meet our breed standard, and have no NZ genetics appearing on their pedigree (no NZ genetics in the last 4 generations).

Teresa seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously

6. Other:

a. Martin gave us an update that AI semen import permit has been submitted to USDA, and the semen from 1 ram is anticipated to be imported soon. He also informed us that the Swedish semen collectors are making preparations to import directly to the U.S. from Sweden, and it is quite likely that Swedish semen will be available by fall of 2019. Finally, Martin did forewarn us that he is intending to scale back his AI activities. However, he will still be selling semen straws via his AI business (www.toprams.com).

b. Veronica raised a follow-up to our US Foundation Ewe discussion, making the point that in Canada, they cannot import semen, and there are very few rams that will qualify as North American Purebred. She also discussed the difficulties of importing sheep, and encouraged US Gotland breeders to pursue qualification in the US Scrapie Export Program.

After some discussion, Veronica made a motion that AGSS allow a 93.5% ram to breed Foundation ewes in Canada, resulting in at least 46.75% progeny that would be eligible for recording with AGSS.

Martin seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

It was agreed upon by the Board that the amendments that were proposed today are all relevant to the fall breeding season, and need to be passed before our October General Membership Meeting. Leah and Jessica will draft the amendments, present them to the Board via e-mail for final approval, and then they will be distributed to all Active members via e-mail for a final vote.

The date for our next meeting is TBD in July.

Leah made a motion to adjourn at 2:15 PST, and the motion carried with a unanimous vote.