

AGSS Board of Directors Special Meeting
September 4, 2019

Officer's Roll:

President Heidi Quist: Present
Vice President Nancy Bentley: Present
Secretary Jessica Duncan: Present
Treasurer Teresa Daignault: Present
Eastern Director Jeff Ahlseen: Present
Canada Director Veronica Verweij: Present
Western Director Dana Salazar: Present
Central Director Rachel Green: Present

Guests: Martin Dally, Amy Kidd, Christina Ahlseen

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 PM Pacific Standard Time by President Heidi Quist.

Agenda:

1. Record Keeping:
 - a. Minutes: The minutes from our June 14 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Heidi made a motion to approve the minutes as distributed. Teresa seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Treasurer's Report: Teresa distributed the report prior to the meeting (see attached). As of August 31 year to date net income is \$714 and the cash balance as of 8/31/2019 is \$2,578. Upcoming expenses include \$35 for our Oregon registered agent, \$50 for our OR non-profit filing fee, \$125 for website maintenance. Jessica made a motion to approve the report as attached, Veronica seconded, the motion passed unanimously.
2. Old Business:
 - a. Online Pedigree: Jessica contacted Doug Meyer and has not heard back yet. She has heard information from Jeff at Associated Registry that they are collaborating on data updates. Jessica will continue to contact Doug until an update is provided.
 - b. Banner: Martin received and used the large banner. It will remain in his possession until needed by another member. He will also bring it to Oregon Flock and Fiber Festival in September. Jessica will get a higher resolution version of our logo banner distributed to members for their own reproduction.
 - c. Amendments: (refer to attached rough drafts). Amendment 1, concerning adding the breed standard to our bylaws; Veronica suggested changing the language in the Head section to read "naturally polled" rather than "generally and preferably polled", and this change was agreed upon. A rough draft was distributed and Dana suggested several changes that were discussed. Her changes were generally accepted, including adding black (but not white) as an accepted color. We also decided to leave out the detailed description of the lock structure, instead distributing a poll among our members to determine curl diameters, etc. that are occurring within AGSS flocks. It was emphasized

that having actual measurable parameters, rather than vague descriptions, makes it easier for members to comply with a breed standard. Jessica will add the changes made and distribute a newly revised version for further review by the Board. Amendment 2, regarding establishing a new member probationary period, was generally accepted as edited and will be distributed for approval once amendment 1 is completed. Veronica added to the record that she is frustrated by the length of time that it has taken to get this amendment written (it was first discussed in May).

3. New Business:

- a. NZ Registry: A new Gotland registry has been established in NZ (see attached breed standard), and is based on embryos imported to NZ from Sweden primarily by Martin and Annette Skoog, in collaboration with several breeders in NZ. Teresa has done background research and has provided information on this group, and Veronica provided a copy of correspondence that she has had as well (see attached). A lengthy discussion followed regarding the implications for AGSS and our current “no NZ” stance, which is based primarily on known horned genetics in the old NZ Gotland flock (which at face value does not affect the new registry, but in light of Veronica’s letter may have in the future), as well as lack of a registry, which has now been addressed. Jessica opened the discussion by urging a slow and easy approach, her primary concern being that this is a new registry depending almost completely on one person, and may not be viable in the long-term. Teresa countered this argument, raising her point that once the genetics (from SWE) are in our herd, the longevity of this registry may not be relevant. Teresa also pointed out that due to the complications and expense involved with importing semen from Europe, NZ is likely to be the only viable option for new genetics in the near future. Others brought up the point that we just recently opened our registry to a number of new SWE genetics when we chose to allow GSBANA sheep to register. Martin Dally added comments that the NZ breed standards allows for a micron count up to 55 microns, which is MUCH coarser than the AGSS standard, and is geared primarily to the pelt market, whereas the North American market is focused much more on hand spinning and fiber. Jeff also pointed out that the NZ standard allows for much larger animals than are currently being bred in AGSS. Dana brought up the point that the NZ registry is primarily a vehicle for SWE genetics, and questioned whether AGSS is breeding animals for the SWE standard or our own. Martin answered that the SWE standard has evolved since AGSS was formed, and they are selecting heavily for the pelt market, but AGSS is the steward for our own market here in North America, and we can select for a hand spinning market if we choose. Teresa again voiced frustration that if we don’t allow genetics from NZ, how are we going to get new genetics to NA given the difficulties importing directly from Europe? Other members again voiced that the Board members who are concerned about opening up to the NZ registry are not set against it, they just don’t want to rush the decision, despite the urgency that Teresa and others voiced, and urged a “wait and see” approach. No consensus was reached at this time, and Heidi suggested tabling the motion for discussion at the next meeting. Teresa verified that the next meeting would be held

within the near future, and that the topic was not being tabled indefinitely. Jessica made a motion to table the discussion until our next meeting, to be held this fall. Nancy seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Elections: Jessica announced for the record that elections for the offices of Vice President, Treasurer, Central Director, and Canada Director are due to be held this fall, and verified that Veronica has served two consecutive terms as Canada Director and is ineligible to run for re-election. Call for nominees will be made in early October.
 - c. Member Meeting: Jessica announced that AGSS is due to hold its annual member meeting this fall, at which time election results are traditionally announced. The Board tentatively scheduled the Annual Member Meeting to be held Wednesday, November 20th, at 5:30 Pacific time. We also decided that the next Special Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, October 30th, at 5:30 Pacific time.
4. Other:
- a. Martin Dally gave a synopsis of Black Sheep Gathering, which was co-sponsored by GSBANA and AGSS. Martin represented the AGSS at the show. There were a few snags to report, including that the entire fee contributed by AGSS went toward paying a separate judge for the Gotland portion (Annette Skoog), and no contribution was made to the Black Sheep Gathering Committee, which is traditional since the show was using their facility and dates. Martin brought up the point that from his experience it is usually better to use the same judge as the remainder of the show so that the Gotland classes can more easily integrate into the overall placing at the show. We can always bring in a secondary independent pen-side Gotland critique if we desire. There was also some friction between the Gotland show and the goat show, as it ran over time and displaced part of their show. Stephanie Schiffgens from GSBANA coordinated between the Gotland show and BSG Committee and managed to smooth most of the issues over for next year.

Teresa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 PM Pacific time. Veronica Seconded, and the motion passed by immediate attrition.

As noted above, the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 30 at 5:30 Pacific.

Attachments:

Treasurer's Report, NZ Breed Standard, Veronica's correspondence with NZ breeder