

Michigan Sheep Producers Meeting
March 26, 2018
MSU Livestock Pavilion

Directors Present: Bartlett, Bronkema, Klein, Lauwers, Martin, Meeuwse,
Oswalt, Scovill, J. Scramlin, M. Scramlin, Thorne, Villarreal

Directors Absent: Bristol, Ludlam, Pharo

Guest in attendance: Richard Ehrhardt, Maury Kaercher, Sheryl Oswalt

Meeting was called to order by President Bartlett at 6:20pm.

Motion by Thorne, seconded by M. Scramlin to accept the secretary's report with one correction. Motion passed. Correspondence was passed around and read.

Budget - Motion by Martin, seconded by Meeuwse to put \$15,000 into an interest bearing account and to have the Bred Ewe account put into the general fund. Motion passed. It was also suggested to have the PayPal account linked to the MSPA checking account.

Motion by Bronkema, seconded by M. Scramlin to accept the 2018 budget. Sheryl will have the updated budget for the July meeting.

MSU Update – Dr. Ehrhardt gave an update on winter programs, the new shepherd, new department chair, current research project and resources available.

Old Business –

1. Ag Day at the Capitol – All went well with very positive feedback from all who tried the lamb. 15 lbs. of brats were eaten.

2. MSPA 501c update – Needing to find the articles of incorporation to know if we need to file as an existing or new organization. No budget cost as of yet.

3. Review of 4P action items
- Industry trip – Trip to the Western Rockies (CO, WY, UT) in September. Ben is working with a travel agency. Need 20 people minimum for the 5-6 day trip.

4. New Banners – they look great and were under budget. Motion by J. Scramlin, seconded by Martin, to have two more made promoting lamb & wool. Motion passed.
- Motion by Martin, seconded by J. Scramlin to have a banner request form for members only to be able to use the banners. Final request form to ready by July meeting. Motion passed.

5. MSPA brochures – brochures are updated when they are re-printed. Would like to have brochure revised by May 1 that can be changed year to year.

Committees/Task Forces Reports

1. Youth – no report

2. Small Flock – Letty will be judging Fiber Fest and will have an article in the next newsletter.

3. Membership – Letty would like to retire as chair when a new one is found. Motion by Martin, seconded by Thorne that the membership chair doesn't need to be a board member. Motion passed. Idea of new membership chair to do membership & treasury?

- Data management – Still getting dues in at \$30. Wendy is going to play with membership list to make it more useable to find information. Update needed at July meeting.

- Recruitment – Member incentive w/ mail ready form; having incentives to recruit new members; what are the “benefits” to join (discounts w/vendors?)

4. Communications – Have the banner request form on the website. Motion by Meeuwse, seconded by Martin to have a web policy guideline. Motion passed. Committee to meet again in June to work out details.

FaceBook Update – Tyler has cleaned up the page and is monitoring what is happening on the page. Questions of selling items – should the people be members? So far everything is sheep related.

New Business –

1. Symposium – Ideas are needed for main speakers and breakout sessions. Committee members – Ludlam, Villarreal, Meeuwse, Lauwers, Thorne, Bartlett, Ehrhardt, Kaercher. Conference call to talk through ideas by May 1. Topic ideas – cooking lamb (cuts & how to's), profitability, tax help for small farms.

2. MSPA logo – Motion by Scovill, seconded by M. Scramlin to table a new logo till the 501c3 if finalized. Motion passed.

3. Google Drive for board members – This was referred back to the Communications committee to report back at the next meeting.

Summer Picnic – July 28, 2018. A flyer will be in the next newsletter. Summer meeting at the picnic? It was determined that there might not be a quorum to hold a meeting. A poll will be sent out to board members to determine an available date to have a conference call meeting.

Wool Outreach – Maury has that all taken care of.

ASI Committee Updates

- Production education – Dr. Ehrhardt
- Genetics – Brett Pharo
- Predator – Scott Oswalt
- Emerging Youth – Tony Wernette & Tyler Martin
- Let's Grow – Ben Bartlett
- Animal Health – Heather Ludlam
- Wool – Jim Bristol

ASI Meeting – good meeting. Dale will find out the breakdown of how dues are assigned – number of sheep or number of producers.

Block & Bridle Banquet – Recognized Judy Moore. It was a very nice banquet.

Youth Support – an update on the FFA Proficiency winner. Jason Scramlin will represent the MSPA at the 4-H State Awards program.

Request – Owatta County Farm to Food Expo would like the MSPA to be represented. Maury and Heather will contact and work that out.

Motion by Meeuwse, seconded by Villarreal to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Scovill
Secretary