

Minutes of the N-CSA Board of Directors Meeting – February 5, 2023

1:00 pm Pacific Time, 2:00 pm Mountain Time, 3:00 pm Central Time, 4:00 pm Eastern Time

Special One Topic Meeting for the Upcoming June 2023 AGM

A. Call to Order

The meeting, conducted by Zoom, was called to order at 2:05 pm MST by Chair Sheridan Langford.

B. Roll Call (Quorum requires 5 Board members)

Julia Alzofon, Bonnie Barcus, Irene Bennalley, Sam Cunningham, Sheridan Langford, Elizabeth Casso Lopez, and Katherine Skye Tucker were on the call and constituted the quorum. Mickey Willenbring joined the meeting shortly thereafter. Because of technical difficulties and not due to any fault of her own, Debby Bradford joined the meeting at 2:41pm MST. Steve Banks was present as a guest. Until 2:45 pm MST, Nikyle Begay was present as a guest for discussion of the 2023 AGM after which, Nikyle needed to leave for another meeting.

C. Minutes of Previous Meetings – (01/08/23)

Sam moved that the minutes of 01/08/23 be accepted. Liz seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

D. Reports of Officers and Board

None, as this was a one-topic meeting.

E. By-Law Changes

None, as this was a one-topic meeting.

F. Unfinished Business

2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM) and “Memorandum of Agreement” (MOA) - Nikyle Begay

**** Note: Sam moved that Nikyle’s discussion of the upcoming AGM be discussed first due to Nikyle having another meeting at 3 pm. Julia seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. ****

Nikyle reported that Diné be’ iiná, Inc. (DBI) had their annual meeting about two weeks previously at which time a draft of the “Memorandum of Agreement” (MOA) for the upcoming joint DBI “Sheep is Life” (SIL) and the N-CSA’s AGM was formulated. The MOA draft has been provided to members of the N-CSA Board and DBI requests that the N-CSA fill in Section II including the N-CSA responsibilities and provide comments and suggestions on the other parts. Mickey volunteered to update the MOA according to suggestions from the N-CSA Board. A meeting is planned between representatives of DBI, the N-CSA and the Navajo Nation Museum (NNM) to take place at the NNM venue site to go over recommended lay-out of the various activities including camping, sheep pens, sheep judging arena and tents, presentations, meals and more. We are hoping to have activities close to one another, to have the sheep judging close to the sheep pens and camping area, and Bonnie states that the NNM’s hogan area is appropriate for picnicking. Other arrangements will be discussed as well. Our NNM venue quote is for Friday and Saturday, June 16 & 17, 2023, 6:00 am to 8:00 pm. The NNM has indicated that it doesn’t mind if shepherds arrive a day in advance to prepare and set up for the meeting.

Some of the topics discussed during the 2/5/2023 N-CSA Board meeting are listed below:

1. Designated N-CSA Representative:

Nikyle Begay will be the primary contact person between the N-CSA and the Sheep is Life organizing committee of DBI. Nikyle says Roy Kady, as the coordinator of DBI’s SIL committee, will probably be the liaison between DBI and the NNM. Nikyle also opined that Aretta Begay, as the Director of DBI might be the person responsible for writing any checks from DBI. Board member, Irene Bennalley, will be the N-CSA liaison between the Sheep is Life planning group and N-CSA. Steve Banks, the N-CSA Treasurer, or Bonnie Barcus, of the N-CSA Business Office, will handle any payments from the N-CSA. Any approvals for financial expenditure must be made in advance through the N-CSA Board.

2. Financial and Other Responsibilities:

We will provide liability insurance including medical liability. The N-CSA agrees to be responsible for venue costs, ribbons and plaques, judges, our part of meals and making veterinary arrangements. Any cost for tables, chairs, panels, tents or other supplies would need to be approved by the N-CSA in advance.

3. Speakers: As an educational requirement for our 501c3 status, we will be scheduling some lectures for the event. Time slots need to be assigned in order to avoid conflicts with other activities planned by the SIL planning group. We have, in the past, provided travel, lodging and sometimes honorarium stipends for some of our speakers but any such payments must be approved in advance. We plan a discussion on “Ram Beards” and Brother David is expected to speak about “Wool Mills”.

4. Judges: The N-CSA expects to provide a \$100 honorarium for each show judge. We would like to have an N-CSA inspector as judge for the joint N-CSA/DBI SIL Sheep Show, and coordinate with DBI for a DBI appointed qualified Fiber Artist to judge the joint N-CSA/DBI SIL Wool Show.

5. **Ribbons:** The N-CSA will pay for and provide ribbons and plaques for the sheep show. Nikyle says, in the past, when DBI and the N-CSA had a joint meeting, the N-CSA provided the ribbons and they were printed with both “N-CSA” and “DBI/SIL”. We have ribbons for the sheep show but they are printed with “N-CSA 2023” only. This is due to our 2022 ribbons being lost in transit and then being reprinted and replaced. We do not yet have plaques so Bonnie suggested that the N-CSA pay for plaques and put both N-CSA and DBI/SIL on them. Smaller plaques for Reserve and Grand Champion could also be made up but we would like to avoid remaking all the ribbons due to cost.
6. **Arena Panels:** We would like DBI to provide the arena panels and deliver them to the site along with tents, tables and chairs since we are not local to the area, will travel long distances not necessarily by truck and the first of us will most likely be arriving Thursday. Irene offered to work with Nikyle Begay, Jay Begay and DBI to coordinate the procurement of these items. Bonnie expects to arrive on the afternoon of Thursday June 15th and offered to help set up. Others plan to arrive early for set up as well.
7. **Veterinary Services:** Irene will see if a vet might be available “on call” in case someone requires a livestock health certificate for travel or help for an ill or injured animal. We need to know if there will be an “on call” fee. Any actual services provided would be paid for by the animal’s owner.
8. **Bio-security:** Since we will be transporting sheep to a location near a zoo, we have some concerns regarding bio-security. Julia will email Nikyle to ask where we will be keeping our sheep as compared to the zoo animals. We need to follow-up with the zoo to ensure that there are no issues. Kailey Toscano of the Sedgewick County Zoo in Kansas might be a resource.
9. **Meals:** Since many people will be having breakfast at their places of lodging, we are planning to make arrangements for only lunch and banquet (dinner) on the first day, Friday, June 16th, and lunch on the second day, Saturday, June 17th. The banquet could be held in town at a restaurant, hotel meeting room or perhaps cooked on site. It is expected that some mutton will be available by donation and the banquet caterer would need to be capable of cooking and serving it. Lunches could be provided by inviting a food truck service or by making arrangements with DBI’s SIL if they are having food preparation demonstrations. In the past, DBI’s SIL has had joint banquets with the N-CSA’s AGM. Each person wishing to participate paid some amount for their meal. If we have combined SIL and AGM meals, we would want to coordinate efforts and contribute money and/or food, however, we don’t yet know enough about meal plans and number of attendees to suggest a dollar amount.
[**Secretary’s Note:** The NNM’s website has a table of rental fees (<http://navajopeople.org/nnm/rental-rates/>). One of the rentals available is the use of their “SNACK BAR / KITCHEN”, so it seems that there is a kitchen on site that we may wish to consider.]
10. **Posters:** Debby asked if we would like to display the posters that she provided to the 2022 AGM. The response was positive for this and it was noted that there will be a place where they could be displayed.

G. New Business

None, as this was a one-topic meeting.

H. Set Next Conference Call Date & Adjourn

1. The next regular Board meeting is set for February 26, 2023 at the usual times.
2. Debby moved that the meeting be adjourned, the motion was seconded by Julia and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:09 pm MST by Chair Sheridan Langford.