

Minutes of the N-CSA Board of Directors Meeting – March 19, 2023

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

A. Call to Order

The meeting, conducted by Zoom, was called to order at 2:06 pm MDT by Chair Sheridan Langford.

B. Roll Call (Quorum requires 5 Board members)

Julia Alzofon, Bonnie Barcus, Debby Bradford, Sam Cunningham, Sheridan Langford, Elizabeth Casso Lopez and Katherine Skye Tucker were on the call and constituted the quorum. Mickey Willenbring joined the meeting at 3:04 MDT. Steve Banks, Nikyle Begay and Irene Bennalley had scheduling conflicts and were unable to attend.

C. Minutes of Previous Meetings – (02/26/23)

Bonnie moved that the minutes of 02/26/23 be accepted. Sam seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

D. Reports of Officers and Board

1. Business Office Report – *Bonnie Barcus*

Bonnie reports 4-5 membership renewals and that the Catch Pen is at the printers.

2. Treasurer's Report – *Steve Banks*

Sheri reported that US Bank needs some information in order to make updates to the N-CSA account. Sam will call to provide this. Bonnie states that the N-CSA credit cards have arrived and the new savings account is in progress.

3. Inspector Coordinator's Report – *Connie Taylor*

Connie Taylor reported the following by email: Jim Keyes conducted a fabulous Standards Zoom meeting which tied together many of the Mane/Beard threads generated by the Inspectors' meeting. We had a productive discussion and are eager to do more Zoom meetings this year. The Inspectors are dedicated to this breed and I thank them for steadfast service over the years. I have reported on the essence of our discussion in the document attached. [see addendum]

4. Registrar's Report – *Kim Kerley*

Bonnie states that there are a field inspection and two packets under review. One packet contains nine sheep and the other, four to five.

5. Website Committee - *Lisa Leonard*

No report at this time.

6. Breed Standards Committee Report – *Jim Keyes*

No report at this time.

*****Approval of Reports:** Julia moved that the Business Office, Treasurer, Inspector Coordinator and Registrar reports be accepted. Debbie seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

E. By-Law Changes (00:44:13)

Additional proposed changes to By-Laws – *Sam Cunningham*

No report at this time.

F. Unfinished Business

1. 2023 Annual General Meeting - *Nikyle Begay*

Irene has forwarded some information on the Quality Inn at Window Rock, including group rate room prices and conference room availability. Bonnie will make reservations for Dr. Adrienne Ruby, DVM, after determining which nights she will stay. We need to decide where the banquet and presentations will be held. Bonnie will speak with Roy Kady regarding DBI's agenda, signatures on the MOA, banquet and other meals and our venue reservation at the Navajo Nation Museum. We will have a presentation on "Manes and Beards", Sam will contact Brother David regarding his "Wool Mills" presentation.

2. Flock Dispersal - *Sheri Langford/Sam Cunningham*

Sheri has been provided documents and is in the process of putting together a write-up.

G. New Business

1. 2024 AGM -

We are hoping to hold the 2024 AGM in Flagstaff, AZ, to coincide with the Flagstaff Wool and Fiber Festival. Bonnie will contact Robin Robinson to see if she would like to participate in making arrangements.

H. Announcements:

1. 2022 AGM YouTube: Mickey is working on a YouTube from footage taken at the 2022 AGM. She wants to

create a Google and YouTube Account that allows password sharing.

2. **Documentary Photography Proposal:** After discussion of John Simpson's funding proposal, Mickey moved that we deny the request for funding since it does not uphold the educational goals of our organization. Bonnie seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

I. Set Next Conference Call Date & Adjourn

1. The next regular Board meeting is planned for April 30, 2023 at the usual times.
2. Julia moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Liz and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:01 pm MDT by Chair Sheri Langford.

***** ADDENDUM *****

Inspector Chair, Connie Taylor, BOD Report (3/19/23) :

The Inspector Team spent several weeks reviewing photos of Navajo-Churro Sheep with manes/beards. This issue is complex and troubling. Inspectors agree that we all need to be "on the same page" about this trait which has been noted for the past 5 years and seems to be increasing. Our findings are summarized below:

1. We all discourage breeding "bearded" rams. More photos, samples and experiences will be solicited from members so we can understand the genetics, origin and transmission. All contributions are confidential.
2. The mane often is not present/noticeable until the ram is 2 years old. We may request photos and fleece samples of the chest area of ram lambs, rams at maturity and at 3 years. This will initially be voluntary.
3. Currently, most inspectors will approve a ram with a long, wavy, supple chest display of "normal fleece" that has a wool undercoat and hair.
4. Currently, most inspectors will not accept a ram with an extremely stiff, coarse mane that sticks straight out away from the fleece. I refer to this fiber as "bristle" which does not bend easily as the bristles in a broom. For now we consider this as "Unacceptable under the Kemp Standards".
 - a. This bristle is not tolerated by Dine' weavers nor are the sheep that display this trait.
 - b. Dine' elders say that manes were not common in the past.
 - c. As a commercial wool buyer who started at the Navajo Nation Wool Warehouse in Shiprock and who has purchased many tons of wool from NSP, Ganados del Valle and Dine' producers, I can attest that I have never found this bristle in any fleece.
5. Some of the manes we see could be the result of crosses with hair sheep breeds. This contamination of our gene pool may have been deliberate by a few outliers but most members have no real clues about this. We hope to learn more and share our findings with posts in the Catch Pen and on Social media.
6. The inspectors will invite members to bring actual sheep and/or photos and samples to the 2023 AGM in Window Rock. We envision an ongoing collection of educational materials.

In closing, the N-CSA has conserved a very special breed of sheep that is worth the effort. When we organized in 1986, the heritability of split-eyelid and fat-tails were problems that are seldom encountered today. The entire Association paid attention and monitored their flocks. The same can be done regarding ram manes/beards. We do not want registration to become more difficult or intimidating. Our goal is to maintain quality and predictability in the Navajo-Churro sheep. This takes each member and each sheep. Beards simply need some attention now so it does not become a problem throughout the population.