

## Minutes of the N-CSA Board of Directors Meeting – October 29, 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 2:10 pm MDT by Chair Sheridan Langford.

### B. Roll Call (Quorum requires 5 Board members)

Julia Alzofon, Bonnie Barcus, Irene Bernalley, Debby Bradford, Sheridan Langford, Elizabeth Casso Lopez and Richard Marlar were on the call and constituted the quorum. Sam Cunningham joined the meeting at 2:25 pm MDT. Nikyle Begay was present as a guest. Katherine Skye Tucker was unable to attend.

### C. Minutes of Previous Meetings - (06/04/2023 and 06/17/2023)

Liz moved that the Board minutes of 06/04/2023 and the AGM minutes of 06/17/2023 be accepted. Debby seconded the motion and the motion was passed unanimously.

### D. Reports of Officers and Board

#### 1. **Business Office Report** - *Bonnie Barcus*

Bonnie reports that there are have been six membership submissions. Three of these are new members and the rest are renewals. These will be in effect through 2024. Three sets of registrations have arrived in the last 2 weeks, 15 animals total. Andrew Schafer will probably review them. There have been 170 registrations this year. 76 were processed before August and more are coming in.

#### 2. **Treasurer's Report** - *Bonnie Barcus*

- a. Steve Banks is listed as the administrator on the N-CSA's US Bank account. Bonnie can access his account for now and is working with the bank to set her up as administrator. Medina is our contact person at US Bank. The change in administrator will require today's meeting minutes including our official votes and also Steve's death certificate. Steve's credit card is deactivated. Bonnie's is active and is on auto pay. The debit card has not been used since the credit cards came in some time ago. Bonnie is authorized to write checks. Sheri is on the US Bank account and can log in but has user permissions only.
- b. All the June 2023 AGM checks have been issued and cashed. One payee was payed in cash. Current records need to be reconciled and then transferred to our new version of Quickbooks.
- c. At today's meeting, Elizabeth Casso Lopez proposed that Bonnie Barcus be elected "Interim Treasurer". Richard Marlar seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous for Bonnie taking on this position immediately and continuing until a permanent Treasurer is trained.

#### 3. **Inspector Coordinator's Report** - *Connie Taylor*

As per Connie Taylor:

- a. We registered 170 sheep the past few months. I deposited funds totaling \$390.00 in US Bank, Taos, NM for fees and a few memberships. A detailed accounting will be sent to Bonnie, Richard, Kim and Sheri when all are cleared off my desk.
- b. Apprentice Kelli Dunaj is taking a year off, Andrew Schafer has almost fulfilled his training and Mickey Willenbring has completed requirements for her Inspectorship.
- c. We heartily endorse Mickey to inspect sheep for N-CSA. She travels widely and has experience with all types of sheep and people. She is knowledgeable and a skilled communicator.
- d. Connie recommends that the Board of Directors vote for Mickey to take on the role of Inspector.

#### 4. **Registrar's Report** - *Kim Kerley*

No report at this time.

#### 5. **Website Committee** - *Lisa Leonard/Sheri Langford*

Lisa reports the following (edited):

Things are progressing. There are two things the Board can do to help:

- a. **Contribute beautiful pictures.** Three farms already have contributed but more are needed. Jess has contacted folks and I would like to see more farms represented. All pictures get a "Photo Courtesy of X" credit on them - great advertising for a farm. Jess can provide the instructions to upload pictures to the Google Drive. (Secretary's Note: At today's meeting, Nikyle agreed to send some photos.)
- b. I would appreciate it if someone with good historical perspective and an understanding of the recent sensitivity feedback would go over the "America's First Sheep" and "Preservation" content on the current website and decide if anything needs to be updated or augmented. I want to be respectful of the people who have provided questionnaire feedback and make sure we, as the N-CSA, remain culturally sensitive. (Secretary's Note: At today's meeting, Julia and Irene agreed to do the requested review.)
- c. As to your questions...yes we can put items on the website. I would put Connie and Julia's policy statement in

the "Breed Standard" area of the website and maybe make it a distinct "FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions" page about the Breed Standard. Similarly, when the report comes back about analysis of historic rugs, we can either publish it as a document or highlight its findings on a "Fleece Quality" page.

d. I have created a two menu structure for the new website:

i. **One menu deals with N-CSA business including:**

\* **Events and Announcements** - This is where upcoming events will be advertised, past events results (and video) will be posted, and Board Meeting information will be posted (upcoming Board meeting dates and how to login, past board meeting minutes and results)

\* **Members List** - will link to Doug's online database of N-CSA members

\* **Join** - a page with all the information about membership, membership application and renewal, etc

\* **Members Only Access** - link to Doug's members only features

\* **About N-CSA** - bylaws, history of N-CSA, Board composition, 501c3 status etc

\* **Contact N-CSA** - who to contact for different issues and how to contact

ii. **The second menu is specific to our sheep including:**

\* **History** - Information from the current "America's First Sheep" and "preservation" pages plus a new page about "uses" for our N-C sheep (fiber of course, meat, and milk all being highlighted)

\* **Breed Standard** - information from the current "Breed Standard" and "Colors and Patterns" pages

\* **Registration** - info from the current registration page including registration process and options, forms, instructions, description of registration requirements and the herdbooks

\* **Find a Breeder** - Breeders classifieds (paid breeders listing)

\* **Classified** - Fiber Products and Creations, Fleece directory, and N-CSA logo items (all have their own pages)

\* **Resources** - documents and reference guides, forms, templates

6. **Breed Standards Committee Report - Jim Keyes**

No report at this time.

7. **Database Committee Report - Bonnie Barcus**

Bonnie states that Dropbox is set up. Nikyle discussed that Kim needs photos to be sized (smaller) before submission and JPEG format is preferred. Connie Taylor has requested that the N-CSA get Dropbox Premium to enable additional features including submission of signatures. Nikyle has sent a link for Dropbox to the members of the Board. Andrew Schafer has expressed an interest joining the Database Committee and he will be invited to join.

\*\*\***Approval of Reports:** Julia moved that the Committee Reports be accepted. Richard seconded the motion.

**E. By-Law Changes**

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

Sam has reviewed the existing paperwork on By-Laws changes. She has a report from David Corbin that summarizes activity from 2020-2021. Sam has located a couple additional documents concerning By-Laws updates as well. In 2020, the By-Laws Committee was convened, Sam reported the Committee's proposed By-Laws changes and Bonnie prepared a markup for review. An initial draft with proposed changes and corrections was sent to the Board on 01/05/2021. The changes were addressed and an updated version was sent to the Board on 01/19/2021. Board members acknowledged receipt of the updated version but no further action was taken at that time since this needed to be done at an AGM (Due to COVID, there were no AGM's in 2020 and 2021).

Further actions on the amendments were tabled. Bonnie notes that when the By-Laws changes were posted online,

many more comments came in. We have a document by David Corbin incorporating these comments. Our current review will consider these as well as any other comments and suggestions that are received. The By-Laws Committee currently consists of Julia Alzofon, Bonnie Barcus, Sam Cunningham, Sheri Langford and Joe Schlitt. Sam wants to get a final update ready by the next AGM and will be calling a By-Laws Committee meeting soon. Any proposed changes must be published some months before the AGM.

**F. Unfinished Business**

1. **2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) - Sam Cunningham/Sheri Langford**

Possible venues proposed for the 2024 AGM include Farmington, Santa Fe, Albuquerque and Abiquiu, NM.

a. If **Farmington**, Irene Benalley would be the point person. At Nikyle's suggestion, this might possibly be scheduled to coincide with the Totah festival, held on Labor Day weekend, which includes an "Indian Art Market show and entertainment". Irene will scout possible venues.

b. If **Santa Fe** or **Albuquerque**, Richard Marlar would be the point person. It might be scheduled to

coincide with MAVWA's Mountain and Valley Wool Festival, the first full weekend in October. This may be an expensive location and time of year (Nikyle states that during this time, due to the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta, hotel prices are much higher.) but MAVWA's Mountain and Valley Wool Festival is well attended with 50 vendors, wool judging, sheep judging and more. Albuquerque is another, perhaps less expensive option that may be accessible to our members.

- c. If **Abiquiu**, perhaps Connie and/or Mina would be the point persons. It could be held in conjunction with the Española Valley Fiber Arts Center's "Churro Week" held in the Fall.

Richard and Irene will report back at the next Board meeting. Sam will help with instructions on what needs to be done for organizing the 2024 AGM.

## 2. **September 2023 Catch Pen** - *Julia Alzofon*

Julia states that she has obtained permissions for the photos to be used in this issue of the Catch Pen. Nikyle confirmed information regarding the Mountain and Valley Wool Association's (MAVWA's) new policy that, as of this past Festival in Santa Fe, it has extended its membership and its fleece show silver medallion eligibility to entries from the Navajo Nation including those parts in Arizona and Utah. Next year, the silver medallion will be available to the Navajo Nation in other show categories. Previously, membership and competitions were for Colorado, New Mexico and Texas only. Bonnie has an expense report to be included in the September Catch Pen and will provide that to Julia. A proposed draft of the Catch Pen will soon be forwarded to Bonnie for her comments.

## G. **New Business**

### 1. **Treasurer** - *Sam Cunningham & Sheri Langford*

Julia moved that Richard Marlar be trained to become our Treasurer with the goal that he take over as Treasurer on the target date of April 1, 2024. Liz seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

### 2. **Studies of Historic Rugs** - *Nikyle/Robbin Robinson*

Nikyle and others (Ephraim "Zefren" Anderson, Irene Bennalley, Sam Cunningham, Richard Marlar, Robbin Robinson and Connie Taylor) have expressed an interest in photographing and video documenting ancient, historical rugs made with Navajo-Churro wool. One focus would be to determine the kemp content of these rugs. A committee was proposed to visit collections in person. The results of this project would be listed on our website. Nikyle and Irene will head the Committee since they are weavers and also have access to some trading post collections. Robbin, Richard, some Rio Grande and Chimayo weavers and others would be invited as well. Sam mentioned a book by Dr. Joe Ben Wheat on Navajo Rugs. It contains a discussion of kemp and other valuable historical information. It was recommended that we reference this and other important books on our website.

### 3. **N-CSA Breed Book** - *Sheri Langford*

Sheri proposed that a printed heavy paperback Navajo-Churro Sheep Breed book be created using mostly already available information about Navajo-Churro sheep sourced from past Catch Pen articles and also information from our website and other publications and documents. Julia offered to forward any information she might have. We could collect photos that might be used and have a discussion about which ones would best represent our sheep. This would organize and summarize information for Fanciers, those new to the breed and others and also perhaps provide revenue. Sam suggested the publication, "A Guide to Selection of Navajo-Churro Sheep" be included. Bonnie has it on disc and will try to access it.

### 4. **Donation from Nikyle Begay for Navajo Memberships & Inspections** - *Nikyle Begay*

Nikyle has set up a birthday fund raiser through Facebook to benefit the N-CSA, targeted to help Diné Navajo-Churro shepherds become N-CSA members and register their sheep. In working through Rainbow Fiber Co-op, Nikyle has seen some who have had difficulty paying for these services. Criteria for eligibility would be established and over-seen by the N-CSA Board. Funds would cover Inspector reimbursements, owners' registration fees and N-CSA membership. After some discussion, the Board voted to match any funds that this one-time fund raiser brings in. A special category will be created in our P&L statement on QuickBooks to keep track of the income and expenditures. Nikyle would help to identify qualified individuals and submit a list to Bonnie. We recommend a certain number per flock (for instance up to 10) be registered through this program. Nikyle would like to inspect and register older ewes first in order to preserve information and build flock book data. Liz noted that this is in keeping with the mission of the N-CSA to support the sheep and culture. This program might encourage future registrations. A committee was formed to include Nikyle and Liz. Liz moved that we approve acceptance of the Facebook donation and that the N-CSA match 100% of any funds collected during this one-time drive. Debby seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. Bonnie will send a copy of guidelines of a past similar "scholarship" program to Nikyle and Liz and this will be further discussed at the next Board meeting.

**5. Vote of the Board of Directors to accept Apprentice Mickey Willenbring as an Inspector for N-CSA:**

Bonnie moved that Mickey be voted in as an Inspector. Debby seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

**H. Set Next Conference Call Date & Adjourn**

1. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 19, 2023 at the usual times.
2. The meeting was adjourned at 4:54 pm MDT by Chair Sheri Langford.