

MINNESOTA DAIRY GOAT ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

January 18, 2015

In Attendance: Casey Prochniak, Michelle Scheglowski, Allan Weinand, Rodney Coe, Keith Allen, Brian McCann, Bonnie Augustine, and MDGA members Alex Coe, Michelle Ruedy and Adam Prochniak

The Meeting Was Called to Order at 11:05 a.m. by President Casey Prochniak. Casey welcomed our three new Board members – Keith Allen, Brian McCann and Bonnie Augustine.

The Secretary's Minutes – were unavailable and could not be read.

The Treasurer's Report – was read by Treasurer Bonnie Augustine. Current balance in the General Fund is \$27,958.32. Current balance in the Futurity Fund is \$1,118.51. *A motion was made by Allan to approve the Treasurer's report and was seconded by Rodney. The motion passed.*

Committee Reports –

Shows - local shows were discussed with dates and locations. The Youth Show will be held June 13, Little Falls is a 1 day/3 ring show on May 30, Mora is a 2 day/2 ring on June 27/28, Caledonia is 2 day/ 4 rings on September 19/20 and LaCrosse show will be a 4 ring show with buck show, but the date is unknown. Michelle R. commented that she had been trying to organize a buck show but was uncertain of dates and had asked for help if we wanted to organize a buck show. The idea of having a MDGA State Show was discussed, that could possibly incorporate a buck show. *A show committee was set up for looking into the feasibility of having such a show without interfering with other shows.* Show committee members are Morgan, Michelle R. and Rodney. *Rodney made a motion to pursue organizing an MDGA State Show in 2016. Keith seconded the motion and it was passed.*

State Fair Display – Committee members present were asked on their progress in developing a few standing display that would be interactive and educational for the public. Michelle S. said there was a significant waiting list for the company that makes the education animal displays at the MN Zoo. *Allan is following up on the educational display he saw at the Iowa State Fair. Allan agreed to talk to Paul Plummer as a possible lead to more avenues to find companies that make these types of displays.*

Conference – The 2014 Conference went well overall. Conference attendees requested ideas for future topics on a survey. Survey results showed the most interest in AI information, genetics, line breeding, inbreeding. It was mentioned that John White would be a good speaker to address genetics. Other topic ideas included: ADGA President as a speaker and hoof trimming techniques. Addressing date and location was the next topic. The second weekend in November seems to work well overall, making the *next conference date November 14, 2015.* Though the U of M has been a great central location for the conference, there are also drawbacks. The first of these being, that if a class is scheduled for the day of conference, we are bumped out of the rooms. That is what happened this year and it was confusing and disruptive to have to move our members to another room. It was decided to look into other venues to attempt to find something that might better suit our needs. Possible ideas included South Central in Mankato, Dakota County Vo-Tech or possibly the agricultural charter school in St. Paul. It was determined that location had to have the ability for the animals to have close proximity to the door. It was thought these schools would be best qualified in our area.

Auction animals were discussed. It was determined that if we offered a consignment option to the donor, it would make it easier for us to get people to part with their animals, and help the donor recoup some of their costs for raising the animal. Doing this might also generate more of an interest in getting more animals to the auction. Since the animals bring in the most money for MDGA, getting more than the current three animals per year could be helpful. *A motion was made by Allan to change the animal auction to pay the owner 40% of the selling price at the annual conference. Rodney amended the motion to 50% and it was seconded by Brian. The motion passed.*

Board and Committee members' registration fees for the conference were discussed. *Rodney made a motion that as a benefit to volunteering on the MDGA Board and as committee chairs, all Board and Committee Chairs would get free entry into the conference. It was seconded by Allan. The motion passed.*

Conference contests were discussed. There was a lot of positive feedback at the conference surrounding the foot contest. *Casey will check with Laura to find out if she would be willing to organize a food contest for the next conference or help someone else organize it.*

MDGA Artificial Insemination (AI) Clinic was discussed. The idea of an MDGA AI Clinic with Q&A was brought up. Possible speakers would include: Sarah Wahlberg or Mary Adamson. Other points of discussion would be Superior Genetics, classification, confirmation and registration. John White was brought up as an excellent person to speak on these topics. *President Casey Prochniak agreed to follow up on this proposed seminar.*

Youth – was the next topic discussion. It was felt we need to do more youth specific activities at the conference level. Rodney brought up the possibility of a Spring Workshop event that the Youth Committee has been working on. They are proposing the end of February/beginning of March. Teaching topics would be: nutrition, care, selection, showmanship, housing, basic goat 101. The committee is currently having trouble finding a location to hold this event. At this time of year, it would need to be heated, have the ability to serve food and be able to have live animals. If anyone knows of a potential location, contact Rodney or Michelle S. *Bonnie is to check with the insurance company to see if we would be covered under the MDGA blanket policy.* Outstanding Youth was discussed. It was determined that we must do more to advance our Outstanding Youth program, including increasing awareness.

GGG – Gopher Goat Gossip – The GGG has a new editor. Michelle Ruedy is our new editor of the GGG. She has asked each board member to submit an article once a year for the GGG. They can either get someone else to write an article or do it themselves. Our by-laws currently state that we must publish the GGG ten times a year. With the technology we have at our fingertips, it is felt that we wouldn't really need to publish the GGG ten times in a year. It was really felt that if we did it quarterly and really put effort into the issues, we could have a publication that was really helpful to our membership. The spring issue would include a list of the local shows. *Allan is going to compile a list of shows including sanctioned county air shows with dates and contact people, plus all the club shows around Minnesota.*

It was suggested that a “breeder’s edition” of the GGG be published in the fall. **Michelle R. will be going over the “member only” Facebook page to get it updated with the list of current MDGA members.**

BY-Laws – have not been updated in quite some time. Since we are thinking of changing the GGG portion of the By-Laws, it was suggested that each Board member should completely read the By-Laws before the next meeting, note anything they think should be changed. *Bonnie made a motion to change the By-Laws in regard to the GGG to read, “An Editor, who has the responsibility of seeing the GGG be published quarterly (4 times). Rodney seconded and the motion was approved.* The change now must be published and brought before the next General Membership Meeting in April.

Futurity – It was determined that Linda was doing an excellent job handling Futurity. Discussion on what to do about the Futurity show followed. There is a problem for people that have paid their dues being able to get in the MN State Fair to show. Keith mentioned the Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association typically handles issues with the State Fair. We need to go through them to help determine if there is a way to accommodate all the potential exhibitors and stalling problems of the last few years. Since the MN State Fair is not an MDGA show, we have no say in how they determine the exhibitors. The idea of a separate MDGA show being organized that would also serve as our futurity show was discussed. Casey said she had asked a few breeders last year if they would attend a separate show. The responses she received were mixed, but several said “no,” even making comment that they would want to be reimbursed for futurity dues they had paid up to that point if the show was not at the state fair. **Keith agreed to become our spokesperson at the MLBA and see what can be done to correct the issue.** *Allan made a motion that our MLBA liaison must be a current member of the MDGA Board. The motion was seconded by Bonnie and was approved. A motion to pay the MLBA invoice for MDGA’s 2-15 membership was made by Rodney and seconded by Michelle S. The motion was approved.*

Linear Appraisal – Dates for Minnesota will be from September 15-25.

Old Business –

The Committee Chairs list that is posted on the website was reviewed. There is some updating necessary. **Casey will current current committee chairs to see if they are still interested in being committee chairs, or if they would like to step down.** It was suggested that the board should draft a letter as to what the duties of each committee chair person are. In years pasat, the MDGA has sponsored the Best Udder awards for the Nigerian Dwarf and Recorded Grade classes at the ADGA National Show. ADGA would like to know if we plan to continue to sponsor these two classes. Cost is \$35 per award. The Board agreed that we should continue to sponsor the ADGA National Show. *Rodney made a motion that MDGA pay \$35 per award to sponsor these awards at the ADGA National Show. The motion was seconded by Keith. The motion passed. Keith made a motion to continue to sponsor the awards at the MN State Fair as we have in the past. Bonnie seconded the motion. The motion passed.*

New Business –

AI Clinic - Casey suggested that we look into doing an AI Clinic. She has spoken to Bio-Genetics and they have two options. Option 1 would be 10 or less people and would cost \$950 plus travel costs, food, etc. Option 2 would be a day course for up to 14 people and could cost \$1250 plus travel costs, food, etc. There was a lot of interest in an AI Clinic mentioned at the conference. Casey was told that we could add a second 2 day course to accommodate more people. Costs would remain the same for a second class. Clinics would be back to back and in April or May. It was suggested that the Maefsky family might be willing to host the clinic and **Casey agreed to contact the Maefsky's.**

Spring General Membership Meeting – Locations and topics were discussed. Singing Hills or the U of M diagnostic lab were possible locations discussed. However, it was thought that there may not be a room to actually have the meeting.

New Officer Election – Current officers are: Casey Prochniak – President, Vice President Karyl Dronen and Mary Thompson as Secretary. *Allan made a motion that Casey run for a second term as President. Rodney seconded the motion, Casey agreed to run a second term. The motion passed. Keith made a motion to nominate Rodney Coe as Vice President. Motion was seconded by Allan. Rodney agreed to serve. The motion passed. Rodney made a motion to nominate Michelle Scheglowski as Secretary and Keith seconded. Michelle agreed to the position and the motion passed.*

Adjournment -

Rodney made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:50 pm. Keith seconded the motion and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned.