

Meeting Minutes

A virtual meeting was held 2-5-21 on Google Meet

In attendance were Josh Bernt, Barbie Z, Josh Kaster, Nathan Urbanek, Emily Parks,
Kim Harrison, Neal Amsberry

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 by President Josh Bernt.

1. First agenda item was the spring sale to be held in Sutton NE at the livestock auction barn on March 27.
Sale committee chairman Josh Kaster was asked to update on progress.
Josh said that himself and Damian Vasquez were continuing to flood Facebook hair sheep pages with updated posts on the sale. Josh said he would be touching base with the sale barn soon to finalize preparations for the sale. Neal asked Josh to find the sale receipt for Terry Kumm when he spoke to him so we could get the commission refund owed Terry cleared up.
Josh stated that he had not been in touch with any publications yet.
Neal Amsberry brought up that the Wyoming Roundup had contacted him and gave a discounted rate of \$64 for 4 ads. Neal asked Josh since he has all the contact information if he wanted him to get the ads for the sale placed. Josh said that would be fine so the plan to place ads in the Midwest Messenger, Stockmans Grass Farmer and Wyoming Roundup next week with Josh Kaster and Josh Bernt as contacts.
2. Next item on the agenda was a raffle to fund the new Mentoring and Beginning Youth Shepherd programs.
Neal Amsberry proposed the raffle of a complete working system from Mountain View Machine as first prize valued at \$3900 and Josh Bernt suggested \$500 in Sydell product as a second prize.
Discussion was opened up and Josh Kaster suggested we go with 250 tickets at \$50ea.
Neal stated that he could get very nice tickets printed up at Midwest Messenger for \$30 for 250.
The plan was made to sell tickets up to the fall sale in Sept and draw whether all tickets were sold or not. Barbie Z asked if the winner needed to be present to win and was given the answer, no. Winner will have to pay for their own shipping. Wade Steamick, owner of MVM said that he would deliver at no cost if along his route to a show or another delivery.
Motion was made by Neal Amsberry to print 250 tickets at \$50, and to agree to purchase one complete system from MVM to be after the drawing. And to purchase \$500 in additional equipment from Sydell for the second prize. Motion seconded and by vote passed.
3. Next item Vice President seat vacancy.
With little discussion Neal Amsberry nominated Emily Parks of Independence, Iowa for VP.
Josh Bernt seconded and by voice vote Emily was voted in as VP.
Neal Amsberry will move to the Secretary position.
4. Next item, Small Ruminant Field Day May 22nd
Neal said everything was coming together for the field day with 2 speakers from Texas A&M scheduled to be main speakers.
Dr. Kathy Rieker would not speak but would answer questions on small ruminant production and assist with ultrasounding 101.
He stated that Dustin O'Hanlon of O'Hanlon seed, would give a presentation on cover crop grazing. Steve Renkin of Innovative Ag would give a presentation on Soil Health.
Neal found a place to rent a 30x40 tent along with tables and chairs for \$189 set up and torn down. Only needs to get a porta potty.

5. Next item, Mentoring

Josh asked Kim how her report was going and to give a rundown on what she has found out.

Kim stated that she had emailed her findings to Neal and Josh for review. Kim said that she had spent a lot of time and asked Abbi about her dealing with cattle sponsorship and mentoring that she has done.

Kim thinks that the co-op should partner with an existing organization that may already have a mentoring program in place. She said that Emily had called the Nebraska Sheep and Goat Ass. to ask about their mentoring program but found that they were not offering the program at this time and did not know if and when they would in the future.

Kim stated that the KHSI was a place to possibly get some help with the mentoring program.

Neal said that he had just received a phone call from Robert Walker with the KHSI the day before and that he would reach out to him to gather more information and see if we may be able to partner with them on the project.

6. Final item: website.

Emily Parks has done a great job of building the new Mid-States website. Neal showed everyone the website on camera and Emily stated that it would cost around \$400 per year to publish and maintain the site.

Josh stated that Neal can get the card numbers to Emily so she can pay for 1 year.

Before the meeting was adjourned the next meeting was planned for March 5th at 7pm on Zoom. The link will be posted on the Mid-States Hair Sheep Cooperative fb page.

Meeting was adjourned.