



USYAKS June 7, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes

Present: Greg D., Brad P., Robert S., Ruth H., Peter H., Eric & Susan M., Urs L., Kat T., Carlice C., Melissa (joined later in meeting)

Excused: Caryn D., Dr. Jeff L.

A motion to approve minutes from the May 3, 2023 was passed.

A motion was passed to grant USYAKS website access, through Eddie to Jenna M. Jenna will get the basics updated on correct current board members as well that the website is under construction.

A review of finances, accounts, registered yaks and membership numbers was discussed. With 1,156 yaks registered in USYAKS since inception, it was agreed that there is a need to update live animals and active members.

Greg asked that Ruth move any money out of PayPal into the USYAKS bank account as soon as possible.

Susan suggested setting up an automated annual renewal reminder and everyone agreed that picking a month that the membership starts and ends is ideal verses prorated memberships.

Also suggested was a welcome letter to new members, with values or mission statement and renewing members along with brief overview of what USYAKS offers members

Peter has had discussions with Daniele G. and Sophia W. of IYAK regarding their \$25 fee to provide data that is already in Ted's database. Everyone agreed that if the animal was not in the database though a \$25 fee will be paid only in that circumstance.

There will be two committees for future yak show event venues. One will focus on areas west of the Mississippi and one will focus on areas east of the Mississippi.

Greg has informed N.W.S.S. that USYAKS is on hold for 2024, not committing yet.

Susan suggested the idea of a Yak Summit Conference. Have examples of best in breed, conformation best, fiber best etc. Bring in select animals from breeders nearby as examples and hold seminars on topics of health, breeding, DNA, genetic diversity, yak husbandry.

Above was agreed to consider further, if it was the day before a scheduled yak event, not a stand-alone event, at this time.

Question for all of us to consider, what is the best use of USYAKS funds as stewards of the breed. Where and how do we spend to get the most value for the future of yaks in the U.S.? What do our members want out of their membership? Please all come back to the next meeting with your thoughts on this.

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Discussions of USYAKS & IYAK merger occurred. Brad is going to get meetings set up for the committee handling this so that an update will be forthcoming at the next board meeting.

Melissa gave an update about the yak event she is hosting in her area and it sounds really fun.

Motion passed to adjourn the meeting.