**The Minutes**

**NAWSA meeting of the BOD, August 2nd, 2020 7pm EST**

Members of the BOD: D’Andrea Tyree; President, Virginia Scholomiti, Karen Stern; Directors, Nan Fickett filling in temporarily as Secretary for Sheryl Meacham

Other attendees: Cory Simpson, Karena von Hassel, Jennifer Vanhorn

## The meeting was called to order by President D’Andrea Tyree, and was recorded.

A motion was made by Virginia Scholomiti to approve the 5/21/20 minutes with a correction of the date of the next BOD meeting to 8/2/20, instead of 8/7/20. The motion was seconded by D’Andrea Tyree and approved unanimously.

Treasurer report by our treasurer Wendy Hanson was read; NAWSA has a total of $9,682.43 as of July 1st, 2020

##

## Old Business:

**Update on the participating members of the BOD**

Cory Simpson resigned 6/21/20 and D’Andrea Tyree, former Vice President, was elected President in his place.

Due to family illness, Sheryl Meacham has temporarily stepped back from the position of Secretary, while retaining her status as Director. Nan Fickett, Director, will act as Secretary until such time as Sheryl is able to return.

**Registration of ewes over 24 months of age - exemption request**

Karena von Hassel submitted a request to register two Wensleydale ewes over 24 months of age. The sheep had been sold to Karena with the full intent that they be registered. NAWSA corrected an error on the animal’s pedigree. Motion was made via email to grant a one-time exemption to register the two animals submitted, along with a $100 late registration fee. Vote carried 4 yes, 1 abstention.

**Request for approval of imported semen from four UK Wensleydale rams**

Cory Simpson submitted the ‘imported semen form’ to request approval of four UK registered Wensleydale rams, together with their pedigrees. These 4 rams were imported in 2003 and 2004 but have not previously been submitted for approval to NAWSA. Cory purchased the frozen semen for these rams from Kay Kratz in 2019 and used it to breed ewes, so that lambs from these sires are awaiting registration.

1. **6407B Uppermill Moondust,** GCA 97 11B, black ram,

2. **6569B Uppermill Blacksmith** GCA-99-8B, black ram

4. **6631B West end Ace of Spades**, black ram

3. **6795 West End Aiden**, white ram

 Codon 171 certificates were not submitted by Cory but a copy of a letter to Jeanie Muddle listing the Codon status 171 RR of the two Uppermill rams was provided. The importer was to have submitted the rams for approval and provide the certificate of Codon 171 RR status(policy 10/19/02). ****

A motion was made by Karen Stern to accept the four UK rams in the NAWSA registry by allowing an exemption to the codon 171 policy with three conditions:

1. All first-generation progeny submitted for NAWSA registration from these rams must submit codon 171 status (for rams only RR would qualify for registration while ewes would qualify as RR or QR).
2. A DNA sample for at least one lamb resulting from each of the four UK rams will be submitted to a gene testing facility for a DNA profile, paid for by NAWSA, for the purposes of establishing a DNA library of UK Wensleydale sires in the US.
3. All Uppermill Moondust and Uppermill Blacksmith registrations require confirmation that payment has been made to Jeannie Muddle.

The motion was seconded by Virginia Scholomitti and was approved unanimously.

**Mug & Calendar Projects - pending**

NAWSA members submitted photos of their Wensleydales earlier this year for possible inclusion in a Calendar and Mug project, to create more member involvement and encourage breeder recognition of quality animals. With the current Covid-19 pandemic, as well as a multitude of other issues NAWSA is currently addressing, these items are pending.

**Request for late registration of a ram - pending**

David Moran submitted a request for late registration of the ram ‘Bran’ born in 2012, the BOD requested additional information and as a result the submission is pending.

**Request for change in breeder/owner of lambs born 1999 and 2000**

Deb Nelson Gourley submitted a request to have her listed as breeder/owner of a group of lambs born in 1999-2000. Additional information was requested from the parties involved and as a result the submission is pending.

**New Business:**

**Newsletter**

The BOD has discontinued the NAWSA newsletter in its current format due to conflicts that arose during the production of the Heritage edition. Several discrepancies in the registry emerged during research for this issue (see above owner/breeder issue pending). The BOD is investigating a number of possibilities for sharing timely, meaningful content with members to inform and promote Wensleydales in the US.

**Facebook and communications**

NAWSA has two Facebook pages:

1. Public - anyone interested in the breed
2. Discussion group - current NAWSA members only

The public page allows us to share our beautiful sheep and wool with a broader community, while the Discussion group is intended to be used for NAWSA discussions relevant to members.

There have been instances of negative and disrespectful communications on the public Facebook page resulting in the blocking of one member (after having received a prior warning for civil communications).

Members must communicate respectfully in all Facebook posts and comments, as well as in all other written and verbal communications. Character defamation, threats and false accusations will be deleted and one warning given to the member. Removal from the Facebook page, and possible other consequences, will follow a second occurrence.

Jennifer Vanhorne, a lawyer and member of NAWSA, provided clear options for handling this type of behavior should it continue.

**Registration of lambs from ewes purchased bred**

There has been some confusion expressed about the registration process of lambs resulting from ewes pregnant at the time of sale. The NAWSA has always asked the breeder of the lamb, not the owner of the lamb, to sign the registration papers and validate the breeding information. GLM routinely checks the ownership, and/or transfer date and date of birth for the lambs, to make sure this policy is being followed. To help alleviate any confusion, GLM will be looking at clarifying the labels on fields and display views. Note this will not affect the underlying data.

**Changes to the Import, AI Form and Registry forms**

We are investigating changes to the Certificate of Registry and other forms to help simplify registration (ie in the case of lambs from a ewe purchased pregnant). The Recognition for Imported Semen form should state that the importer is responsible for making the application and signing the form to verify that the information is correct. We are investigating a domestic semen/AI form to better track the US semen that has been collected.

**Presentation/Workshop On Color Genetics and the Extension Dominant Gene**

One of our members, Carolynn Bernard, generously offered to help put together a presentation/workshop along with Christian Posbergh, faculty at UMN, researching genetics and genomics in sheep, on the genetics of color in sheep. Two sessions are suggested, one more general and one exploring specific topics ie. extension dominant black, the possibility of lethal grey etc and how color genetics apply to Wensleydales.

**BOD elections fall, 2020**

Karen Stern and Nan Fickett’s board seats will expire this fall and both plan to run again. A call for nominations from members seeking election to the BOD will be sent out on August 18th, 2020. Nominees must be active members in good standing and must have registered a lamb within the last two years. Nominations must be received by September 1st, 2020.

**The Annual Meeting Date**

The date for our next Annual Meeting is October 18th, at 7 pm EST, 6 Central.

**Possible agenda items for the Annual Membership Meeting:**

Discussion on possible questions to submit for the upcoming presentation on color genetics.

Future of breed up process and what the goals should be for the future, ie. Future of Foundation lines, possible use of domestic foundation rams ,

Motion made to adjourn by Virginia Scholomiti at 9:17pm. It was then seconded by Karen Stern. Unanimously passed with 4 yes votes.