**SABN AGM**

**March 9, 2024**

**Attendance**: Cathy Merley, Trudy McCall, Carol Poole, Kelly Kokoski, Rachel Vos, Bruce & Loretta Peters, Diane Unruh, Morgan Evans, Glenda Shotter, and Tamsyn Ament

Meeting was brought to order at 12:55

1. President’s address: Kelly welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for attending and that its good to have a meeting in person again. Talked about SABN doing more networking this year possibly at Agribition, on Sunday or Monday night could have food brought in and everyone could hang out in the show ring
2. Reviewed the agenda. Produced an amendment to add discussion about billboard sign
3. Rachel read the mins from the 2023 AGM. Outside of a name spelling correction Carol made the motion to adopt the mins as read, Loretta seconded and all were in favor
4. Reports:
   1. Treasurer- are in the process of moving the bank account to the Conexus Cornerstone in Emerald Park. The signers on the account will be Carol Poole, Kelly Kokoski and Rachel Vos

-Went over the financial report. Total revenue was $8,595.00, total expenses $6,769.18 ending the year with an income of $1,825.82.

-Bruce made the motion to accept the treasure’s report, Morgan seconded and all were favor

-Trudy made the motion to ask Paulette Pavka to review the books for 2024 and if she can’t that Carol will find an alternative. Bruce seconded and all were in favor.

* 1. Website – Kelsey was not in attendance but sent her report to Kelly. The new website is finished and up and running on go daddy. Is encouraging members to send photos whenever they have some and to fill the membership form online.
  2. Education – had the animal booth all week at Agribition again with an updated information display and more volunteer presence to be able to educate and net work more with interested people and the public.

-we were approached by CWA to have an alpaca at the airport as part of CWA’s kickoff promotion in the media. Kelly Kokoski volunteered and the event was organised by CWA

-held a shearing school at Carol’s in April with 3 shearers and 2 classers in attendance. Would like to communicate with Manitoba to combine classes and/or alternate locations as they are in high need of shearers but can’t find enough interest to run a class. Could look into offering a shearing refresher course before shearing season with a lower price. Cathy mentioned there is a shearing video that we could make available to past attendees as a refresher or in a password protected area of the website or private youTube channel.

-Underdog Alpacas also volunteered their alpacas at the Rush game in Saskatoon which they enjoyed and which involved an interview on youTube

-new ideas: could do more promotion to our members to correlate events with Alpaca Canada’s Farm Days. Could possibly hold an alpaca come and see event at Dakota Dunes in the summer

* 1. Agribition - Halter show had 45 entries which was down from last year but made more money due to higher sponsorship and no prize money. Thanks goes out to Loretta Peters for presenting Alpaca 101.

-Fleece show had 58 fleeces which was more than last year even though we had a late start in promoting the show after we were not able to hold the IFA show as planned because AO was not ready to support an international show. Had a great judge that bore with the rough start we had but did struggle with how we determine weight scores. Trudy and Rachel are comparing Canadian and US charts and preparing a letter for Alpaca Canada

New Business

1. Agribition – November 24-26, 2024

-our judge Amanda vandenBosch, is booked

-the board sent out a survey to help decide the direction Agribition should take. From the results the board proposed the show schedule to be: Sunday -IFA fleece show, Monday-walking fleece show, Tuesday – halter show.

-The results also showed that breeders are only interested in entering shows that are sanctioned with Alpaca Canada. AO is interested in giving permission to Alpaca Canada to sanction an IFA show. Alpaca Canada has been approached to see if this is something they would do and are waiting on their decision. If Alpaca Canada does not agree to sanction we would hold a regular fleece show. Would have to make that decision by end of May to be included in the forms that start around June for entering the BC and AB fleece shows.

-Discussed what the walking fleece show is. A private meeting with the judge as they go over the fleece and fill out a score card similar to a fleece show. The survey also showed that breeders would only be interested in entering this show if Alpaca Canada would sanction. Concerns were raised about the entry fee, which would be similar to a fleece show entry fee, substantially raising the costs for breeders if entering both shows. Discussed having a combo show price. There were also concerns if there would be enough entries to cover the cost of the judge for a day. The board hoped offering this type of show would increase entries at the show as breeders who don’t feel comfortable yet or have animals that couldn’t enter a regular show but could possibly a walking fleece show, would widen the scope for possible entries. Concerns were also raised that a walking fleece show is not interesting enough when in the show ring and the information could be redundant to breeders who are entering the same animal in both shows. Cathy mentioned her experience with a walking fleece show done in the pens rather then the show ring. Then both shows could run at the same time if we had 2 judges and the winners be presented in the show ring. Discussed ideas if we dropped the walking fleece show what would we do with Tuesday? Return to Agribition? Approach 4H groups? Education?

-Bruce made the motion that the CWA show schedule remain the same as 2023 with Monday holding an IFA fleece show (if sanctioned by Alpaca Canada otherwise a Canadian sanctioned fleece show) and Tuesday holding a Canadian halter show so as to only introduce one new show a year. Cathy seconded and all were in favor.

-With the fleece show moving back to Monday it would be good to set up a display of what the judge is looking at to educate the public

-Could look into offering a new class for new breeders based on years of experience to get new breeders involved who are maybe nervous or intimidated.

1. Diane made the motion to accept the boards proposal to remove the $25 website link fee for 2025 memberships Morgan seconded and all were in favor.
2. Bruce and Loretta presented the idea to hold a second Saskatchewan composite alpaca show closer to Saskatoon possibly in August. Discussed ideas. Could hold in tandem with another event to draw interest such as the fibre festivals in Biggar and Humboldt. Could be outside under tents to save on arena costs. Could be a more laid back, hands on type of show to draw a different group of breeders to create more participation. Bruce offered to continue to do research about it.
3. Cathy presented on things happening at the Prairie Fibreshed. They are currently building a map on the website to give exposure to all fibre producers. They hold frequent zoom presentations with guest speakers form all different fibre industries. On April 6 they are hosting a presentation on flax and you can register on their website. They are also holding a Saskatchewan made, natural fibre art exhibition called Full Circles. We should promote this group to our members and could even purchase a community membership.

-Diane made the motion that SABN purchase a Prairie Fibreshed Community membership for $30, Glenda seconded and all were in favor

-The World Alpaca Conference will be in Germany March 4-9, 2025

1. Discussion about the sign ended with Bruce offering to drop off at Glenda’s house sometime this year
2. Nominations: Cathy nominated Tamasyn and she accepted

-Rachel nominated Loretta and she accepted

-Alpaca Canada is also in need of board members if any of our members are interested in joining them

Meeting adjourned @ 3:15pm