

2013 Annual Meeting of the
St. Croix Hair Sheep Breeders, Inc.
Minutes

Saturday, May 18, 2013

The 2013 Annual Meeting of the St. Croix Hair Sheep Breeders, Inc. convened at the Holiday Inn Express in Palestine, TX at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 18, 2012.

The following individuals were present: H.J. and Berta Rae Cannon (TX), Bill and Marilyn Wire (CA), Dr. Edward and Linda Barnes (OR), Sue Swan (OR), Bob and Vanessa Harris (OK), Jason and Miranda Pelzel (MO), Ross and Jennie Hargis (TX), Eddie and Pam Martin (SC), Matt Morgan (KY), Billy and Tam Hearnberger (TX), Yates Colby (WA), Gary and Joyce Keibler (KY), Rob and Joy Bass (TX), Kathy Bennett (OR). Eight states were represented.

Call to order: President Eddie Martin called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He welcomed everyone present and asked them to introduce themselves and state where they were from. Eight states were represented by those in attendance.

Minutes of last meeting: All members had copies of last year's meeting, and Kathy Bennett read them aloud. The following were areas of discussion regarding those minutes. Regarding Association Status, there were questions about the reasons for the creation of the current association. E. Martin explained that there were potentially dangerous legal/tax issues with the original association. B. Wire said there was a new association formed by Vicki Hamstreet and questioned why we were not part of that association. E. Martin explained that the bank account of the original association was moved into the association established by V. Hamstreet, and legal advice given to Richard Bennett by a tax attorney was to completely remove ourselves from the organization established by V. Hamstreet. E. Martin said that he was given the same advice from an attorney he contacted. Bill Wire stated that he had never seen documents from any attorney. Eddie said that his advice was given via telephone. Kathy Bennett was asked if there was documentation from the attorney R. Bennett contacted. She said she believed so. Gary Keibler said he questioned whether the legal counsel reported by E. Martin or K. Bennett existed without seeing the documents. G. Keibler and B. Wire repeatedly shouted, "Until we see it in writing, it is only hearsay." K. Bennett asked G. Keibler if he doubted R. Bennett's honesty. His response was, "Yes, I do." Regarding Director Nomination Process, Linda Barnes noted that her name was not on the list of nominees listed in the minutes. K. Bennett apologized for her oversight and said it would be corrected. G. Keibler and J. Keibler said that all of the names were not nominated at the meeting. E. Martin stated that the minutes say that the names were presented and he had a list of names of the persons nominated prior to the meeting. Miranda Pelzel asked what the duties of regional directors were. She expressed disappointment that she was not personally contacted by a regional director regarding the breed standards discussion. In that same area of reporting, G. Keibler said that the minutes state that the membership voted to elect 6 regional directors and 3 at-large directors. He questioned why there are currently 13 directors. E. Martin explained that there are 9 directors and four officers. G. Keibler wanted to know who nominated the candidates for directors whose names were read by Kathy as names of members already on the list of nominees. E. Martin told him that the information was not retained, and all that he remembered was that G. Keibler had nominated J. Keibler at the meeting. E. Martin asked G. Keibler if he had concerns with the nomination of particular nominees or directors and he said, "no." Joyce Keibler said that she wanted to remove "four or more" directors, and later said she wanted a membership list to gather signatures for a

special meeting.

Regarding Johnes Disease, B. Wire and G. Keibler questioned whether there was any documented evidence of Johnes disease in St. Croix sheep. E. Martin said there were confirmed cases of Johnes in the eastern U.S. and the Pacific Northwest. G. Keibler stated that there was a "vote" to not put the Johnes article handed out at the meeting on the website. K. Bennett said that she wrote the minutes immediately after the meeting and there was no record of such a vote in her notes. E. Martin also stated that he did not remember a vote on that subject, but both G. Keibler and J. Keibler stated that they remembered it. G. Keibler and B. Wire said they wanted to see the documents associated with E. Martin's information. E. Martin said he had received some of the reports via telephone conference but did have necropsy documents on others. G. Keibler and B. Wire insisted on seeing those documents because without their seeing the documents, the discussion was only based on hearsay. Eddie said he could provide them but would redact any information that would identify the owner of the animals. There was strong objection by G. Keibler to not having that specific information. E. Martin said he would not release the documents with personal information included. E. Martin said it would be advisable for members to have their flocks certified free of Johnes, OPP, and other devastating diseases as a means to provide confidence to buyers.

Treasurer's Report: Richard Bennett was not in attendance but submitted a report that was distributed to all present. The balance of the association account was \$6,729 on May 14th 2013. B. Wire commented that this was not a budget report because the association does not have a budget. M. Pelzel inquired about the loan repayment listed on the report. E. Martin explained that there were legal expenses associated with the creation of this association, and R. Bennett paid those expenses personally. The loan payment reflects the reimbursement of R. Bennett for that. The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

Old Business:

Committee Reports:

Publicity Committee, chaired by Malia Miller. She was not in attendance but provided a report for Eddie to give. G. Keibler noted that there were directors who had reports to give that were not there, and their reports should be tabled. E. Martin responded that the meeting agenda had been approved by the Board and the meeting needed to follow the stated agenda. J. Bass left the meeting to have copies of the bylaws made. While she was gone, G. Keibler yelled repeatedly, "The agenda is the agenda" and he, B. Wire and others insisted that the agenda could be amended by the members at the meeting. J. Bass brought the copies of the bylaws back into the meeting and distributed them to those in attendance. E. Martin read and explained paragraph 2.4. There were comments from some members that the agenda was fixed. E. Martin gave the Publicity Committee report. Joyce Keibler asked why only the secretary had access to the membership list. K. Bennett explained that she did not keep a membership list, but the registrar did and provided mailing labels to her as needed to do mailings. E. Martin asked J. Keibler why she would want that list, and she replied to get the signatures to have a special meeting. Other members said they thought the membership list should be available to any member. J. Bass expressed her opinion by standing, yelling, and saying repeatedly, "Mr. President, you have a problem!" E. Martin asked the shouters to consider how that behavior appeared to the members who were attending for the first time and the impression it gave of the association. M. Morgan and others discussed privacy issues, and there was general disagreement over the privacy rights of members. Yates Colby said that members who want to be available publically have that option when they check yes or no on the membership form re being placed on the Breeders List. Vanessa Harris suggested that the membership form contain a place to check stating, "I do not want to be on a membership list." J. Bass discussed privacy and the concerns of members' names and member lists being available on the internet due to attacks on individuals by animal rights organizations. She suggested a cure used by dog associations of member-only access to lists.

There was additional discussion that some members do not want to be contacted, but those that do can put their names on the breeder's list. Despite there being no item on the agenda for a vote on this topic, vocal members insisted on voting to put the list on a members only part of the website. The motion passed, but because this item was not on the agenda, the votes were invalid and do not stand, as per legal opinion.

Standard Operation Procedures, chaired by Lynne Vanderlinden. In Lynne's absence, E. Martin explained that this committee was developing a code of ethics that could be included in the membership form, much as the Katahdin and other breeds do. There could also be a document explaining to novice buyers the need to accept only sheep that have scrapie tags and health certificates. During this part of the meeting, there was discussion about putting the minutes in the newsletter. It was noted that the newsletter is only printed quarterly, and this might not provide timely information about the meetings. There was a vote that the annual and Board of Director minutes be published on a members only section of the chat site. G. Keibler asked who owned the chat site. When E. Martin said the association did, G. Keibler looked at K. Bennett and said, "So you'll control this, too." Y. Colby got her personal computer to hook up to a large screen to show those in attendance what the new chat site looks like. It was also voted upon that the secretary would send hard copy of those minutes to any member who did not have an email address listed with the registrar. Because these items were not on the agenda, the votes were invalid and do not stand, as per legal opinion.

New Business:

Presentation of Breed Standards: Kathy Bennett had provided copies of the current breed standards to demonstrate the new fields in the registration form and a mockup of what future animal registration papers would look like. Before she could begin, G. Keibler insisted on making a motion. E. Martin explained that the presentation was next on the agenda. G. Keibler replied that after his motion, the demonstration would be unnecessary. K. Bennett continued with the demonstration. Immediately after, G. Keibler moved for the current breed standards to be rescinded. The motion was quickly seconded. E. Martin responded that per the bylaws, that topic was not on the agenda and could not be voted on at the meeting. G. Keibler said the words "breed standards" were on the agenda, so it was legal. At this point, M. Morgan said he wanted to read 2 posts from the yahoo chat site that had been posted a year or so earlier. He said that one was from Sue Swan and one was from Bill Swan. S. Swan said she had not posted anything about breed standards on the chat site and was very offended that M. Morgan would say that. When M. Morgan read the name of the poster, S. Swan said that was not her. M. Morgan immediately apologized and said he meant no disrespect for the Swan name or their breeding practices. However, he did have a post from B. Swan stating that, from time to time, the Swans did get ram lambs with scurs. B. Swan said they occurred in all of the bloodlines. He said that at times they were outstanding animals but the Swans never bred them. S. Swan said that she had not planned to attend the meeting but did so at the last minute. She discussed her mother's extensive records on the St. Croix breed. After this conversation, B. Wire and G. Keibler insisted on a vote to rescind the current breed standards. When it was noted that discussing and voting on the breed standards was not included nor implied in the agenda, G. Keibler said, "I don't care." B. Wire and G. Keibler began shouting over E. Martin's attempts to read the applicable bylaw in explanation of his position. The Wire and Keibler shouts were joined by others, including J. Pelzel. Led by B. Wire and G. Keibler, the meeting deteriorated to chaos, with B. Wire yelling at E. Martin to call for the vote. Because there was total disrespect for appropriate conduct, the situation was worsening, and because the association only had the use of the meeting until 12:00 noon, E. Martin called for the vote to get the group to clear the room. It passed by a 7-5 vote. However, the vote was invalid because the topic of accepting or rejecting the breed standards was not on the agenda, as per legal opinion.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Bennett, Secretary