

Midwest Lama Association Meeting Minutes May 14, 2017

Meeting called to order at 3:45- Kim Schechinger, president

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report- Tracy McGinnis, treasurer

- All outstanding bills have been paid.
- Total in treasury: \$22,307.11

Financial Request Committee- Fran Soukup, for Norris Berg, chair

- The committee received and approved three requests:
 - Battle of the Border \$200
 - Minnesota State Fair \$500
 - Badgerland \$250

Youth Grant Committee- Lorraine Kilmartin, chair

- The committee awarded two grants for 2017
 - Isanti County Camelid Companion Training rescheduled for July due to presenter injury
 - Benton County Lama Clinic to be held on June 3
- Julie Berg was appointed to the committee, taking the place of Dawn Toraason, who has stepped down.

*Julie will join Midwest Lama Association (MWLA)

*Lorraine will be in touch with Julie

Scholarship Committee- Kim Schechinger, committee co-chair

- The committee did not receive any applications (deadline was 4/15/17).
- High school seniors and first year college students were encouraged to apply next year. \$700 is available in scholarships each year.

OLD BUSINESS

Interest Survey Results- Dan Whittaker, webmaster and vice president

- A summary of results from the interest survey was given. Full results are to be posted at www.midwestlama.org.
 - 35 people responded
 - Responses provide feedback on interest areas, MWLA Winter Conference and ideas for future conference topics.
- Reminder: check www.midwestlama.org for info on all things MWLA.
- The website shows member contact information, but does not include information on youth, as a safety and privacy precaution.

NEW BUSINESS

Outing and Fall Meeting

* Action Item

- Members present indicated interest in a fall hike and meeting.
- Isanti County is planning a fall event which could perhaps be combined with a fall meeting.

*Julie Berg will send an email blast if the Isanti event is a go

Next Winter Conference Ideas

- Suggestions for the Winter Conference February 24-25, 2018 Stoney Creek in Onalaska, WI. [Also see survey results -Ilk]
 - Big picture animal genetics could apply to lamas.
 - Lamas 101, or maybe 103
 - How to shear for shorn fleece, how to prep for a walking fleece
 - George Clements to speak on obstacles
 - Participants build a skirting table
 - An afternoon of 30 minute mini-sessions
- Clarification: there is no refund from the hotel if driving is hazardous

*Kim will contact Kristy Brown to see if she has any contacts on genetics.

Ag Day- Julie Mazac [Old business]

- MWLA members presented fiber information and demonstrations for educational purposes, with a positive response from the public.

Newsletter

- New editor needed
 - Cheryl Pflipsen has said that she will step down from her role as newsletter editor at the end of the year. She estimated 13 hours per quarterly newsletter, with most copies sent electronically.
 - Cynthia Johnson volunteered to take over as editor.
- Newsletter content suggestions
 - Members are encouraged to submit articles about their activities, tips, farm, etc.
 - Ask potential speakers who can't come to the conference to submit an article instead.
 - Include show results.
 - Include a history of Fleece contest at MN state fair.

*Kim will contact Cynthia and put her in touch with Cheryl for format.

*Kim will write an article on fleece judging at the state fair.

Lamapalooza Superintendent

- Superintendent is needed for Lamapalooza 2018, to be held at Shepherd's Harvest most likely on Mother's Day weekend.
- Jenni Olson is willing to help as a consultant.
- Information:
 - ILR has been very helpful, as has Shepherd's Harvest
 - It is possible to hire out the obstacle portion of the show.
 - The superintendent acts as a liaison between Lamapalooza and Shepherd's Harvest.

* Action Item

- Start in the Fall: think about choosing a judge and holding a block of rooms at a hotel for participants.
- Julie Berg and Lisa Paquet volunteered to work together on the show. [After the meeting was adjourned, Anne Barkley volunteered to act as a consultant. -llk]
- A discussion of hotel options followed.
- * Kim will contact Julie and Lisa regarding Lamapalooza.

Battle of the Border

- Youth show, October 1, at Mower County Fair Grounds, Austin, MN. \$5 fee, can show out of trailer. Bill Schultz will judge.
- Donations were requested from members to help support the event.

Upcoming Events 2017

- June 9-11 Badgerland
- June 23-25 Gathering
- August 18-20 IA State Fair
- August 30 Sept 1 MN State Fair
- September 15-17 Fall Harvest
- October 1 Battle of the Border

Secretary's Report- Katie Mazak [Reports]

- Minutes of Winter meeting were distributed.
- Lisa Paquet moved to approve minutes; Connor Cook seconded the motion.
- Motion carried.

Next meeting

- Isanti County will consider hosting a fall meeting- if not; our next meeting will be at the Winter Conference. By-laws require one meeting per year.

*Julie Berg will keep Kim informed on Fall event and meeting

Adjournment

- Eric Olson moved to adjourn; Fran Soukup seconded the motion.
- Motion carried.
- Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by
Lorraine Kilmartin
Secretary MWLA