

Minutes Empire Alpaca Association Board Meeting 17 April 2007

Present:

John Askew	Sunset Ridge Alpacas
Chris Gilman	Riverside Alpacas
Richard Jonassen	Alpacas of Rain Dance Pond
Steve McCarthy	Spruce Ridge Farm
Ann Merriwether	Nyala Farm Alpacas
Susan Wissick	Oh, My! Alpacas
Sue Zelazny	Andes Dandies, LLC

Meeting was called to order at 7:03

Steve Motioned that the 2 April 2007 Meeting Minutes be approved with changes identified by Ann. Chris seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Symposium

- Steve was contacted by the Cornell Camelid Program with an invitation to combine our Symposium with their Spring event and hold it at Cornell. The diversity of our Symposium and lack of accommodations in Ithaca were cited as reasons to keep the Symposium separate. Co-hosting another event with Cornell was left open as a possibility.
- Chris did not get a reply from the Holiday Inn.
- Steve contacted the Desmond in Albany and got available dates. Board agreed that the weekend starting 29 February was the best time to have the Symposium.
- John visited the Saratoga Hotel and described it as a new facility with several options to accommodate the Symposium. .
- Board decided that the Symposium will include fiber workshops, fleece show and educational speakers. Saratoga Hotel is first choice with Desmond as a backup location. Steve, Richard and John agreed to meet at the Saratoga to evaluate space for the fleece show, fiber workshops, speakers and possibly a neonatal wet lab.
- Use of dead cria was identified as a possible problem with having a wet lab in a hotel. Ann?? said she had heard of cria models created from skeletons and covering material. John stated that he could get a skeleton made from a CAT scan or MRI using technology at his job. Ann agreed to find out if Cornell could do a CAT scan or MRI if a cria and John agreed to get an estimate to fabricate the skeleton. The objective is to create an artificial cria to be used in neonatal wet labs.
- Chris reported that all bill for the 2007 Symposium have been paid. Costs exceeded receipts by \$15,443.00.

Donations

- Cornell has the new ultrasound and the EAA logo is attached.
- Cornell has asked for funding to support rotating students through a camelid program at U-Mass. Board

decided they could use the \$25K already donated and we would consider addition funding if/when this was used up.

2007 Extravaganza

- Scott Young called in with an update.
- Panel contract will be awarded to MSA. Contract will be delivered to Scott at MAPACA.
- Scott suggested enhancing Platinum Sponsor benefits by allowing sponsors to reserve pens before general registration opens. At least one other show has attributed additional sponsorships to this benefit. Consensus of the Board was that this would not be fair to farms that did not sponsor. A free pen and tickets to the dinner were suggested as additional sponsor benefits.
- Scott agreed to look for a clothing item as a volunteer gift.
- Four judges are under contract. Amanda VandenBosch, Sara Jane MacLennan, Dianne Timmerman, and Harold Herbold.

Marketing

- Brochure will be complete soon.
- Steve appointed Tasha Trimm as the Marketing Committee Chairperson.
- A group of member farms has requested to use the EAA liability insurance to cover one of their events. This has been done before and the Board felt it was acceptable as long as the event was educational and it was a discrete event. Steve will check with our insurance company to verify there is no additional cost and that this is appropriate under the terms of our policy.

Newsletter

- Need to start getting articles for the June issue.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05PM

Next meeting is scheduled for 14 May 7:00 PM