

Draft Minutes: ARBA Board Meeting July 30, 2016

The ARBA Board conference call was convened at 1:06 p.m. eastern daylight time on Saturday, July 30, 2016 by president, Chris Posbergh. Taking part in the call were Randy Thompson, Anne McIntyre-Lahner, Scott Culver, Charlene Carlisle, Katherine Moore, Karen Nichols,Carolynn Harwell, Betsy McPherson, JoAnn Mast and Posbergh.

The secretary and treasurer reports were distributed via email prior to the meeting and approved as presented by a motion from Scott Culver, second by Charlene Carlisle and approval by the board. The fund raising needed to support the junior member account was presented and tabled for further discussion.

Old Business

NAILE Show – Charlene and Willis Plank have been working with the NAILE staff to determine the schedule and assist in making plans for the annual meeting. The show schedule begins on Friday, November 11 with Junior Showmanship, all breeds. Saturday morning the 12th will be the start of the breed show, with Romneys showing as the second breed in Ring #1. Sunday afternoon will be the selection of the Supreme champions of the junior show and start of the open breeds show. Tuesday afternoon the open Romney show will begin in Ring #2. Charlene reported that Romneys are still on probation, but there should be adequate numbers entered this year to remove that designation.

A meeting schedule was presented that includes Existing Board to meet Saturday p.m., the Annual Meeting Brunch on Sunday morning and the New Board meeting Sunday p.m. Willis and Charlene are continuing to locate lodging options and meeting space for the board and annual meetings.

Moorit Colored Romneys

Chris Posbergh provided an overview of the decision and statement made regarding the entry of Moorit colored Romneys in the ARBA registry. This information will be included in the Ramblings and placed on the website. Information provided on the registration application was complete and approved by the AI committee. Registration certificates with Moorit colored/carrying sheep will be identified with an MM for brown animals or M for moorit carrying sheep prior to the registry number.

Discussion by board members indicated the need to make this inclusion as clear and concise as possible without setting requirements that further complicate the ability for breeders to identify colored Romneys as BB, BW, MM or M. More research is needed, but the board was reminded that the majority of breeders are raising white Romneys and do not follow the work being done on color patterns and genetics.

Science Advisory Panel

To develop a better understanding of the Moorit Romney, a Science Advisory Panel, working as a committee under the Board of Directors, will review the procedure in place for registration and determine whether to continue with the statement in place, make modifications or create a new standard for registry. Chris Posbergh and Carolynn Harwell will serve as board members on the committee. Members agreeing to serve on this committee include: Jane Caulfield, Stephen Shafer, Margaret Howard, Al Schwider and Dee Heinrich.

Karen,Carolynn and Anne requested that information be presented at a level that is easily understood and that members are not identifying sun bleached black animals as moorit colored sheep. The board supports the efforts being made to coordinate the Science Advisory Panel and the use of educational pieces to keep the membership informed. The work of the panel will be to concentrate on the moorit color, and later to determine whether or not there is interest in other genetic/science based issues.

Information is also available from Chris at experiment.com/moorit-sheep.

Amnesty Program

The ARBA Amnesty Program, running from January 1 through June 30, 2016 was successful in adding sheep to the registry and adding/updating members in the association. The final numbers are not reported, but several breeders used the opportunity to update their record books and enter animals for registration.

Plans for an additional amnesty are not in the works, but final numbers from the 2016 program will be reported when they are available.

Color Patterns included on Registry Certificates

Chris contacted Associated Registries to determine whether or not it was possible to add a place on the registration certificate for color patterns. Several breeds have the option, which is a box with up to four characteristics that can be added to the upper center of the certificates. Discussion of the board ended with a decision to make no changes to the registration paperwork at this time. As work continues to identify patterns more easily and to have a clearer understanding of the moorit color, this discussion may be rejuvenated.

By-Law Actions

Anne and Charlene were contacted regarding the age range for junior ARBA members. Currently, the by-laws state: "Junior membership has all the privileges and responsibilities of an active member, except voting. They shall not have reached their twenty-first (21) birthday on show day." Following much discussion, the by-laws now identify junior members as such: "Junior membership has all the privileges and responsibilities of an active member, except voting. They must be under twenty two (22) years of age on show day and cannot vote. Junior members age 18-21 may vote if they enroll as an active member and pay the appropriate membership fee." This by-law change was approved on July 30, 2016 by unanimous vote of board members in attendance.

The board also approved the registration of Romney sheep over two years old. The breeder did not submit paperwork during the amnesty, but the breeder was known as an established Romney producer and the request for submission was approved.

Payment Options for Membership

Chris suggested checking into the use of PayPal for payment of membership fees. JoAnn indicated information had been provided by Doug Meyer and that it could be forwarded to the board for review.

Carolynn supported the move toward PayPal or other method that moves us forward as an association. JoAnn will also check with Jeff at Associated Registries regarding the use of PayPal.

Committee Reports

Advertising – Charlene reported on the youth shows that have been held. Stars and Stripes, All American Youth Show and New England Youth Sheep Show. All had strong participation of youth with Romney sheep and all shows had new participants this year. Charlene has submitted reports and photos for the Ramblings and Website. Megan Higgins has also reported on summer shows for the Banner Youth column. T-shirts were made available for the junior members, and if there is an interest in having some of these shirts made, Charlene can assist in getting them ordered.

By-Laws – Scott reported no action prior to decisions made regarding junior membership and approval for registry of animals conducted during the meeting.

Policy and Procedure – Anne discussed the issue of misrepresentation of animals by altering color or covering existing conditions. The committee made the following proposal: “Any willful misrepresentation of an animal’s existing condition and/or color (use of hoof black, bleaching, painting, tattooing or other means) will be treated as a violation of the ARBA By-Laws and treated as such.” A motion was moved by Scott, seconded by Karen and approved by unanimous vote of the board.

Altering the natural color of any part of an ARBA registered Romney is unacceptable. Any animal whose color has found to have been altered in any way will be automatically disqualified by the superintendent of the show or sale for which the animal has been altered.

The ARBA Board of Directors reserves the right to treat any external color alterations, including fleece, skin, or hooves, as a willful misrepresentation of the breed per Article III: Section 6 and respond accordingly. This policy is limited to actions and products specifically designed to change the color of an animal’s fleece, points, or other physical characteristics, and should not be confused with the use of generally accepted grooming products.

AI-ET

Chris asked for clarification on the process in place for AI-ET. Are calls being made to verify the trace back of information submitted to verify the authenticity of the animals? Board members who have completed the process indicated no calls were made, but that information provided was checked and documents were compared to assure that numbers reported were done so consistently. Randy and Karen indicated enough paperwork is in place and that it is the responsibility of the person doing the collection to make accurate notations and reports. Randy explained that it is no different in other countries than in the U.S. The records of farmers/breeders are the records used for registry and transfer of ownership. It was felt that the addition of any further information would not change the ability to verify animal identification.

Chris has asked that the committee prepare an article to describe the process and help those members considering the import/export of animals, embryos and semen.

Education – Anne presented an overview of the work in progress by the committee. This action originated with questions from the membership regarding the breed standards. After several work sessions, the recommendations of the committee include the following:

1. The goal is to establish a Standard of Excellence for Romney Sheep

This is a guide to use in evaluating every animal, and that as a guide regarding the traits of an excellent Romney. It should not be seen as a rule or as restrictive regarding which animals can be registered, shown, or used for breeding. The goal is to help breeders determine how they are doing in making decisions of whether to keep, cull, register or not.

2. Proposing One Breed (Romney) and One Standard (with inserts as needed for natural color and moorit) The white Romney will be listed as the default for listing in the standard.
3. Process for further work. August-September further work will be conducted by the committee and shared with the membership. Work will be presented for further discussion at the meeting of the existing board scheduled for November 11, 2016.

The committee has spent time collecting samples of standards for discussion, both American Romney publications and those from Britain, Australia and New Zealand. Anne prepared a chart of comparison for all traits and the committee spent time working on those that were unclear or questioned by the membership. Work will continue after the current documentation is shared with members and a recommendation can be made to the board. Motion to move forward was presented by Scott, seconded by Karen and approved by unanimous vote.

District Reports

One: Katherine reported on the request from Sue Johnson for funding of a show in District One. Since funds were not budgeted, and fund raising had been done, no further money will be provided.

Two: No Report

Three: No Report

Four: Karen provided an overview of the District 4 Show held during the Linn County Fair in Albany, OR. Also promoted the Oregon State Fair, which will be held in August.

Five: No Report

Six: Betsy has submitted reports from the District 2 & 6 Regional Show held during the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival the first weekend in May. She and Allison worked to create the regional event and results have been shared.

Annual Meeting

Katherine offered an alternative schedule for the ARBA annual meeting, which would place the existing board meeting on Friday evening, annual dinner meeting Saturday night and newly elected board meeting on Sunday morning. She also identified a Hampton Inn outside of Louisville that had rooms for \$115 and possible meeting space. This lodging option, and findings from Willis Plank and Charlene, will be given consideration for a decision that will be made soon.

Scott questioned the current policy on attendance at meetings held in conjunction with the annual meeting. He was given an explanation and decision regarding attendance in November.

National Shows – Scott reported that the committee found it not feasible to conduct a National Show each year. Funding is not available to support the show, sale and travel that might exist if meetings were held at the time of the show.

ARBA Mailings – JoAnn will prepare a mailing to the membership in early September to provide details of the annual meeting, encourage membership applications and renewals and list any By-Law changes that may be presented for voting by the membership.

Banner Articles: July/August – Karen; September – Don; October – Anne; November – Charlene; December/January – Randy.

Motion to adjourn by Karen, seconded by Scott and approved by board. 4:44 p.m. EDT.

Submitted for approval,

JoAnn Mast, ARBA Secretary