Canadian Goat Society
La Société Canadienne Des Éleveurs De Chèvres
P.O. Box 726, Roblin, Manitoba R0L 1P0
tel: 639-921-7788 *web*: www.goats.ca *email*: info@goats.ca

M I N U T E S

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held via Zoom

March 23, 2024 · 1:00 pm ET

Present: Sandy Howell, Susan Frazer, Arnie Steeves, Ted Brooks, Callum McLeod, Sue Mangan, Tanya McCarthy, Pier-Marc Tremblay, Arnie Steeves, Amanda Lindsay-Peaire, Zoe Thorbergson, Lauren Topping, Nicole Poburan, Gerard McNeil, Grant Howley, Carol Clayson, Jonathan Dugdale, Brin Jackson, Diana Owens, Jim Tindall, Linda Carlson, Angela Forster, Mike Dietrich, Tamara Wise, Eugenia Carnegie, P.J. Frazer, Kirk/William Mitchell, Melissa McLaughlin, Brian Sullivan, Jacques Chesnais (Guest Speaker), Kerry O'Donnell (Secretary Manager)

---

1. Called to order at 1:04 p.m. by Sandy Howell.

2. Identification of members

   - Members were identified by the S/M as they entered the Zoom waiting room and throughout the meeting as they were admitted.
   - The S/M gave a brief tutorial on the Zoom platform, housekeeping items, and the process that would be followed for asking questions, commenting, making motions, seconding motions, and voting.

3. Introduction of Directors and Staff
   - Each of the CGS Directors gave a brief introduction of themselves. President Sandy Howell then introduced the S/M.
   - During the introductions it was asked if quorum had been met with a response in the affirmative.

4. Approval of the agenda

   - **Motion to approve the agenda as presented**. Moved by Zoe Thorbergson. Seconded by Brin Jackson. None opposed. **CARRIED**

5. Approval of the minutes from the February 18, 2023 Annual General Meeting.
   - **Motion to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2023 AGM**. Moved by Zoe Thorbergson. Seconded by Brin Jackson. None opposed. **CARRIED**

6. Business arising from the minutes of the previous meeting
    - No business arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

7. Integration of Genetic Services – Presentation by guest speaker Jacques Chesnais
    - Jacques began by providing a brief overview of the project, the project members, and subcommittees involved in the project.
    - He noted that based on experiences with many species, genetic evaluations are much more effective in making progress for the traits that are economically important than phenotypic records.
    - Genetic evaluations have been computed in Canada for dairy goats for more than 30 years now for both performance and conformation and are found on the goatgenetics.ca website. CGS members have free access to this website.
    - Genetics do matter – Genetic progress in dairy cattle is 80% due to genetic improvements, the remaining 20% is feeding, health, and management. The Genovis project with sheep shows similar results. Uptake in genetic evaluations has slowed in recent years in dairy goats possibly due to a removal of previous funding/subsidies to people taking part.
    - Jacques noted that there have been multiple short-term tasks completed to date under the project funding for dairy goats, meat goats, and sheep. He highlighted that one of the biggest accomplishments was the spirit of cooperation formed between the 9 member groups.
    - Tasks related to dairy goats have included; improvement of the online registration process at CLRC, improved access to CLRC data for breed associations, facilitating data exchange between databases (exchange between CGS and goatgenetics databases), movement away from old genetic evaluation program to MixBLUP. In the future, MixBLUP can incorporate genomic data when dairy goats are ready to go that route. Certain traits are very difficult to improve without genomics such as reproduction, longevity, and health traits. Also useful for genetic markers (such as Scrapie resistance). Longer-term goals include; decreasing costs for registrations/transfers and making access to CLRC services mobile-friendly.
    - Longer term the hope is to create a network among partner organizations. An MOU had previously been signed and a draft legal document has now been prepared for review by the current partners. With a legal framework in place, the network would be better positioned to apply for government funding, support research projects, etc.
    - In an ideal world, goat breeders would invest in animal identification, milk recording and genetic evaluation to make good genetic progress and sell selected bucks (with EBV's to prove their worth) to commercial herds. Commercial producers, in turn, can make a good deal of progress simply by buying top bucks.

- Jacques reported that the current project that was to end on March 31, 2024 has been extended for another 6 months. The hope is to look for further funding and new projects for the current members of the network (If CGS is in agreement).
- The project is currently working with a professor from Dalhousie University who is an expert in communications to assist with improving communications about the benefits of genetic programs to producers.
- Potential dairy goat projects for the future were suggested – Goat genomics project (genotyping in pilot herds). CMGA is definitely interested and perhaps CGS would like to collaborate on this project. Goat classification program – CMGA is currently reviewing their classification program and looking at developing new software. This could be another area of collaboration.

Comments and Questions following the presentation and via chat:

- Zoe Thorbergson asked if SNP testing would take place in dairy goats, noting that it has been very valuable in pigs. Jacques replied that when he was talking about genomics that is what he was referring to. Having enough genotypes is important to have an effective system. SNP's also allows parentage testing at a lower cost than is done with microsatellites.
- Zoe and Lina Carlson opinioned that working with CMGA on Classification would be advantageous.
- Melissa McLaughlin voiced that goat genetics will work only if milk testing and classifying is more accessible to the entire Society, the cost associated with the programs is very unattainable. Jacques stated that his personal opinion is that it is important to think about how to reduce costs. Doing only a few tests at the right time in lactation can provide 80% of the accuracy of 8 or 10 tests. The concept of virtual Classification was raised. Run a pilot project where herds are classified virtually and the traditional way at the same time and see if the two are similar.
- Jacques final comment was the advantage of a network is having a group and a forum to explore and talk about new approaches and solutions.
- President Howell thanked Jacques for his presentation, and noted that we need good communication to get people excited about genetic improvements and to gather ideas on how to decrease program costs.

8. Director and Committee Reports
   8.1 Office Report

- The Office report was included in the AGM package sent to individuals who had registered for the AGM
- The S/M asked if anyone present had questions or comments on the office report.
- Zoe voiced that she enjoyed the format of the report. No other comments or questions on the office report.

8.2 Financial Report

- The financial report, the audited financial statements, and notes for the audited financial statements were included in the AGM report for attendees. The members were asked for questions or comments they might have on the financial report and audited financial statements. Carol Clayson commented that it looked as though CGS was in good shape. No other comments or questions were brought forward.
- **Motion: To accept the financial statements as presented**. Moved by Sue Mangan. Seconded by Linda Carlson. None opposed. **CARRIED**
- **Motion**: **To appoint RLB from Guelph, Ontario as the auditor for 2024**. Moved by Susan Frazer. Seconded by Amanda Lindsay-Peaire. None opposed. **CARRIED.**

8.3 By-law Committee Report

- The S/M began by thanking the committee members for their work on the proposed by-laws (Linda Carlson, Mike Dietrich, Lauren Topping, Tanya Vickers, Asia Mangan, Susan Frazer, and Sandy Howell).
- The proposed by-laws had been included in the AGM packages for attendees as well as being included in the pre-AGM package made available to all members. The original by-law, the proposed amendment, rationale for the change, and any comments from Ag Canada were provided.
- The procedure for addressing each of the proposed by-law amendments was outlined. Each proposed amendment would be announced by it's associated number and members would then have an opportunity to comment or ask questions before proceeding to the next proposed amendment.
- Proposed by-law amendment #2 – Carol Clayson asked if the book mentioned in the by-law amendment was available anywhere. Callum McLeod and President Sandy Howell noted that it is readily available from Amazon and in bookstores and that several Board members have been able to purchase a personal copy. President Howell noted that through Amazon you can download it at half the price of a hard copy.
- Proposed by-law amendment #25 – Carol Clayson voiced in the chat that membership dues and fees for registration should require that they either be approved by ¾ of the BOD or all of the Directors. They should be able to see the

need for a raise in fees by reading the financial statements. It should be the business of the Executive to make them see the need.

- No other comments or questions were raised in relation to the proposed by-law amendments.
- The S/M concluded by outlining the next steps in the process. At the Board meeting following the AGM, the BOD would consider all of the comments from members at the AGM along with comments from Ag Canada, and define the proposed amendments that would be sent to the entire membership by mail for voting. Following voting by the membership, the results of the voting and the proposed amendments would be forwarded to Ag Canada for approval.
- Zoe extended her thanks to all who worked on the by-laws.

9. Youth Program

- The S/M gave a brief overview of the Youth Program noting that Board member Tanya McCarthy had done a good amount of work to create this new program.
- Participants in the program were announced: District 1 (BC): Alexis Nelson, Isabel Maddocks, Ryenne Woods, Carson Peutz, Thomas Tremblay, and Bart Tremblay. District 4 (ON): William Mitchell, Sean McCarthy, and Georgie McCarthy.
- Pictures of the winners were then shared with the group as they were announced.
- District 1 (BC) Youth Showman Program Winners:
    - Alexis Nelson – Intermediate 2 Age Division (ages 14-16)
    - Isabel Maddocks – Intermediate 1 Age Division (ages 11-13)
- District 4 (ON) Youth Showman Program Winners:
    - William Mitchell – Intermediate 1 Age Division (ages 11 -13)
    - Georgie McCarthy – Youth Age Division (ages 10 and under)
- District 4 (ON) Youth Honour Roll Program Winners:
    - Sean McCarthy – Intermediate 1 Age Division (ages 11 -13)
- The S/M noted that all of the winners of the Youth Program are being featured in the 2023 CGS yearbook with pictures and write ups in addition to receiving certificates from the CGS office.
- President Sandy Howell congratulated all of the Youth on their participation.
- Comments from members: Zoe congratulated all the Juniors. Linda Carlson voiced that she is very pleased to see the addition of Youth Program paperwork and certificates on the show application forms. She also noted that in BC different Fair Boards have different age divisions. President Howell expressed that it would be disappointing if any Youth were not able to participate due to being in a class with an age division that did not align with the CGS Youth Program. Linda commented that she would send out a survey on the BC goat breeders Facebook page. President Howell noted that this should be done across the country and results

brought back to the Board for consideration. Sue Mangan asked if Linda had a formal survey, which she does not. Linda offered to come to the Board with some recommendations. Nicole Poburan commented in the chat that her children are in Goat 4-H and the age divisions are 9-11, 12-14, and 15+.

10. 2024 East & West National Shows & JLC Announcements

- Board member Callum McLeod announced the JLC's that will take place in 2024.
  - Ancaster, Ontario - October 18, 19, 20
  - Agassiz, B.C. – October 18, 19 20
  - Colchester, N.S. – September 18, 19, 20
- Further details on the JLC's will be available over the Summer.
- Sue Mangan noted that she has had members ask her why 2 of the JLC's are being held on the same weekend as they feel they if they couldn't make one or the other, they could attend one or the other. Callum agreed that although there is a third option this year, this is still a pertinent point.
- The 2024 West National Show was announced. July 6-7 in Barriere, BC
- No bid has been received as of yet for the East National show. Anyone interested is encouraged to still submit a bid. Amanda Lindsay-Peaire asked if the Royal automatically gets the East national show if no one else submits a bid. Callum replied that they still would have to submit a bid. Historically, the Royal had submitted applications for 3 years in a row. That ran out in 2023. Sue Mangan encouraged anyone who knew of a Fair Board that might want to submit a bid to do so.

11. CGS Awards Presentations

- The S/M announced that 2 applications had been received for member awards – 1 for Master Breeder and 1 for Silver Master Breeder.
- A PowerPoint presentation was played as the winners were announced.
  - Master Breeder – Tanya McCarthy of Willow-Haven Farms in Wellandport, Ontario
  - Silver Master Breeder – Amanda O'Brien – Curl Creek Farms in Armstrong B.C.
- Congratulations were extended for their dedication, hardwork, and commitment to excellence
- Numerous comments came from the chat from other members expressing their congratulations to both breeders.

- President Howell congratulated both Tanya and Amanda on their accomplishments and expressed her hope that more people would be able to participate in these programs in the years to come.
- Callum noted that he thinks that these might be the first two Master and Silver Master Breeder awards coming from Nigerian Dwarf breeders and extended his congratulations.

12. Announcement of 2024 CGS Executive

    - Sandy Howell announced the newly elected Executive for 2024
        - President – Sandy Howell
        - First Vice President – Callum McCleod
        - Second Vice President – Sue Mangan

13. Correspondence

    - No correspondence

14. Unfinished Business

    - No unfinished business

15. New Business

    - Zoe noted that 305-Day milk testing is not attainable for small herds due to the associated costs. President Howell replied that Milk Testing was going to be discussed by the Board and that if anyone had any ideas to please bring them forward. Herd fees are a flat fee and are the same no matter the size of the herd. A number of the fees set by Lactanet are not negotiable. Susan Frazer noted that the fees set by Lactanet are completely independent from CGS and CGS has no input on them whatsoever. Linda noted that courier charges are another fixed cost that CGS can not do much about. At this time, the only way to decrease costs marginally is to opt for a 6 test program as opposed to an 8 test program.
    - Linda Carlson reported that BC goat has had recent discussions about mandatory DNA testing and at a recent meeting came up with the following resolution; “BCGA recommends that CGS institutes mandatory DNA testing for bucks before registration including the development of a process and policy document and giving due regard to grandfathering in deceased animals that may present anomalies in pedigrees.” Linda relayed that no one would expect that a motion such as this be voted on at an AGM, but rather that a committee be struck and work begin on this subject. The S/M noted that Linda Carlson and Carol Clayson had been exchanging thoughts via the chat. Carol commented that DNA testing would only verify the sire. If doing DNA why not the doe as well? In addition, she voiced that she did not

understand the logic behind the proposal and asked if there had been a lot of lying going on about the sires or what brought this about? Diana Owens commented via the chat that there are registries that require testing of all animals, and if DNA testing becomes cheap enough in the future, that would be more viable. Numerous other comments were received through the chat regarding DNA testing. President Howell raised the topic of sending in samples and typing bucks. Callum noted that this discussion is about bolstering the integrity already associated with the herd book, and that it has been a long-standing process with the meat goats and several cattle associations.

- Nicole Poburan noted that during COVID a number of groups moved towards virtual shows and asked if this was an option for CGS particularly in regard to buck shows. As a participant on the Scapie program she can not take her bucks to shows. There is also the additional challenges of showing bucks in general. President Howell replied that this would be a good topic of discussion for the Board and could be handed to the JLC committee.
- Zoe noted that G6S testing is not an option to order on the CLRC site. Via the chat, Linda Carlson noted that it is on the CLRC site, but not easily seen, and it should be made more obvious. Zoe also noted that receiving test results sometimes takes an excessively long time and that perhaps the SS146 & K222 gene should be added. She currently sends her samples to the U.S however, it would be nice to support a Canadian lab that was economical and that could also provide timely results. She also suggested a registry of G6S animals be available. Susan Frazer replied that there is testing for Scrapie resistance in Canada – GoatGen.
- Amanda asked where mandatory tagging is at. Callum responded that proposed regulations need to go into the Canada Gazette 2 yet and no clear timeline has been given. Zoe asked if any new tags had been tested. No new tags have been accepted lately and no new tags are being tested at this time.
- Carol asked if there were any plans for CGS to do buck collections. Sandy responded that there are no such plans at this time. Callum noted that the last time CGS undertook this, it was under a grant.

16. Adjourn

President Howell thanked everyone for being present at the meeting and bringing their ideas forward.

- A number of members expressed their thanks for the work done by the BOD.
- Motion to adjourn at 3:08 p.m. by Linda Carlson.