Canadian Goat Society
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M I N U T E S

Canadian Goat Society Annual General Meeting
February 19, 2022

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF CANADIAN GOAT SOCIETY FEBRUARY 19, 2022**

This meeting was held by Zoom in a virtual format.

During the meeting at least 29 members of the association plus staff of CGS and two industry partners were online.

At all times the number of members online exceeded the standard in our by-laws of 18 members to reach quorum.

The meeting was called to order at 12:02 pm Eastern by President Sandy Howell.

President Howell welcomed everyone and offered thanks to Board members past and present. She also offered thanks to Secretary-manager Russell Gammon for his efforts to keep the association moving ahead.

IDENTIFICATION OF MEMBERS

Each member and guest introduced themselves. Guests during part of the meeting included Brian Sullivan Manager of the Canadian Center for Swine Improvement and Dr. Jacques Chesnais who was guest speaker during the meeting.

MINUTES OF 2021 ANNUAL MEETING OF CGS

Moved by Patrick McLean; seconded by Natalie Mitchell that the reading of minutes of the 2021 Annual meeting be dispensed with and that they be approved as circulated. CARRIED with no objections.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

There was no business arising from the minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW BOARD

The new Board of CGS was announced including Arnold Steeves, Jonathan Dugdale, Tanya McCarthy, Susan Frazer, Chris Grab and Sandy Howell. Sandy announced that Quebec director Catherine Lord had resigned her position and that appropriate steps were being taken to find a replacement to complete her term.

DIRECTOR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Sandy provided some comments on the late 2021 decision of CFIA to halt importation of male breeding animals via Regulation 2C in Scrapie control regulations. She noted that CFIA had recently provided a link to a survey on the topic of importation regulations and Scrapie. She urged everyone with interest in this topic to complete the survey with responses due by February 25th. The link for the survey could be found on the CGS website in the NEWS section. Member Patrick McClean commented on the great importance of being able to import new genetics.

On a related topic questions were raised about prospects for changes in regulations regarding on-farm collection of semen for domestic use and selling semen between herd owners.

Members wanted to know which body was responsible for setting regulations on collection and movement of semen domestically.

Mike Vervoort noted that CFIA set regulations on these topics and was currently working on a new program re collection, use and movement of semen. Questions arose re the amount and kinds of testing involved and if movement of semen between herds would be allowed. Vervoort committed to accessing and sharing details on the new regulations when possible . A number of members expressed that they were encouraged by and excited about this news.

Sandy asked the Secretary-Manager to present the financial statements which had been approved by the Board.

Gammon led a detailed discussion of the statements noting an excess of revenue over expenditures of $31,050 compared to $2127 in 2020. Revenues had increased by 9.4% while expenditures had dropped by 8.8%. He noted that a reserve fund had been established in 2021 eventually climbing to $30,000 in investments by the latter part of 2021. In response to a question from a member Gammon noted that the $30,000 for the investments had been taken from the regular cash flow of the Society at various points in the year. Members did ask if the existence of the surplus and investments would mean that registration or classification fees could be lowered. Also clarification was provided that income for shows related to regular in person/live shows as opposed to online shows. The question of whether advertising on the CGS website could be arranged. This topic is captured in these minutes for future consideration.

With a comment that it was nice to see savings being made Amanda Lindsay-Peaire moved, seconded by Natalie Mitchell that the financial statements for 2021 be accepted as presented. Carried with no objections.

Sandy asked Secretary-Manager Russell Gammon to present his report, which he did keying on the written report that was circulated with other meeting materials.

Gammon introduced the AGM gust speaker, Dr. Jacques Chesnais who is serving as facilitator for the Integrated Genetic Database Steering Committee, of which CGS is a partner, and who has extensive experience with design of genetic improvement programs. Dr. Chesnais presented a power point presentation, which outlined the goals and accomplishments, to date, of the steering committee and plans for future action. He also fielded a number of questions during his presentation.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion during the presentation and once it had concluded and during new business included the following topics which are noted so they are captured for members and the Board of Directors:

-Level of fees for classification and registration when surplus income has been earned in latest year.

-Prospects for future of registry systems for CGS and the investigation of an array of options.

-Letter of intent to withdraw from relationship with CLRC as opening up options for the future.

-CGS can remain with CLRC and not action the letter of intent to withdraw.

-If CGS left the relationship with CLRC and the new option was less than successful CLRC would work with CGS again.

-Approval of by-law amendments with membership vote on the amendments would be needed before CGs could leave the current relationship with CLRC.

-A goal in looking at other registry system options would be an associated improvement in presentation of information on individual animals including awards, genetic evaluations, classification and milk recording information-all on one page.

-CGS has been, is and will be investigating options for working with other industry partners including other breed associations either individual associations or the option of multiple associations working together re registry services and databases. The goals will always be cost and efficiency of service.

-Other goals when options are being reviewed is CGS having control over our programs and how they are structured and delivered.

-Classification meets involving multiple herds in one location as opposed to single-herd on-farm classification service was addressed as a way or reducing overall cost of the service. Some herd owners prefer on-farm service re bio-security concerns. Cost of travelling to meets was also raised during this segment of discussion.

-Training and selection of classifiers was raised. Distribution of more material on this matter would be appreciated by members.

-Members expressed appreciation for reporting on actions at Board meetings.

-A member raised the question of whether CGS could consider returning to in person annual meetings on an every three year basis as restrictions on meetings are eased.

-Appreciation was expressed to the Board and staff for their hard work and devotion.

-The new Board members-Tanya McCarthy, Jonathan Dugdale and Chris Grab introduced themselves, providing a brief summary of their involvement working with goats and in the wider goat and agricultural industries.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:18 pm Eastern on a motion by Patrick McClean with support from numerous other members.