

The Directors of the Midwest Goat Producers met on March 27, 2009 at the Extension Meeting room in Olney, IL. Those present were Mark Wells, Steve Terrell, Steve Landreth, Randy Hancock, Dean Dart, Alice Marriott, and Kurt Mowrer. Also present were Webmaster Tanya Wells and guests Marlene Terrell, Barb Mowrer, and Leland Marriott. Also joining the group by tele-conference was Vickie Wetzel.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Randy Hancock, in the absence of President Ron Williamson (couldn't locate the meeting place).

Minutes were read by Secretary, Alice Marriott. Motion was made to approve the minutes by Steve Landreth, seconded by Mark Wells. Motion carried.

Under Old Business, Steve Terrell reported that Vickie sent him two checks for the Terre Haute facility, and he forwarded them on.

Discussion of the Spring Flings to be held next month was then conducted. Seminars decided on were going to be Nutrition, Selection of Animals, Showing and Fitting, as well as hands on demonstrations. Alice is going to conduct a milking demonstration at Mt. Carmel.

Randy announced that Boston Billies is going to have a display at both locations.

Focus on the event is going to be pen sales and basic information, as we have done in the past.

The next order of business discussed was the upcoming collection on April 4 at Albion.

Steve Landreth asked how the bidders were to submit their bond and license information. It was suggested fax, email, regular mail or bring a copy to the collection.

More discussion followed, concerning the names of people that the collection committee had been in contact with. Randy named off the people that had been contacted, and is now waiting to see who will submit bids.

Kurt made the statement that we should remember that we are here to make decisions that are good for the members as a whole, not based on our personal likes or dislikes. We can make options for sales be known, whether we personally would participate in them or not.

He also stated if we are here on a personal agenda, then we are serving the organization for the wrong reason, Our purpose as a Board is to provide options for our members, not provide a single solution.

Under new business Mark Wells told the group he had received a call from Jack Pizzo of Pizzo & Associates, Ltd out of Chicago specializing in Environmental Restoration. He is working with a grant to remove Leafy Spurge from a 45 acre area. His plans are to fence in the area and fill it with 120 head of goats as well as some type of guard animals (llamas or mules, etc). The animals would graze for a few months and then could be sold for meat market by the people in charge of the project.

After talking with him Mark is going to suggest purchasing older cull does in good condition. Those present discussed weights and prices; how to transport them to the area, etc. Also how we would present the animals, (vaccinated, dewormed and hooves trimmed) value added, if you will. We will also need to work out a means of gathering and transporting them to the Chicago area.

Kurt made a motion, seconded by Alice that Mark get in touch with him again and we as an organization participate in this project.

Randy stated he had talked with a guy from Dekalb who wants 40#-50# animals, several head each week. He brought up if we would want to try to participate in this venture. Again, we would need to collect and transport to the destination. It would need to be looked into for further particulars.

Future meeting dates of the districts were set:

District 1 – May 15, Main Street Diner, Hutsonville, Il 6:00 p.m. supper, 7:00 p.m. meeting

District 2 – May 9, Wayne Co. Fairgrounds, Fairfield, IL 6:00 p.m. picnic, 7:00 p.m. meeting – Speaker Coni Ross, Texas Goat Producer & ABGA Judge.

Next Directors' meeting scheduled for May 29, 7:00 p.m. Richland Co. Extension Office and tele-conference.

Meeting Adjourned.