MRLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEEING

6/15/2022

The board of directors for Maris River Livestock Association met on Zoom meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, June 15, 2022. Those in attendance were: Maureen Hoggan, Jeff Habets, Bob Thompson, Clayton Gernaat, Chris Kimmet, Dean Lerum and Carrie Lerum.

President, Dean Lerum, called the meeting to order. Jeff moved and Bob seconded to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Motion carried. Clayton moved and Jeff seconded to approve the Treasurer’s report. Motion carried.

Chris gave a report on the Pocket Gopher presentation. He said it was a pretty good attendance, but there was an auction sale also on the same day. The speaker, Steven VanTassal, was a great speaker. Jeff, Carrie, Chris and Maureen attended. We received positive feedback from the attendees. Steven suggested that we charge for the next presentation and we would most likely get a better turnout. Those who attended received applicator points.

Clayton stated that the Mid-Year Membership meeting that will be during the MT Range Days planning is going well. MRLA members who come to the meeting will pay for the dinner. They can prepay online or at the door. Carrie will make new name tags for the board members to wear during the event. The meal will be at 5 p.m. and Vicki Olson will speak at roughly 6 p.m.

Chris said that he will be working with Chad Scarborough on figuring out what events the Mothershead memorial buckles will be for. They will also order the buckles.

The Flesch Scholarship dinner is still a go for Sunday, July 24th of the Marias Fair. Robyn Kimmet will prepare the food, but she will need help with set up and serving the food. Robyn will report more at the July meeting. She will have more information for the board at the July meeting.

Carrie talked to the Extension Agent about purchasing a sign for the Seewald barn at the Marias Fairgrounds. We need to prepare a 4x8 sheet of plywood by painting it white with a glossy latex paint. Barbie Avlestad with Big Sky Creative Works will make a vinyl logo for us to put on it. Jeff moved to purchase wood and vinyl sign logo, and Clayton seconded the motion. Motion carried. We need to have the sign done before July 13th.

Maureen wanted to discuss membership renewals. In the past, we have all memberships be renewed on November 1st. She proposed that we use Wix (new website) and have renewals be annually from when they paid dues. The site integrates the members and keeps track of their anniversary date. We are also able to trigger an email that would remind them to renew. Membership can be tracked and given individual attention if need be. They also can be easily sorted by dates, counties, anniversaries, etc. She thought there would be more loyalty when renewing memberships. Jeff thought it would be fine but asked that there just be one email reminder. The board decided to implement Maureen’s suggestion.

Carrie and Lindsey have volunteered to interview the MRLA Beef Breeding Contest participants at this year’s Marias Fair. Carrie will also be judging the Sheep Public Speaking contest and asked if another board member would have time to help judge. Dean asked what kind of a presence MRLA should have at the fair. Clayton moved and Jeff seconded to order 1 dozen MRLA baseball caps and a dozen MRLA t-shirts. Motion carried. Carrie will order the caps and Chris will order the t-shirts. Chris will need board member sizes. Then board members can wear them at the Rodeo, and when we serve food for the Flesch Scholarship dinner.

Bob Thompson noted that Dave and Katie Sattoriva would like to participate in Bull Bucks. Diana will send Carrie their contact information.

Jeff asked if there was a way that MRLA could help ranchers throughout the state to connect with buying and selling hay and cattle. Maureen said that she would set up a forum on the MRLA website. He also wondered if we could post FSA programs for drought support on the website.

Maureen asked for feedback on the MRLA Facebook posts. The board members suggested ideas on things they’d like to see.

Maureen reported that Barr Gustafson will be her next member spotlight for the newsletter.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, July 12th at 7 p.m. on ZOOM.

Clayton moved and Jeff seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carrie Lerum, Secretary