

Michigan Angus Association Board of Directors Meeting
January 28, 2012 at the MSU Judging Pavilion
East Lansing, Michigan

Present: Monte Bordner, Lisa Bohlen, Chuck Preston, Kirk Sterzick, Merle Boehmer, John MacMaster, Dave Hawkins, Cody Sankey, Scott Foster, Nancy Thelen and Ken Geuns joined us between his commitments at the pavilion. Bob Zellmer was also in attendance.

President Monte Bordner called the meeting to order at 11:50 a.m. Merle Boehmer suggested to add to the agenda the idea of having a fiduciary committee and Chuck Preston suggested to add that we need to discuss how our fall sale is accounted for. Chuck moved to add these items to the agenda. Motion seconded by Dave Hawkins and passed.

Minutes: Merle Boehmer moved to approve the minutes from the November 7, 2011 meeting. Motion seconded by John MacMaster and passed.

Treasurer's Report and Budget: Lisa Bohlen reported the checking account balance is \$12,724.84 and the CD balance is \$5945.73 for a total of \$18,670.57. Chuck Preston moved to accept the treasurer's report. Motion seconded by Dave Hawkins and passed.

American Angus Association Report: Scott Foster shared that GeneMax program will be rolled out at the National Cattleman's Convention. He also asked for input on the name of the whole herd reporting program currently being called Pathfinder Plus. December registrations and transfers were up, membership has remained stable and CAB is doing well. John MacMaster asked if staffing might be increased in the future as it seems to take longer to get a call returned from the Association office. Scott also shared that several regional managers have retired and their positions will be filled.

Committee and Other Reports

Annual Banquet – John MacMaster reported that annual meeting and banquet will be held on March 11th at Davis and Sons in Jackson and will follow the format of past years. Bill Sheridan is available to auction off any donated items. John will be contacting several new members and encouraging them to participate. Bob Zellmer will be the master of ceremonies. John is still working on getting semen packages donated.

Auxiliary – Sharon Vaassen was not able to attend in person. There will be a National Auxiliary Conference in April in St. Joseph, Missouri. The Michigan Auxiliary would like to have a few silent auction items and possibly an item to auction off at the annual banquet.

Bull Test – Monte Bordner reported the bulls are performing very well. The open house will be held on March 3 and the sale on March 17th.

Beef Expo – Merle Boehmer reported there are 16 consignors at this time with 21 females, including one bred heifer, and 12 bulls. There may also be several embryo packages and the juniors may want to sell a package also. Chuck Preston moved to allow the Juniors to sell up to two packages in the Expo Futurity Sale. Kirk Sterzick seconded the motion and it passed. Chuck moved to have the Juniors pay the same commission as the other consignors. John MacMaster seconded and discussion followed. Motion was defeated. It was suggested that all embryo packages that are sold should be the same and bidders need to know if they are quick thaw and high quality. Merle still needs trophy sponsors for the Beef Expo Futurity Show.

Commercial Opportunities – Bob Zellmer joined the meeting and shared that there may be 4 or 5 producers from the West Branch Feeder Sale meeting interested in the American Angus Association Gateway program. They are generating a contact list and the North Country group will be meeting in March. They would like to have Jerry Cassidy or someone from AAA meet with them at their June meeting. It would be great to put together a load of calves to sell at a higher price. There would be about 300 feeder calves available. Bob would like to have Michigan Angus Association be the first to offer value-added services to these producers.

Fall Sale – Merle Boehmer reported that they are checking on the potential of a different date due to sale conflicts on the first Saturday in October. There was an error in lot expense and Merle will be looking into it and report back in the future.

Field Day – Kirk Sterzick reported that the 2012 field day will be held on August 25th at his farm. C.J. Brown will be coming, a neighbor may have a booth on tornado chasing, and Freedom Farms may have a booth. Discussed starting around 2 p.m. with judging of calves and a weight contest, followed by other programs and then dinner, which will consist of beef brisket, baked beans, homemade ice cream and a dish to pass brought by the participants. There will also be door prizes and a band in the evening. Kirk is looking for sponsors and will also need a tent for about 135 people. He will also look into reserving a block of rooms. Merle moved to allocate \$500 for the 2012 field day. Dave Hawkins amended the motion to allocate up to \$500 for the field day. Motion seconded and passed as amended.

Junior Members – Kollin Johnson was not able to attend, but sent a written report. The Juniors had a raffle at the Winter Beef Show (thanks to Kirk Sterzick for donating the holiday sign) and it went very well. The Jr. award forms are due 2-3-12 and the outstanding member form is sent to Patti Vaassen and the Premier Exhibitor and Breeder forms are sent to Rachel Reid. The board will be meeting on January 29th to make plans for the annual banquet and their membership meeting.

Newsletter – The next newsletter will go out in early February. Deadline for articles is January 30th.

Preview Show – The Preview Show will be June 9 and 10. Get any rule changes to Ken Geuns.

Communications/Website – We have had some banner ads and related income.

20:20 Vision – Notes from the January 7th working session were emailed to the board. Will meet after this board meeting with one group further discussing recruiting and retaining members and another group discussing sale policies and health rules.

Old Business:

Association Logo – Tabled until next meeting.

Audit Report – No report.

AAA Annual Meeting – Scott Foster, Dave Hawkins and Dave Lutchka represented Michigan.

New Business:

2012 Committees – Monte is working on committee assignments. Lisa will compile list of members interested in serving on various committees and a list will also be passed around at the meeting. Nancy will request a list of all American Angus Association and Jr. Association members who reside in Michigan. John MacMaster is interested in working on this membership committee Nancy will also mail a directory to all new AAA members from Michigan. She will check with AAA to see if they collect email addresses. Merle moved that we form a financial subcommittee under our Policies and Procedures Committee. Motion seconded and passed. We will have a budget to approve at the March board meeting.

Other Business – Dave Hawkins announced that Ken Geuns will be honored by the MSU Block and Bridle Club on March 24th at the Walnut Hills Golf Course.

Next Board Meeting & Adjournment – The next board meeting will be held immediately following the annual meeting on Sunday, March 11, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Thelen, Secretary