

*Sustainable Sheep and Fiber Community Directors' Meeting 12/3/22
Present: Alethea, Dennis, Kathy, Trudy and remote zoom were Stacy and Margo. We met at Trudy's house. Bemidji, MN*

Alethea passed out our agenda. Trudy read the minutes from the 11/2/22 meeting. Kathy moved we accept the minutes as read and Stacy seconded. All in favor.

We discussed the Sheep Event coming up February 18, Saturday, in Solway at Lammers Town Hall. Alethea summarized preparations. She has reserved the hall. The MN Ag Dpt is sending someone to address current meat handling prep status and regulations for lamb or livestock. Heather Schmidtke has confirmed she can do a presentation on her mill and other fiber related items of interest. Margo and Stacy will present good lamb prep recipes which will probably be the ones they use to serve attendees. We discussed whether or not we should change the attendance fees. Margo reviewed that our history has been to charge \$20/members, \$30 couples. Stacy and Margo pointed out that our meal of lamb this time, is generally understood to be a more expensive food source. We reviewed that in Clearbrook when we all chipped in with crock pots at the Clearbrook kitchen, labor and ingredients were donated. Numbers of attendees as yet unknown, is a factor on how much lamb we need to be provided. Dennis said he can donate either lamb or elk. Trudy said she will prepare if he donates but needs a recipe. Stacy suggested this year we raise nonmember attendance fees to \$25 pp and \$40 per couple. Members will be \$20 pp and \$35/couple. Kathy made a motion we do so, Trudy seconded, and all in favor.

We discussed recipe presentation. Margo and Stacy suggested they would have 3 recipes each and will have some cards made out to give to attendees. Kathy made a motion that we pay for recipe cards. Margo seconded. All were in favor. Alethea suggested one side would have the name of the farm who donated product and maybe a sheep or farm photo. Margo and Stacy were not sure if this might get to be too expensive and time consuming. No decision was made one way or the other at this point. Kathy made a motion that we reimbursed anyone who feels they need to be reimbursed for such things as lamb. Dennis seconded. All in favor.

We discussed more details regarding the meal. Margo and Stacy will figure something out with various samples (like cured sausage) as well. Dennis has some he can contribute. Curry over rice along with samples might be a good recipe; maybe stew with shanks. No specific decisions

were made. Margo and Stacy will figure this out. Kathy has volunteered to bring bread and or a dessert and Alethea will coordinate with Kathy on a dessert or salad, so some such thing. Trudy will make brown rice as a side dish. Trudy will pick up 2 doz donuts to go with coffee. Dennis will not cook but will donate. Trudy will get meat from Dennis. Stacy, Margo, and Trudy will each make crock pots of food somewhat dependent on sign up. Moving along....

We discussed payment of speakers. Currently it is a flat rate of \$75 and most decline payment. The \$75 can be used for the speaker's mileage expense. Stacy pointed out that if a person is promoting their own business, it could be considered free advertising. We decided to stay with our present policy. We discussed the difference between expenses and potential income of the SSFC sheep event. It is often a very close figure and we hope to not lose too much. As always, a major expense is advertising. The MN Sheep and Wool was suggested as an advertising source and Fosston Community Calendar (which we have used previously).

Margo had one more thing to bring up about Rohde's Feed as a donator. They have been contacted. North Central Feed is donating \$75. Margo will sponsor \$75. Alethea will check with Fosston Feed to be a sponsor. Kathy will sponsor radio adds. Could Clearbrook Elevator be a sponsor? Dennis will ask. Trudy will bring pencils if she has any. Thinks she might. Kelly will donate plates from his wedding if needed(per our last meeting). No action needs to be taken with Rohdes.

Alethea reserved CWLC center in Gonvick \$25 each meeting for the three meetings of "Fiber Gathering Under the Pines" scheduled for 1/13/23, Friday; 2/11/23, Saturday; and 3/10/23, Friday. The consensus was a free will donation for treats and coffee rather than an entrance fee. Anyone can bring things to sell with a MN ST-19 but for members only.

MN Fiber Fest may be off the table for now due to lack of opportunity and it being likely too full. Do we want to consider another place to enhance cooperative effort for our members? There was discussion about how to regroup the FFF. Kathy noted the Park Rapids Farmer's Market is every Saturday through the end of September, and because their vendor numbers would be declining after Labor Day they might be interested in including our FFF. Also, the American Legion is close by. Kathy will check into this possibility. Maybe the Legion for classes, overflow, or a location that has a roof. The Farmer's Market is all outdoors.

Stacy thinks we should be in one place for 5 years to establish a pattern. Maybe we should have reduced hours of attendance since the afternoons are poorly attended compared to the mornings. We briefly reviewed the option of coordinating with or including some of the quilting people but after discussion felt it was not a good idea because of lack of interest and follow through on their part. We decided to try Park Rapids once more and enhance options like teaming up with an existing function such as the Farmer's Market. Art leap is on the 23rd and Kathy will talk to them to see if they want to team up as vendors or if there would be options there.

We discussed the idea of registering with the Hubbard County Chamber of Commerce at the rate of \$125/year. It would be an additional \$175 year to be listed in their book with a circulation reported to be around 100,000 and deadline of October to sign on each year. The \$125 basically covers their online information with several send outs over the year to subscribers which is reported to reach a very large number of people in the area. Kathy made a motion that we join the Hubbard Co. Chamber of Commerce. Stacy seconded. Motion passed. Kathy will do the paperwork and let Margo know about writing a check for the \$125 membership. The membership needs to be renewed yearly.

Kathy will check to see if they advertise our events even though they do not take place in Hubbard, specifically, the Gonvick "Fiber Gathering Under the Pines" or the sheep event that is usually at Lammers Town Hall in Solway. We also discussed whether Monika's yarn shop would be interested in hosting a Fiber Gathering Under the Pines in her backroom. The thought is that it could be beneficial for their business as well bringing in more potential customers. There is some change over in ownership but within the family. Monika is getting quite advanced in years. Kathy will check to see if she would be interested. Maybe it could be something like a trunk show.

Kathy presented another option of opportunity for SSFC and community involvement in Bagley. Janet Bradstrom has a grant to use. Would like instructors coming after school (Bagley elementary) to do an art oriented fiber hands on project for afterschool kids once a week. It would pay \$75/hour plus supplies and mileage. It would most likely last the rest of the school year. It could include two instructors with 10 children per class. Because there was some confusion on the details, Kathy will refer Janet to Alethea to answer specific questions we have. Start could be as soon as right after the New Year.

Kathy brought up the Happy Dancing Turtle event in Pine River scheduled for February 11, 2023. An SSFC 8X8 booth would be \$40. February 11 is the same day as the Fiber Gathering Under the Pines. Kathy will not be in Gonvick because of the distance and she would be willing to be in Pine River for the SSFC booth. She will contact Heather to see if she would like to come over for a few hours, not necessarily the whole time, since she lives very close by. Trudy made a motion for approval of an SSFC booth at the Happy Dancing Turtle event with Kathy in charge. Stacy seconded. The motion passed. Margo will send a \$40 check to Kathy.

Kathy moved to adjourn. Dennis seconded. All in favor.

*Respectfully submitted,
Trudy Delich, Secretary*