MEFA Minutes Annual Meeting January 5, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 12:23 pm.

Those in attendance were : Brad Puff, Charles Puff, Wendel and Ruth Hoehne, Bill Mayes

 Branden and Omega Winner, Robert and April Berendzen, Howard and Debbie Hoehn,

Mike Schamburg, Marvin Cromwell, Gary Berhorst, Shannon Quinn, Kevin Hinkebein.

An introduction from all in attendance was completed.

The agenda, Treasurer’s Report, Minutes of the March 10, 2018 Meeting, and a list of all current members were provided prior to the meeting by email.

Minutes of The agenda was presented, Ruth Hoehne made a motion to accept, Robert Berendzen seconded, motion passed.

The Minutes of the previous meeting was presented, April Berendzen made a motion to accept, Shannon Quinn seconded, Motion passed.

The Income and Expense Statement was presented by Kevin Hinkebein. The majority of funds received in 2018 was from the auction held at the March Mingle as Missouri and Kansas were joint hosts in this meeting. Each state was allow to provide auction items and proceeds from this auction was received by the state that donated them. Thanks to all of those that donated auction items. The Association received $8,779.53 in total gross funds and paid out $909.14 in expenses for Missouri’s portion. Also in addition a generous donation was made by Travis and Kathy Broadway in the amount of $2,500 which includes their dues being paid for 2019. There were no questions or comments and the Income and Expense statement was accepted.

Discussion was held on the State of the Industry in Missouri. The Missouri Department of Conservation has shut down the hunting ranches from bringing any animals into MO from other states. Therefore hunting ranches can only purchase elk and deer from within Missouri. This took effect on July 3, 2018. Any animals purchase prior to July 3, 2018 may still go to hunting ranches in MO. Producers may sell out of state in accordance with the importing state’s laws. Producers may still bring animals into the state from other states for breeding purposes but may not sell them to hunting ranches in Missouri.

Bill Mayes also discussed the variety of products from elk in addition to hunt bulls including breeding stock, meat, velvet, hard antler dog chews, and hard antler crafts.

Bill discussed membership numbers and recruitment of new members. Since MEFA no longer has a booth at the state fair it will need to find new ways to generate income. No fund raising ideas were presented at this time. MEFA dues are the only source of revenue for the association at this time. Discussion was had to possibly raise the dues. In addition to raising the dues, Marvin Cromwell offered to provide a $50 gift certificate from Pearson Ranch Elk and Bison Jerky for first time members and it was discussed that the first year dues to remain at $50 for the first year. Therefore any new members would actually be joining for free. They would pay their $50 to the association and receive the gift certificate from Pearson Ranch Elk and Bison Jerky to purchase jerky and summer sausage. Frankie Lolli made a motion to raise the dues to $100 but keep the dues at $50 plus they receive the $50 gift certificate if they are first time members, Marvin Cromwell seconded, The Motion Passed.

The NAEBA National Convention and International Antler Competition was discussed. This event will be held in Topeka, KS on August 1-3 at the Capital Plaza Hotel and Convention Center, Topeka, KS. Discussion was held to consider MEFA making a donation to this event. Robert Berendzen made a motion to donate $300 as a convention sponsor, Ruth Hoehne seconded, Motion Passed.

The March Mingle was also discussed. This event will be held in Edmonton, Alberta Canada. It was discussed for MEFA to provide sponsor funds for this event. The exchange rate being $250 CAD to $187.50 US. Wendell Hoehne made a motion to donate $187.50 to sponsor the March Mingle, April Berendzen seconded, Motion passed.

The American Cervid Alliance (ACA) was discussed. A motion was made by Howard Hoehn to donate $1,000 for the Public Relations Campaign, Shannon Quinn seconded, Motion Passed.

Election of New Officers: Marvin Cromwell made a motion to elect Brad Puff as President, Howard Hoehn seconded, Motion Passed as no other members were nominated. Brad Puff is the new President.

Mike Schamburg made a motion to elected Shannon Quinn as Vice-President, Marvin Cromwell seconded, Motion Passed as no other members were nominated. Shannon Quinn is the Vice-President.

Bill Mayes nominated Kevin Hinkebein as Secretary/Treasurer, April Berendzen seconded. Motion was passed as no other members were nominated. Kevin Hinkebein remains as Secretary/Treasurer.

Kevin Hinkebein discussed the fact that the other two members on the bank account are no longer raising elk or are they members; therefore two current members are needed as co-signors on the bank account. Bill Mayes made a motion for Brad Puff and Shannon Quinn to be on the MEFA account with Kevin Hinkebein as co-signors, Howard Hoehn seconded. Motion Passed

The meeting was open for discussion. Marvin Cromwell discussed genetic breeding in New Mexico. His veterinarian believes that genetic breeding works in elk as it did in the sheep industry. He believes that there are genetics that are more resistant to CWD. Bill Mayes discussed the research that is being done to determine this. It has shown that elk with the L gene show more resistance to CWD.

Mr. Charles Puff, owner of High Adventure Ranch presented a letter and discussed his shortage of bull elk for his hunting ranch. He is in need of approximately of 175-200 bull elk per year. He has had to turn down many clients for the fall 2018 hunting season. He indicated in his letter that for MO breeders, it is legal to import elk into MO as the rule for MO breeders is under the Department of Agriculture and the Missouri Department of Conservation has no jurisdiction over MO elk breeders. According to Charles Puff there are 44 hunting ranches in MO but the majority of them only hunt deer.

As there was no further business, Howard Hoehn made a motion to adjourn meeting, Bill Mayes seconded, Motion Passed. Meeting adjourned at 2:20.