Fiber and Fiber Products Committee Meeting Minutes
June 6, 2022
7:00pm Eastern, 6:00pm Central, 5:00pm Mountain, 4:00pm Pacific

Present:
Alyssa Winterfeld (AOA Staff Liaison)
Wini Labrecque (BOD Liaison)
Charlene Schmid (Committee Chair)
Ruth Fuqua (Student Design Consultant)
Dana Rhoades (Secretary)
Elizabeth Taylor
Linda Bergstrom

Not Present:
Robin Gifford (AOA)
Brenda Wyler
Elaine Gerber

1.0 Action: Call to order
Called to order at 4:20 PST.

2.0 Action: Approve May Meeting Minutes
Dana motioned, Linda seconded. All-in-favor.

3.0 Update: National Educational & Fleece Conference (NEFC), Alyssa

3.1 Update from Ruth on the Student Design Competition
3.2 Update on Fleece Auction
- *100 involved in event, 10 Fleeces submitted to Fleece Auction.*
- *Next six weeks critical after shearing, shows, schools. Begin planning summer schedules*
- *Sharing posts across social media*
- *More blasts about submissions.*
- *Capture images and determine how to post fleeces. Mediums to be determined.*
- *Discussion on clarifying rules for composition Fiber Arts and Skeins competition. Mill spun skeins must be 100% alpaca. Handspun skeins must be 50%. More blends submitted. Emphasis on blending for purpose.*

4.0 Update: AOA Board Update, Wini
- *Budgets and new board member planning. More information next month.*

5.0 Discussion: Establish Alpaca fiber as a commodity, Wini/Linda
- *Update from Linda*
  - *Discussion with David Colwell, National Agricultural Statistics Service*

        - *Noted USDA has undergone reduction of force, keep making phone calls.*
    - *Discussion with Ginger Harris, Statistician*
        - *Alpacas are currently listed as other livestock.*
        - *Need to request data for alpaca fiber versus alpacas.*
            - *Current report only includes alpacas on farm, alpacas sold.*
            - *Miscellaneous category for fiber sold needs to be detailed.*
            - *Complete solicitation for input for Census of Agriculture for data collected on alpaca fiber.*
        - *Distinction with weekly wool and mohair price report. Producers of fibers are eligible CCC loan program. Farm Service Agency is best suited for CCC loans and market price reports.*

6.0 Open Discussion:

- *Skip July Meeting, August 1 Next Meeting*
- *Motion to Adjourn 5:00 PST*