

American Dexter Cattle Association
Board of Directors Meeting
December 3, 2024 - 7 pm CDT

President – Laaci Louderback	Youth Interim Dir - Jim Woehl	Region 7 – Mark Ballard
Vice Pres – Jill Gurley *	Youth President – Erin Chambers	Region 8 – Mark Chaney
IPP - Jim Woehl *	Region 1 – Skip Tinney	Region 9 – Rob Whitlow
Secretary - Carole Nirosky	Region 2 – Stefani Millman	Region 10 - Santiago Lizarraga
Registrar - Jill Delaney	Region 4 – David Cluff	Region 11 – Bob Fenton
Treasurer-Mark Chaney interim	Region 6 – Kimberly Jepsen	Region 12 – Rick Seydel

*designates member absence.

- 1) Laaci Louderback called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.
- 2) Roll call was taken, Pam Baker, Catherine Hall, and Erica Lantz were also in attendance.
- 3) Reports
 - A. Registrar’s report – Jill Delaney
 - Total members as of December 3, 2024: 1793 / 2023: 1917
 - Registrations November 2024 = 185: females: 141 / bulls: 38 / steers: 6
 - Registrations November 2023 = 155: females: 111 / bulls: 41 / steers: 3
 - Transfers November 2024: 166 / November 2023: 204
 - B. Treasurer – Mark Chaney
 - October 31, 2024, Financial Statement balance: \$317,609
 - November account activity: revenue \$12,762.00 / expenses \$ 7,928.85.
 - Mark noted the CD is maturing this week. The interest rate dropped to around 3.93% no matter the length of commitment so Mark proposed putting the money into a couple 6-month & 12-month CD’s so the money would be readily accessible if needed. The board agreed.
 - C. YADCA – Laaci Louderback reported that the YADCA was in process of determining a date for their next meeting for December.
 - D. Committee Reports –
 - Show Committee – Santiago Lizarraga explained that the show regulations have been updated to include the decision to hold the youth and open shows on separate days. The update also included requirements for check-in and check-out days for breeders to be eligible for any earned show premiums and awards.
- 4) Continuing Business
 - A. Budget committee – Laaci Louderback stated that the board had met on November 19, 2024, to work on the 2025 budget. Those in attendance in an effort to help balance the budget voted to increase membership fees by \$10 and convert to a digital version of the Dexter Bulletin. Neither of those actions were enough to balance the proposed operating budget. Laaci asked the board for other ways to increase income and decrease spending.
 - Rick Seydel shared comments he received from members that were against raising membership and registration fees at the same time. Rick sensed that members were not aware that the ADCA had been operating in the red for two years. He stated that if the board was going to increase fees, a written explanation should be sent to members to help them understand reasoning for the boards decisions.
 - Mark Chaney affirmed that the ADCA has been using some of the money in reserve to pay expenses. Mark explained that most organizations keep a minimum of six months operating expenses in reserve. In addition, he suggested another \$100,000 should be held in reserve to support the registration software. In total Mark recommended keeping \$250,000 in emergency reserve funds, currently the ADCA has \$290,000.

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- Dave Cluff suggested that as a non-profit organization we should be spending our income on ways to benefit the members, but we cannot continue to dip into the reserve funds. Dave expressed that he has been very vocal about adding a second registrar and believed it will eventually help to improve customer service, member retention and growth.
 - Discussion continued about the proposed budget and other ways to decrease spending. Kimberly Jepsen will not be spending the allocated \$10,000 on magazine advertisements; Kimberly has found other cost-saving opportunities for advertising.
 - The board held a lengthy discussion regarding the pros and cons of increasing membership this year and postponing an increase in registration fees until next year. Mark reminded everyone that membership fees will not increase until March 1, 2025, so the full benefit of the increase will not be realized by the ADCA until next year, meaning we will have to dip into the reserves again at the end of 2025.
 - Jim Woehl made a motion, Dave Cluff 2nd, because it is financially imperative for the benefit of the organization, to increase membership fees by \$10 each (effective 3/1/2025), increase registration and transfer fees by \$5 each (effective 3/1/2025), and move the Dexter Bulletin to a digital format. Laaci Louderback asked the board members to vote on each item of the motion separately:
 - Eliminate the printed version and move it to a digital format for the Dexter Bulletin. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.
 - Increase membership fees by \$10 each effective 3/1/2025. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.
 - Increase registration & transfer fees by \$5 each effective 3/1/2025. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.
 - The budget will be completed in an executive session to discuss stipends.
- B. Regional Director Policy – item was tabled again due to Skip Tinney’s absence.
- C. Conflict of Interest policy
- Kimberly Jepsen requested a decision from the board regarding who needs to sign the conflict-of-interest policy, noting that the policy has not been consistently enforced in recent years. Following discussion, the board agreed that the standard operating procedures for the conflict-of-interest policy must be enforced. The ADCA vice president is in charge of making sure everyone serving on a committee has signed the document. Board members and officers will be required to sign the document annually. Anyone refusing to sign the conflict-of-interest policy will not be allowed to serve in the ADCA.
- 5) New Business
- A. The board went into an executive session at 8:15pm to discuss applicants for the part-time registrar and complete the 2025 budget. They returned from executive at 9:25pm.
- B. Dexter Dun Study
- Laaci reported that the lab has received thirty-five samples from four farms. They asked if the ADCA would reach out to the members and let them know the lab is still seeking samples.
- 6) Other – Rick Seydel said his farewell to the board as this was his last meeting as a director. Rick offered his help if ever needed and commended the board for their knowledge and love of the Dexter breed. The board thanked Rick for his willingness to serve region 12.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:33pm CST / Next BOD meeting: January 7, 2025, 7:00 pm CST
- Submitted by Carole Nirosky