

## July 2015 Board Meeting Minutes

President Terri L. Kistler opened the meeting and all directors reported as present.

The floor was opened for nominations for Board officers as follows:

Terri L. Kistler was nominated by Fran Bishop and seconded by Nan Nichols as president

Ruth Hawkins was nominated by Terri L. Kistler and seconded by Nan Nichols as vice president

Fran Bishop was nominated by Nan Nichols and seconded by Ruth Hawkins as treasurer

Nan Nichols was nominated by Fran Bishop and seconded by Terri L. Kistler as secretary

There was no election as there was only one candidate for each position and each nominee indicated they were willing and able to serve.

Minutes from the April meeting of the board were posted and approved:

There was only one committee report – from the PR committee. They presented the two, new PBA fiber brochures for board approval.

The directors discussed the Fiber Facts and Spinning Pygora brochures and made a few minor text changes.

Motion 15-8 Maker-Terri Kistler Second-Fran Bishop

I move that we approve the Fiber Facts and Spinning Pygora brochures as presented with the following changes:

Pygora™ Fleece Facts

Do All Pygoras Have The Same Fleece Type?

No, there are three fleece types:

- Type A - this fleece averages 6 inches in length, is long, lustrous, has ringlets and should have very few guard hairs. The fiber is very fine, usually less than 28 microns. It feels silky, smooth and cool to the touch. Type-A goats usually are shorn twice a year.
- Type B - this fleece is a strong, lustrous fiber that is curly and very soft. A type-B fleece averages 3-6 inches long, and may have two types of guard hairs: an obvious, stiff guard hair and a silky guard hair. It is the uniquely Pygora fleece that should test, on average, below 24 microns - very versatile, warm to the touch and soft. Type-B goats usually are shorn twice a year.
- Type C - this fleece is a matte fiber with crimp and a very short staple length (usually 1-3 inches). It has a very obvious coarse guard hair and is warm to the touch. Type C has the finest diameter of the three fleece types, usually below 18.5 microns and can be as soft as fine cashmere. A type-C coat can be harvested by brushing, plucking or shearing. The yield is quite small, but the effort is worth it.

How Much Fleece Does A Pygora Produce?

The amount of fleece a Pygora can produce depends on fleece type (type C produces the least amount and type A the greatest amount). Type As may produce as much as 3 lb. of raw fleece per shearing while type Cs may produce only 8 oz. of raw fiber. Type Bs average 1 lb. per shearing.

A raw fleece includes both desirable fiber and guard hairs. The guard hairs must be removed (this is called dehairing). The amount of guard hair removed from raw fiber by commercial dehairing can be as much as 40%. The better the 'separation' (or difference in fineness) between desirable fiber and guard hairs, the easier a fleece is to dehair and the better the final product. One thing to consider when buying a type-B or type-C Pygora goat is to select goats who have good separation based on a fiber test.

When Do You Shear?

Pygoras usually are sheared in the fall and in the spring, depending on the fleece and the weather. Check your Pygoras often, particularly the hindlegs and thighs, for signs that the fleece wants to mat. That is the time to shear if the weather allows. Supplying freshly-shorn goats with coats, adequate bedding and shelter is critical. Many breeders shear before their does kid in late winter/early spring.

Supplying freshly-shorn goats with good bedding and shelter is very important. However, do not coat Pygora goats once their fleece grows longer as the fleece will mat under the coats.

Spinning Pygora™ Fiber

## Can You Spin Pygora Fiber?

Pygora goats produce a luxurious, soft, fine fiber that is wonderful for hand spinning. It works well for warm garments that are soft against the skin and for delicate lace items. It also felts well. Pygora fiber comes in a range of natural colors, including white, black, browns, caramels and greys and is easily dyed. Pygora fleece remains very fine as the goat ages.

### Dehairing

A Pygora fleece consists of guard hairs that are discarded and the lovely, soft undercoat that is spun. To enjoy the full softness of the fiber, the guard hair must be removed (called dehairing). This is best done on a commercial dehairing machine. Choose a fiber mill that is experienced in working with Pygora fiber, and talk to the mill to make sure they do not 'work' the fleece too hard trying to remove all guard hairs as this can weaken the fiber.

Some type-A fleeces may have very few, soft guard hairs. You may decide not to dehair such a fleece. Consider carefully, however, as guard hairs prickle against the skin, take dye differently from 'good' fiber and could affect the twist of the yarn. Also, nondehaired Pygora will shed guard hairs with use and bloom.

### Combing/Carding

If you send your fleece to a fiber mill, it will be returned in the form you choose (a 'cloud', roving, batt, etc.). If you decide to process a fleece yourself, use cotton cards with a fine cloth or mini combs to prepare your Pygora as desired. Pygora may be blended with a fine wool such as Merino to give it "memory."

Yes: Terri Kistler, Fran Bishop, Nan Nichols, Chris Utterback, Deb Rock, Ruth Hawkins No: none

### Old Business

Maggie Leman's proposal for the PBA color chart was presented and tabled for this meeting. Fran will work with Maggie to complete/correct the color chart and present it at the next board meeting.

The proposal for a Pygora fiber seal of approval was presented. After much lively discussion, the topic was tabled. Ruth will continue to work on the proposal.

The issue of whether to offer the showmanship manual as a download, as a hardcopy or both was discussed.

### Motion 15-9 Maker-Kistler Second-Hawkins

I move to rescind Motion 15-4

Yes: Terri Kistler, Fran Bishop, Nan Nichols, Chris Utterback, Deb Rock, Ruth Hawkins No: none

### Motion 15-10 Maker: Terri L. Kistler Second: Deb Rock

I move that the PBA offer only hard copies of the showmanship manual, starting with 50 printed for \$166 as per Maggie's quote. Nan will handle the mailing of the showmanship books to buyers. The cost would be \$5 for a 4Her and \$12 for anyone else, plus shipping. The cost of printing will come from the general fund, and any profits will go to the Youth committee.

Yes: Terri Kistler, Fran Bishop, Nan Nichols, Chris Utterback, Deb Rock, Ruth Hawkins No: none

This doesn't require any action, but it does require that we be informed. When the membership fees for the PBA were raised, there was an oversight and the youth fees weren't updated. The youth fees actually are \$15, not \$10.

### New Business

We discussed the idea of a suggestion box feature on the PBA webpage.

### Motion 15-11 Maker - Kistler Second - Nichols

I move that we add a suggestion box feature to the PBA website. The link would be on the home page. Suggestions that are not signed will not be accepted. Suggestions will go to the PBA president, who will share the information with the board and membership as appropriate.

Yes: Terri Kistler, Fran Bishop, Nan Nichols, Chris Utterback, Deb Rock, Ruth Hawkins No: none

The board received a proposal for a PBA code of ethics to consider before the meeting and Chris Utterback announced that Lisa Grzeskowiak has qualified as a PBA judge.

The next meeting will be October 13, 2015. The board meeting was adjourned on July 23, 2015.