

Board of Trustees Meeting  
Las Vegas, NV  
March 10, 2018

Meeting was called to order at 9am by Chairman Mark Meyers

Roll call of Board Members:

Present were; Mark Meyers, Amy Meyers, Josh Meyers, Jack Yanez, Michele Halfmann, Zac Williams, Jessica Anselment, Deborah Foley, Scott Jewett, Dr. John Roueche, Kevin Elliot and Vickie Mackenney

All Members present we have a quorum.

Zac Williams motioned that we do not read minutes from the last board meeting as everyone has a copy and can read them on their own. Scott Jewett seconded

Discussion: No comments were offered

Vote: Motioned carried unanimously

**Old Business:**

Statia; we no longer have a full time employee on the island, currently there are 79 donkeys on the island. We can no longer continue to throw money into this project.

Mark motioned we explore a plan to remove the donkeys from the island; if it is cost effective we will try to bring the donkeys to FL. Jack Yanez seconded

Discussion: No one on the Island cares enough to take care of the donkeys; we are fighting a losing battle. We will do what we can to help the donkeys but we will be pulling out of Statia.

Vote: Motioned carried unanimously

**New Business:**

In order to compete in the job market and to hire good employees we need to raise our starting pay to \$11. Mark Meyers motioned that we raise our base line starting pay to \$11 an hour. Michele Halfmann seconded

Discussion: No comments were offered

Vote: Motion carried unanimously

**Standard Operating Procedure** Mark Meyers motioned we adopt the SOP for the next 24 months, Kevin Elliot seconded

Discussion: Kimberly from VACO satellite wanted to know how the new PVDR West facility fits under this SOP? PVDR West will be run just like the Texas PVDR facility we have 24 months to make changes and to see how the SOP works. After the 24 months we will revisit and discuss the SOP. The master will be kept in Michele Halfmann's office.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously

**Adoption Fees:** To make things simpler for all , adoption fees need to be the same across the board.

Mark Meyers motioned we make the adoption fees \$350 for first donkey \$500 for two and \$150 for anymore. Josh Meyers seconded

Discussion: Guardian program will follow same fees

Vote: Motioned carried unanimously

We will not be shipping any minis or mammoths out to stabilities. Not cost effective for us.

**DOT:** Due to length and weight of our trucks and trailers when hauling our drivers have to be compliant with DOT rules and regulations, all drivers have to have their CDL. No vote is needed for this. It is the law we have to do it.

New Truck; Jack Yanez needed a new truck. No vote was needed on this purchase, falls under the \$25,000 cap.

**Texas Commission on Environmental Water Quality:** Supposedly there was a complaint filed against PVDR San Angelo location. A meeting was held with TCEWQ people Mark and Jack. Mark explained to all present at the board meeting, why they visited the ranch and what took place during their visit.

Mark Meyers motioned to let him handle this issue his way with our attorney. Kevin Elliot seconded

Discussion: Scott Jewett felt that when they come out again the lawyer needs to be present at all meetings. Jack is taking a proactive approach to comply with the concerns they raised, we will be planting grass in the areas of most water run off to help elevate some run off, we will also place a pump in the pond to pump water out if it becomes to full. We manage our manure by spreading it out in the fields as fertilizer with our manure spreader.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously

**Audit:** Amy Meyers stated “This was best and easiest audit to date”, audit will not be complete until the 990 is done. Amy ask all board members to read over the audit to see if any changes need to be made, We will approve audit through email with board members.

**Budget:** 2017 budget was presented by Mark Meyers, we need to get better at tracking events and money spent and received, through the events. Explanations were given as to overages in some areas of the budget.

There is not budget for the Wild Burro Project

**Open discussion on new items we are exploring,**

Mark will be looking into retina scanning as a new way and possibly a better way to track our donkeys instead of the auids and ear tags.

**Wild Burro Project:** Mark wants to take over all wild burro outside of the BLM, use of drone, burro recon team and better communication with locals who know where the donkeys are, we want to help control the donkey population not remove them all. PVDR will be the voice and be proactive. The BLM hoards donkeys they have over 45,000 donkeys in “storage” at a cost of \$1200 per donkey per year. Our cost is \$575 per donkey

We could come up with a 5 year plan to take over managing of all donkeys that are not BLM.

We need to improve public awareness, hold training seminars, communication!!! We need someone to be in charge of communication with public and all our SACS.

Mark Meyers motioned we hire Jessica Ansalment full time as our Communications Director. Kevin Elliott seconded

Discussion: Vicki Mackenney, “We have needed this for a long time”.

Vote: Motioned carried unanimously

**PVDR-West:** All is going well; we will be visiting the new facility after the meeting. Mark Meyers motioned we promote Madison Nealey to manager of the PVDR-West facility. Jack Yanez seconded

Discussion: no comments were made

Vote: Motioned carried unanimously

**PVDR- East:**

We are in need a new facility in VA area PVDR-East, to manage the burros in the area Mark Meyers motioned we make Kimberly Clark the manager of the PVDR-East facility. Vicki MacKenney seconded.

Discussion: She will still be able to take owner surrenders in the area; VACO will be a private facility, not open to the public

Vote: Motion carried unanimously

**VACO property:** \$1100 a month lease on the property, land owner will sell to Kimberly for \$320,000 it is worth \$600,000. Mark Meyers motioned we lease the VA land for 2 years to see how the project goes, if it all works out after the 2 years we purchase the land. Josh Meyers seconded

Discussion: There is no budget for this project as of yet. Mark and Jack will visit VA to see what improvements are needed to make the facility operational.

Vote: motion carried unanimously

**New Website:** The new PVDR website will cost around \$6,000 Mark and Scott are in charge of this project. This will improve communication and overall professionalism of the website. This will be the best rescue website to date.

Mark Meyers motioned that we approve a \$6,000 budget for the web designer, Josh Meyers seconded

Discussion: no comments were made

Vote: Motioned carried unanimously

**Nipton:** Old town being brought back to life in original 1912 tradition, they want to house some our donkeys. Nipton is a town that sells Marijuana do we want to be a part of this?

Open for discussion: What can we gain vs what can we lose? Will the initial perception of the marijuana be a negative impact and cause us to lose donors? Can we use just as an educational venue? No adoption, they adopt the donkeys, so they are their donkeys then not ours. Use to promote Wild Burro Project? Maybe do a pole on Facebook to gauge people's reactions? Table this, think about and revisit at our next meeting.

**Training Facilities:** Santo is doing great work for us with the yearling donkeys; give the trainers more time to work the other donkeys for adoption. Zac has been working to get

more facilities on board as training facilities. Zac motioned we keep moving forward with more training facilities and put together a policy and procedures for these facilities so they are all on the same page. Michele seconded

Discussion: good idea!!

Vote: motioned carried unanimously

Oct. of 2018 will be our next meeting, to be held in San Angelo in conjunction with the grand opening of our new barn.

Mark stated he will not do another symposium again, if someone else wants to take over and put one together go for it.

2019 Meeting will be held in VA.

Meeting adjourned 11:15 am.