

## NYBPA Council Meeting Minutes

**Date & Time:** May 17, 2025 at 10am

**Location:** The Barn at Collamer Rd, East Syracuse, NY 13057

**Present:** Zack Welker, Brenda Dermody, Katie Mitrowski, Betsy Hicks, Becky Kron, Joe Lawler, Rich Peebles, Skip Lear, Kate Morrow, Joe Mueller, Carlos Valery, Anna Scoralick, Brendan Scoralick, Ashley Scoones. A quorum was established. **Zack Welker called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.**

**Approval of agenda.** *Brendan moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Kate Morrow. All in favor, motion carried.*

**Approval of previous 3/1/25 council meeting minutes** – *Brenda motioned to approve, seconded by Joe M. All in favor, motion carried.*

### Reports.

- a. **President's Report.** Zack thanked those present for being here, thanked those in attendance at the Capitol last week. Updated Herd Builder report. Next NYBPA event is Batavia Muckdogs event, more details from Becky to follow.
- b. **Treasurer's Report.** Brenda shared reports below.
  - a. Financial Report – Brenda shared reports in paper form. Went over the 2025 Financial Report, which shows the Checkbook, Junior Balance, Savings and Scholarship CD. Membership has been strong. Ending balance is \$12K. Statement of Account was shared, goes by the month. NYBPA is trying to keep travel down, but Becky has had to miss going to some things because of keeping budget in line. *Skip moved to approve, seconded by Brendan. All in favor, Motion carried.*
  - b. Updated Herd Builder Report – paper report shared, details shared below in herd builder report.
  - c. Updated Meat Raffle Report – raised \$10k, which is about \$3500 more than last year. Still have to purchase a steer. Joe asked about top seller, discussion around incentives for selling tickets.
  - d. Updated Jr Preview Show Report and Junior Report – still have some money coming in, profit of \$743 for preview show. Account has almost \$35k in it. Some more sponsorship money coming in, but some more expenses to come in yet.
- c. **Herd Builder.** Still need some invoices to come in. Tie for high at \$4000, 24 lots through sale. Prices were up from last year, as were number of head. Thanked those for participation and consignments. Numbers will be shared as soon as everything is finalized. No estimate for commission yet because of no info on “no sales” yet. DVAuction was more expensive than last year, and other fees left to come in yet. Zack thinks income should be strong.
- d. **Executive Secretary Report.** Becky Kron reporting. Events since last meeting:

- March went to Albany for Taste of NY Farm Bureau Lobby event, served beef stick samples which were a huge hit. Good conversation w/ representatives and beef farmers – met with several senators.
- Rural minds webinar hosted w/ Jeff Winton. Well attended, good conversation and discussion over a difficult topic.
- National Ag day with Attica School district at a local dairy, handed out directories and packets for people to get information.
- 2025-2026 directory is completed and should be hitting mailboxes soon.
- May-June newsletter went out
- Attended NY Junior Spring Preview, congratulated Anna & Brendan for great show.
- Went to DC w/ NCBA to discuss hot topics. Able to talk about NYBPA and touched on topics shared with the group on the tables (screwworm, death tax & tax provisions). Want to take beef producers next year.
- Herd builder sale – thanked all those a part of it for support & partnership. Adding commission to entry forms for 2026.
- Went to Albany for May is Beef month, saw familiar faces from the previous meeting and great conversations.
- Website got a facelift, very excited for how it looks.
- Muckdogs reached out for sponsorship and involvement in community. June 4 will be event, have a table set up, starts at 6:35.
- Received thank you notes from Rural Minds for donation for Jeff's time for webinar, and Attica Elementary for supporting Mobile Dairy Experience.

*Brendan asked how many hours/week Becky commits.* Becky shared that 30-40 hours when it's lower, during conference time is closer to 50-60 hrs/week. Averaging about 40 hours per week throughout the year. Conversation to continue because of her efforts and other income increased to the association. Discussion around title changing but lack of funds, Joe L brought up "Executive Director" is deserving. Conversation tabled for other meetings by Executive Committee.

- a. Membership – 439 paid members/associations. Growing each month. Updated membership information, sent out renewal notification and recruitment packets as well as new member packets. Kate asked about clarification on renewals. Renewals appear to be rolling throughout the year, not at one point in the year. Becky wants to do the membership as a card to each member with dates for renewal, and show card for discounts somewhere like Tractor Supply or Runnings, etc. Discussion around teaming with NCBA or Farm Bureau, etc. Anna brought up price of membership cards should be minimal and shared best practices for printing cards. Carlos talked about sharing between members what each of us do as a resource. Anna agreed that it's an incentive to get membership within NYBPA. Could be region specific but overall it should be an association effort.

- b. Meat Raffle – did extremely well this year. Winners announced at Herd Builder Sale, contacted by Becky, anticipated to receive meat by end of June
- c. Supreme Show – banners are ordered, county fairs are sending in request. Winners get garment bags, will be shipped with banner. August 26 is Beef Day at State fair, looking for volunteers for Supreme Show
- d. 2026 Conference Update – have 3-4 keynotes potentially in mind. Lining up speakers, planning to be at Doubletree for 2026. 2027 still not lined up yet, looking at Corning. Kate asked about clarification on change in location. Zack offered that maxed out on space at current location. Good opportunity to look at other venues. Joe offered that the Ramada on Electronics Parkway is open again. Brendan talked about Turning Stone, Brenda said Juniors being present may be a problem. Anna said it is very separate from the Casino so it should be explored and is very reasonable for cost. Anna said Ithaca Conference Center is a nice place with several hotels. Marriott in downtown Syracuse is a good option too. Brenda said parking is an issue with downtown – Marriot does have an outdoor parking spot to explore.
- e. NYBPA Intern Update – Becky has someone interested in an unpaid opportunity. Talking with Virginia Cattlemen's Association because they're similar to us. Becky is working on configuring the structure. Timeline to have structure by end of month, have person in place in June.

*Joe L moved to form committees around membership, directory, conference, financial recruitment & fundraising. Seconded by Brendan.* Open for discussion. Anna brought up that people around the room would be people on the committee. Zack said if created, people need to suggest people's names not in the room to take burden off those in the room. Joe L brought up that each committee chair should be at this council meeting so discussions at council meetings are minimal, they happen in the committee meetings. Anna brought up there needs to be a description of each committee made by the organization. Katie said VP should oversee all committees, and is open to making that happen. Carlos said that Juniors should be involved. Some disagreement shared on that, agreeance on no junior involvement in committees at NYBPA level.

- ***Zack shared key points:***
  - Appoint chairs of whom oversees their 3-4 person committee who discusses ideas and decisions
  - Where chairs or a representative of the committee attends council meetings to report on decisions and review duties
  - Description of committee is established by the organization
  - VP to oversee committee, Katie volunteered to draft description of committees the association has formed
- *Joe motioned with key points mentioned above for formation of new committees, Brendan seconded. All in favor, motion carried.*

*Joe L moved to change membership to a yearly membership, not a rolling, set as May 1st. Skip moved to change that date to December 31<sup>st</sup>. Brenda offered clarification that it actually*

shouldn't be rolling, it is currently a yearly Jan-Dec. Bylaws state that membership deadline is January 31<sup>st</sup>. Joe withdraws motion. Anna asked when the bylaws were last amended. Discussion to move this to the membership committee to bring back recommendation to the Council. Key points to include are how by-laws are interpreted, sharing what their recommendation is to the board/association on date of payment and dates of membership active with payment.

- e. NY Junior BPA Report – Anna shared Spring Preview show 73 juniors participate, 57 heifers, 11 bred & owned and some market animals. Liked the judge and successful weekend even though weather was wet. Would like to add another person to the advisor team, would like someone from WNY because Anna & Brendan are in ENY. For budget conversation, sponsorship is hard because of WNY is far away and reliant on Becky & email blasts. Market animal discussion – at the start was just market steers, but let some market heifers in, so changed to market animals. Uproar because of steers & heifers are shown together – spring preview requests that they are separated. Entries are double-dipping with heifers/market animals. Have requested feedback from judges and people in the show world across the country to get opinions & what happens other places. Zack offered some stipulations for creating a new division. Anna is hopeful for Fall Show to have show rules and publicized ahead of time. Also did Skillathon with NY Beef Council – Chrissy was great to have a part of.  
Clothing website is available – may be closed currently because it's only open for a window. Used Studio4East, really great to work with, all done over email. No cost to NYJBPA, wrapped into clothing prices. Able to add \$5 to every clothing item and cost still reasonable. Would like to add the NYBPA logo to the lineup.  
Fall Festival is Oct 3-5 in Cobleskill, teaming up with AGR, will do Skillathon again. Are doing a genetics sale, formerly called Semen Sale. Hosted online, November 5. Leslie Mesh helping, great help. There is a sponsor letter that went out, distributed by juniors, will also go out on email blast.
- f. Cornell Advisor's Report – no report from Adam Murray.
- g. BQA Report – no report from Adam Murray.
- h. Beef Council Report – Ashley reporting, shared handout of activities.  
At FFA state convention. Working with other state's Beef Councils, looking at working with Kentucky to get college age students to go on tour of KY beef industry. Building relationships with others is key to making things happen.  
Were in Albany in May, 200-250 people served. Reserved location for next year, need to be a year ahead of time. Producers need to be involved to make the most out of the experience. Ashley will talk with Board at next meeting on June 24 in Cobleskill.  
Looking for board members, will be at-large directors.  
Will be at State Fair for beef day.  
Joe L commended NYBC for great job in Albany.
- i. Scholarship Committee Report – no report from Andrew King. Zack will reach out.
- j. BFE Program – nothing to report from Betsy

- k. CBB report – John sent report to Becky. “The Drive” should be subscribed to. March Madness NIL (name, image, likeness) – partnership with women’s NBA to take advantage of a very engaged audience with social media & at games. Spent 2 days at State FFA Convention, got new partners for NYBC with teachers to bring education on beef into classroom. Commended those participating in Albany activities. Headed to San Diego in July for beef activity meetings. Working on consumer engagement activities that match up with our beef industry goals & vision.
- l. Policy Report – Joe reporting. Importance of reaching members is goal. Last newsletter had a survey go out, only 6 people responded so far. Decided to split committee into two subcommittees – Amanda’s group working on structure, Joe’s group working on policy. Want to be able to respond to where NYBPA’s stance is on topics, but we need to know where members stand. Brendan stated that when he attends state Farm Bureau meetings, there are lots of things in dairy but few listed in beef, and wants these policy things sent to Farm Bureau. Joe brought up members need to push those things to Farm Bureau. Zack asked for the Committee to put out a statement on what the committee’s function is so we can share with membership. Joe wants clarification on if things should be prepared and shared at annual conference. The committee needs to be approved at annual conference, stances can be prepared for annual meeting but committee needs to be approved before those stances can be shared by NYBPA. Becky brought up regional involvement – policy committee should help with this. Skip brought up having a table by the Policy Committee to be staffed to get input from members.

**Regional Reports.** If nothing listed, no report for that region.

Region 1 – chairs are trying to plan something for summer.

Region 2 –

Region 3 –

Region 4 – received via email from Sean C: We had our annual meeting in March where we signed up five new members. We also sponsored a livestock judging contest at Alfred State College and we awarded the winners in each category a free membership that was paid for by our region. We signed up five students that day. Our region is focusing on getting new members this year and we will probably have another meeting at some point in late June or early July. During our March meeting Laverne Warner was voted as cochair for region four. Region four also held a vote regarding the ag alliance with the Farm Bureau and it was unanimous in favor of the alliance. Region four supports the policy committee and we have received a decent amount of input from the membership.

Region 5 – Joe M reporting, trying to get first meeting planned at Heritage Hill, trying to get Adam as speaker.

Region 6 – BQA event planned for November, pasture walks in planning for the summer.

Region 7 – Rich reporting. Just had spring meeting, election of officers, stayed the same. Rich is chair, Larry Larabee is co-chair, Melissa Spence is secretary/treasurer. 9 out of 15 members in attendance. Discussed different topics to have this summer – nutrition or anything that Dr Murray will come talk about, drones, hoof care, ET training. Much of this is through CCE partnership. Just finished up AI training, 4-5 regular members that were there, 10 people total,

in Watertown. Anybody from the public allowed to come, if not a member, they pay a small fee. Have picked up 5-6 members by doing it this way. Fall meeting is scheduled in September. Rich had a question that is brought up at their meetings – does one paying member have two votes if partner is there? One vote per one paying member is the way it should be. Brenda shared bylaws - If it's an entity, only one vote per. There is no proxy voting. Brendan brought up that this can be a point of clarification for the membership committee.

Region 8/9 –

Region 10 –

Region 11 – Carlos reporting, meeting on March 11. 29 farmers came, 5 new memberships. In conjunction with CCE, talked about vaccinations, talked about breeding season with Rich Brown. Did survey, very satisfied with meeting & activities. Next meeting related to nutrition in summertime. Another event at Carlos' farm in Sep/Oct to complement BQA, will be body condition score training.

Region 12 – Kate reporting. Nothing to report.

Region 13 –

### **New Business**

- a. **Environmental Stewardship Award.** Becky wants to encourage people to apply. Kate shared it is a long process and takes some time, so encouraged people to start the process sooner rather than later. Discussion from Ashley about process and possibly waiting for the regional level application until the next year to give more time. NYS award is not nearly as stringent as the regional level.
- b. **BFE Award Program.** Becky will be rolling out applications in next e-blast. Committee needs to adjust the scorecard for BQA level I and II to be adjusted. Due date is August 31<sup>st</sup>.
- c. **Region 5 –** Tim Pallicot stepping down as region 5 director. Skip moved to appoint Joe to Region 5 director, Joe L seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

### **Other Issues & Concerns.**

**Listed & Standing Committees.** Betsy shared that we need a list and a description of committee and who is director of the meeting so we can share with membership. VP oversees all committees. Bylaws should be shared with list of committees included.

- Policy – Sean & Joe
- Scholarship - Andrew
- Herd Builder – Skip & Zack
- Membership
- Directory
- Conference
- Financial/recruitment/fundraising

**Brenda's additional information.** Sales Tax paid. Income taxes completed. Clothes issue – Brenda has more information on another business to work with.

**Carlos question.** Has a processor approach him for support. Wants NYBPA to show letter of support. Zack encouraged Carlos to have them reach out to Zack to have a discussion. Brendan encouraged that person to be a member of NYBPA to start with.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday Sep 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 7pm via Zoom**

**Adjourn.** *Motion to adjourn by Brendan. Seconded by Kate. All in favor, motion carried.*  
Meeting adjourned at 12:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: *Betsy Hicks, NYBPA Secretary*