May 27, 2022

Lost Meadows Mule Refuge Spring 2022 Trustee Meeting via Zoom at 5pm Central Time

Roll call was made as follows: Matti Koester, Executive Director; Mark Meyers, Chairman of the Board; Amy Meyers, Treasurer; Lori Larkin, Secretary; Amy Koester, Trustee; Andy Rubacky, Trustee and Abby Nelson, Trustee

Amy made the motion to skip the reading of the last meeting minutes, motion was seconded. No one opposed; there was no discussion and the motion was carried.

LMMR is an independent 501(c)(3) as of 2/2/22.

2022 so far:
Total population - 138
Sanctuary - 55
At training sites - 22
Intakes - 4
Adoptions - 4
Deaths - 5
Goal EOY - 120

Plan for 2022:
Move pink-skinned mules to PVDR-East to improve our husbandry and care practices; this has been accomplished.
Establish a network of trainers in Texas to decrease our numbers and increase adoption; this has been accomplished.
Host the first Mule Training Challenge to decrease our number, increase adoptions and improve network; this has been accomplished.
Upgrade facility shelters to 3-sided (and keep them portable) to improve our husbandry and care practices.
Purchase a dump trailer (this has been purchased) and bigger tractor by EOY to improve our husbandry and care practices and decrease our reliance on PVDR’s assets.
Secure a new property within 30 minutes of Lubbock, TX to decrease our reliance on PVDR’s assets.

It was reported that there are currently 22 mules at trainer locations in Texas.

Matti reported that LMMR had 2 different welders to build the 3-sided portable shaders. Both welders quit showing up to work. Instead of contending with unreliable people with extreme weather approaching, Matti ordered 2 premade 12x20 portable shelters. The shelters provide more adequate coverage from extreme temperatures, wind and rain and will be easily moved between properties. She would like to purchase 2 more later in the year for special needs. Matti made the motion to purchase 2 more, this would make a total of 4. This could be delivered in 2 weeks. Amy seconded the motion, no one opposed and the motion was carried.
Matti reported that LMMR currently has a 1025R John Deere. This tractor is good for cleaning, but it is unable to move round bales or heavy materials. She reported that $9,000 is owed on the 1025R with 0% financing, with a trade-in value of $14,000. Matti reported that she would prefer to keep the smaller tractor and purchase a bigger tractor, also with 0% financing. She reported that LMMR will also need to purchase a portable shelter for the bigger tractor. Matti made the motion to finance this through PVDR and have it auto-draft through LMMR. Mark seconded the motion to keep both. Abby did ask to get pricing on a Bobcat. Mark informed her that we have a John Deere close to us and also one in Lubbock. He stated that the tractor has a bigger reach than a skid steer and the tractor was the best bet from a skid steer. Also, Matti said it was important to get an automatic tractor instead of a manual to simplify new employee training. Everyone was in favor and no one was opposed. The motion carried.

Plan for 2022:

Matti completes the Non-Profit Management Certification from the University of Texas in Austin to increase Matti’s self-reliance and experience for LMMR.
Purchase a tilt chute for trimming hooves to improve assets and efficiency.
Purchase or get a small tractor donated to improve assets and efficiency; this has been accomplished. A trailer has been donated and LMMR provided a $6,000 tax receipt for the trailer and $500 donation was made for new tires.
Get 100% of the mules sponsored by EOY to increase LMMR’s income to improve LMMR for the mules. 79% of the mules are already sponsored.
Create a better acknowledgment and rewards system for high-dollar donors and recurring donors to increase LMMR’s income to improve LMMR for the mules.

There was no further discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.

Recorded and submitted by Lori Larkin
LMMR-Secretary