Message From the New BOD President

Dear IYAK Members and Yak owners:

As the new president of the Board of Directors of IYAK, I would like to share with you how I hope to carry out the work of IYAK over the next year.

First: As many of you are aware, the new DNA test, which will give parentage, percent of cattle introgression, a relative measurement of inbreeding and other data which can be useful in breeding programs and marketing, is in the final stages of being tested. Quite soon we will be sending you the new protocol to collect DNA on animals you want to register.

Second: Once the test is up and running and we are able to accurately determine the level of cattle introgression in a yak, we will be moving toward opening registration to previously unregistered yaks. This is the most important decision IYAK will make, as it will determine which previously unregistered and which future yaks may be registered. My goal in this process is to keep everyone up-to-date as to where "we" are in the decision-making process and maximizing your input. This is a decision in which we must all have ownership.

Third: With respect to monthly board meetings, I will try to have a detailed agenda available for your review at least a week before the
meeting. If you have suggestions related to the items on the agenda, you can email me at president@iyak.org or call me at 606-776-0022. We need your input.

Fourth: Over the next month I am going to attempt to put together a strategic plan for the Board. This will be initiated by soliciting from Board Members what areas/issues we need to work on. However, I really would like to know what you think are the critical issues which need to be worked on by the Board. If you would please send me what you think are the critical issues the Board needs to address, I will compile a master list and bring it to the Board to help establish the year's work agenda. Please send the issues you believe the Board should work on to me at president@iyak.org. My guess is that the list may be longer than what can be done in one year. I will make sure it is passed on to next year's Board of Directors.

Fifth: You have my phone number and can reach me by email. If you have a concern please give me a call. As a community, the Yak owner community is not that large. We need each other's insights and help in things from animal health to best marketing practices, from helping each other market animals to ideas on fiber processing. Working together we will build a sounder future for all.

The next IYAK Board meeting will be on February 19th, with the entire meeting dedicated to the 2018 International Yak Show at the NWSS. A key part of this meeting will focus on setting up the Show Committee and developing a laundry list of to-do's to for the show. If you are interested in helping with the show in any way, by way of offering ideas, serving on show-related committees, or being the hands and feet that make it all work, then please contact me at president@iyak.org or by phone at 606-776-0022 (EST). I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes to you all,
Gregor Dike