

United Suffolk Sheep Association
August Board of Directors Call
August 15, 2022

Attendance: President Jeremy Geske, Vice President Randy Hodges, Treasurer Carol Heupel, Secretary Amanda Everts and the following Directors: Greg Ahart, Matt Wolf, Jim Van Dyke, Randy Dombek, Dennis Sorensen, Brenda Reau and Bill Zwyers. Others in attendance: UJSSA Coordinator Nancy Burton. Not in attendance: Cynthia Huckins and Tom Burke.

President Geske called the meeting to order at 7:35pm.

Additions/Approval of the Agenda

Dennis Sorensen made motion to accept the agenda as presented. Motion was seconded by Randy Hodges. All in favor, motion carried.

Approval of June and July Meeting Minutes

Carol Heupel moved to approve the June and July meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Randy Hodges, all were in favor, motion passed.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Everts reported that registry work submission is slowing down. The association website has been updated to include more information about Digital Suffolk as well as instruction tutorials. Since the last meeting she traveled to the American Lamb Summit. Matt Wolf made motion to accept the Secretary's report. The motion was seconded by Dennis Sorensen. All were in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Carol Heupel reported the investment account balance was \$270,767, a \$20,000 increase from last month. The investment cash balance is \$3,796. The next program payment would be paid out of cash on hand, not withdrawn from the investment account. There are no current plans to make any withdrawals from the investment account. Bill Zwyers moved to accept the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Matt Wolf. All in favor, motion carried.

Junior Report

Nancy Burton reported the 2022-2023 junior board has been finalized – there are three returning interns and one returning director. The officer team is comprised of Wesley Linke, President; Creed Harker, Vice President and Savannah Bailey, Secretary/Treasurer. Junior board committees will be finalized at a future meeting. The current UJSSA contest is t-shirt logo design, the winning design will be included on the NAILE t-shirts.

Ambassador Report

No report.

Foundation Report

Brenda Reau reported that Ashley Larson, the Foundation grant recipient, attended the American Lamb Summit in the beginning of August. The Foundation board formally adopted oversight of the Hall of Fame recognition event (from the USSA); a fundraiser will be included with this event. Beginning the next fiscal year, the Foundation will contribute \$2400 to the USSA for Amanda's salary, paid in two installments. Brenda mentioned the passing of Al Harwood, the family has designated memorial money be directed to the Foundation.

Committee Reports

By-Laws

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the USSA bylaws and eligibility to vote, specifically the current requirement to own and register Suffolk sheep. Brenda Reau moved the membership vote on the proposed bylaw change in Article III. Membership, Section 1. Membership Eligibility – removal of the "(3) currently own Suffolk sheep and (4) have registered a sheep in the United Suffolk Sheep Association within the past 12 months. The motion was seconded by Dennis Sorensen. A roll call vote was taken; yes – Wolf, Ahart, Heupel, Dombek, Sorensen, Zwyers and Reau; no – Hodges; abstain – Van Dyke. Motion passed.

Youth Promotion

No report.

Budget

Carol Heupel discussed the proposed 2022/2023 budget that was provided to the board. The budget projects net income at (\$25,300), an expected loss with the transition to the new registry program. Budget recommendations included no staff travel to the Midwest Stud Ram Sale and removed expense for the CPA firm to create year end financial statements for the board.

There was discussion clarifying the \$2400 payment from the Foundation to the Association as it was assumed that the \$2400 would be in addition to Amanda's current salary. Brenda Reau made a motion that the \$2400 from the Foundation would be earmarked for an annual raise in the coming budget year. Dennis Sorensen seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion carried.

Randy Hodges moved to approve the budget as shown with the addition of \$2400 in revenue from the Foundation and \$2400 in expenses for payroll. Jim Van Dyke seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion passed.

The committee presented new directory advertising pricing and advertising packages; the board was in favor.

There was discussion of a new introductory membership – a membership that current members could purchase for their buyer(s) at a discounted price of \$20. With an introductory membership the new member will receive a "new member package" from the USSA containing a directory, lambing book and other Suffolk promotional items. There was a brief discussion surrounding how many sheep needed to be purchased for eligibility of the introductory membership. Bill Zwyers made a motion to offer an introductory membership for \$20 that a current Suffolk member can purchase for their buyers who have purchased and transferred one or more registered Suffolks. The motion was seconded by Brenda Reau. All were in favor, motion carried.

Hall of Fame

There was a brief discussion on the Hall of Fame dinner cost and venue. The Foundation will be responsible for the event and to finalize the details.

Breed Improvement

Brenda Reau reported the committee will meet the next week. The committee will discuss creating a handout on structural correctness. The committee has found someone to make the illustrations.

Online Sales

Randy Dombek reported there will be a fall bred ewe sale in October.

Strategic Planning

Greg Ahart discussed the for strategic planning proposals, three of which were using an external facilitator and the fourth option was to have a face-to-face meeting without a facilitator the fall of 2022, a strategic planning session would follow in the spring or fall of 2023. A discussion followed. Brenda Reau made a motion to have a face to face meeting the fall of 2022 in place of the NAILE meetings. The motion was seconded by Greg Ahart. All were in favor, motion passed. Amanda Everts will communicate with the group on possible locations.

Education

Bill Zwyers reported that the committee had not met but was looking for feedback from state fairs regarding the breed character concerns.

Digital Beef/New Registration Program

Amanda Everts reported that program tutorial information has been posted on the USSA website; video tutorials will be recorded this fall. Information will be posted that the program is live for members to use.

Old Business

Fall Publication

Matt Wolf reported that after researching the options surrounding a fall publication, there will not be enough advertising to breakeven on an additional publication.

New Business

Director Elections

Amanda Everts reported that Lloyd McCabe (unopposed) of California will automatically fill the district 1 vacancy. John Scott (unopposed) of Minnesota will automatically fill the district 3 vacancy. There will be an election in district 4; candidates are Tom Begg (Ohio) and Mac Swortzel (Virginia).

There is a vacancy in district 2 as there was no candidate meeting the eligibility requirements. The board agreed to use the same procedure in the past – members in the district will be notified of the vacancy and interested members will have the opportunity to submit their name and a biography to the board by October 1. The board will select from the qualified submissions. The individual will serve a one-year term. The seat will go up for re-election fall of 2023 to fill the seat for the remainder of the term (two years).

There was discussion on who would be tabulating the ballots. Randy Hodges moved that the ballots be sent to the USSA office for tabulation and Wayne Skartvedt will be asked to help tabulate the ballots. Jim Van Dyke seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion carried.

There was discussion on when to have the annual meeting. The group agreed to a virtual meeting on Tuesday, November 29 via zoom.

Randy Hodges moved to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Matt Wolf. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

Minutes approved 9.15.22.