

United Suffolk Sheep Association
May Board of Directors Call
May 9, 2022

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

President Geske called the meeting to order.

Additions/Approval of the Agenda

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

Secretary's Report

Secretary Everts reported that the office has been busy with registry work, implementation of the new registry program and organization of the USSA's online sales. Bill Zwyers 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 \$261,160 with \$3,331 in cash. Carol shared an email with the board from the investment advisor that discussed the state of the market and the association's investment. Randy Hodges moved to accept the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Matt Wolf. All in favor, motion carried.

Junior Report

Nancy Burton reported that the All-American Junior Show Semen Fundraiser is May 16 and the juniors are still trying to source one or two more lots of semen for the sale. Nancy reported that she spoke with Deb Hopkins (AAJS) and got clarification on what the AAJS would like to see from the Suffolks; involvement with the breed show (ring help, check-in, etc.). The junior photo contest submission deadline is the end of the month. The juniors hosted a webinar in May on Show Lamb Nutrition (Purina Nutritionist Dr. Kevin Burgoon presented) and had a good turnout. Creed Harker reported on sponsorship calls and semen donations for the AAJS online fundraiser auction.

Wesley Linke discussed a phone conversation he had with a member when calling for sponsorships. The member was upset that the board had not acted on the Suffolk breed character issue seen at many shows throughout the country. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the challenges of implementing a sift at shows throughout the country for breed character. Jeremy Geske shared with the board that letters were sent to all the major southern shows (except Fort Worth) discussing the board's concern about the breed character issue and had the current Suffolk breed standard included. Amanda sent the letter to sheep superintendents of each show or show executives who said they would share with the correct individual(s). Bill Zwyers said he would talk with the member and ask for possible solutions to the issue.

Ambassador Report

No report.

Foundation Report

Brenda Reau reported that the Suffolk Foundation semen auction (fundraiser) was very successful bringing in nearly \$14,500; a sale report will be posted. The Young Producers Travel Scholarship application is posted on the website, the application deadline is June 1.

Committee Reports

By-Laws

Dennis Sorensen reported that the committee discussed the potential changes for voting rights and eligibility to run for a director seat. The committee was opposed to making changes to these requirements. Bill Zwyers discussed the potential changes and wanted to gauge the board's support. Bill Zwyers made a motion to poll each director on how they support the removal of the ownership and registration requirement to be eligible to vote. Tom Burke seconded the motion. A lengthy discussion followed. A roll call vote was taken; yes – Ahart, Burke, Sorensen, Zwyers, Reau; no – Huckins, Wolf, Dombek, Hodges; abstain: Heupel.

Tom Burke made a motion to table the topic until the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Cynthia Huckins. A roll call vote was taken; Yes – Ahart, Wolf, Huckins, Heupel, Burke, Dombek, Hodges, Reau and Zwyers, Motion carried.

Youth Promotion

No report.

Budget

Carol Heupel reported work will begin on the budget soon.

Hall of Fame

No report.

Breed Improvement

Brenda Reau reported the committee will be meeting next Thursday.

Online Sales

Randy Dombek reported the last spring/summer online sale will be on June 6th.

Strategic Planning

Greg Ahart reported that he and Jeremy Geske received a proposal from Steve Olsen with different options on facilitating strategic planning for the board. Options included meeting virtually or in-person for two days, conducting director interviews prior to the meeting and organizing several follow-ups after the meeting. The cost would be \$10,000-\$15,000 (travel expense additional) depending on which option the board would select. A lengthy discussion followed. Randy Hodges made a motion that the committee provide 3 proposals by the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Greg Ahart. A roll call vote was taken; yes- Ahart, Wolf, Heupel, Dombek, Sorensen, Reau, Hodges and Zwyers; no – Huckins and Burke. Motion carried.

Education

No report.

Directory

No report. This committee will no longer report during future meetings.

Digital Beef/New Registration Program

Amanda Everts reported the office is now live with the registry program but still working through some bugs. Registry work is being processed in the new and the old program to ensure the new program is catching errors in submitted registry work. Amanda hopes to slowly transition to members using the program over the summer. However, due to workload, program tutorials, webinars and guidance documents on how to use the program will not be ready until late summer early fall.

Old Business

None

New Business

Darrell Anderson, Saddle & Sirloin Inductee

Tom Burke reported that Darrell Anderson is the 2022 Saddle & Sirloin Inductee. Darrell was a past Suffolk breeder and National Suffolk Sheep Association President. Darrell's fundraising committee reached out to Tom and asked for a donation from the Suffolk Association. There was a brief discussion. Brenda Reau made a motion that the budget committee report back at the next meeting with a donation recommendation. The motion was seconded by Tom Burke. All were in favor, motion carried.

Hall of Fame Dinner

Brenda Reau reported that the Suffolk Foundation would like to take on the responsibility of the Hall of Fame dinner and transition the event to a Foundation Fundraiser. The fundraiser would continue to include the Suffolk Hall of Fame recognition. Randy Hodges made a motion to allow the Foundation to take responsibility for the event as a fundraiser. The motion was seconded by Randy Dombek. All were in favor, motion carried.

Randy Hodges moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15pm. The motion was seconded by Bill Zwyers, meeting was adjourned.

Minutes approved 5.18.22.