

United Suffolk Sheep Association  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 11, 2023  
Meeting Minutes

Roll Call: President Greg Ahart, Vice President Brenda Reau, Treasurer Carol Heupel, Secretary Amanda Everts, Lloyd McCabe, Bill Fulton, Diane Russell, Jeremy Geske, Dennis Sorensen, Joe Emenheiser and Bill Zywers. Directors not present: Jim Van Dyke. Other present: Nancy Burton (UJSSA Coordinator), Creed Harker (UJSSA Director), and Barb Stewart (Iowa Suffolk Association President).

The meeting was called to order by President Ahart at 7:33 pm.

#### Approval of Meeting Agenda

President Ahart called for any additions or corrections to the agenda. Amanda Everts asked to move the NSIC grant to the end of the meeting so that Jeremy Geske and Brenda Reau could be excused. Joe Emenheiser made a motion to accept the agenda as modified. The motion was seconded by Jeremy Geske. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

#### Secretary's Report

Secretary Everts reported that ongoing office work in addition to processing registry work included website updates, the fall newsletter, work on year-end financials, and foundation projects. Dennis Sorensen made a motion to approve the Secretary's report, the motion was seconded by Bill Zywers. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

#### Treasurer' Report

Treasurer Carol Heupel reported that the investment account balance is \$242,465, a similar balance as June of 2022. There will be a possible withdrawal in the future. Jeremy Geske made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, the motion was seconded by Diane Russell. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

#### Junior Report

Junior Coordinator Nancy Burton reported that the junior board has not met since the junior show but will be having their first meeting soon. Director elections and NAILE prep will be discussed in their upcoming meeting. The promotional video contest is open until September 30. There are five new interns on the board.

#### Foundation Report

Brenda Reau reported the Foundation board is reviewing options for a social at NAILE.

#### Committee Reports

##### Budget

Carol Heupel noted there was a little feedback on the fee changes and asked directors if they had any feedback, there was none.

##### Breed Improvement

Lloyd McCabe reported the next meeting is scheduled for September 20.

##### Digital Suffolk

Diane Russell reported there was no recent committee meeting. Amanda Everts reported that the committee could review some items such as the viewing of phenotypic data. It was suggested that members could get the option of an opt-in/opt-out. The pros and cons were briefly discussed on the availability of phenotypic data – but no action was taken. Amanda Everts reported on the movement of NSIP data into Digital Suffolk, there is still active discussion on this but still in progress.

##### Strategic Planning

Jeremy Geske reported he had no updates. The Junior Committee will schedule a meeting soon.

##### Education Committee

Dennis Sorensen and Bill Zywers reported the committee recently met and the group is working to formulate ideas on the topics to be addressed and assign individuals to work on those topics.

## Event Committee

Brenda Reau briefly highlighted the evaluation event but encouraged the board to have a separate meeting to discuss and determine the plans for the coming years. Amanda Everts will email the board with a list of dates for consideration.

## Marketing and Outreach

Brenda Reau reported the committee did not meet in August but is scheduled to meet at the end of September. A subcommittee is continuing to work on the details of the mentoring program. There was a brief discussion regarding the newsletter and if it should be mailed or electronic only - it was only budgeted to be shared electronically in the coming year.

## Old Business

The only old business item was moved to the end of the agenda.

## New Business

### Registration of Cloned Animals

Amanda Everts reported that a member has contacted her that they are currently working to clone some Suffolks and would likely have lambs born in the spring of 2024. Amanda provided the group policies from the Angus and Shorthorn Associations prior to the meeting for the board to review. A committee was formed to review the procedures of other organizations and draft procedures related to cloned animals. The committee consists of Jeremy Geske, Bill Zywers, and Joe Emenheiser.

### Annual Meeting

Amanda Everts reported that the USSA Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 27<sup>th</sup> via Zoom. The same layout will be followed as in previous years with committee chairs reporting.

### NAILE Board Meeting

The board discussed a face-to-face meeting at NAILE – the group was polled on who would be attending and the best day/time to meet. Some directors suggested an extended Zoom meeting in place of the meeting at NAILE if several board members would not be in attendance, the group was in favor. Amanda Everts will send out an email with possible dates for the extended Zoom meeting.

### NSIIC Grant

Amanda Everts reported that the NSIIC grant was almost complete and will be submitted by the end of the week. The grant requests funding for the linkage of Flock 54 and Digital Suffolk as well as travel/outreach funds for industry and producer meetings.

Joe Emenheiser made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Bill Zywers. All were in favor, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 pm.

Minutes approved 9.27.23.