

United Suffolk Sheep Association

March 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Roll call: President, Dennis Sorensen, Vice President, Jack Blattner, Executive Secretary, Amanda Everts and the following directors: Lloyd McCabe, Carol Heupel, John Baglien, Kathy Krafka Harkema, John Scott, Michael Jensen, Bill Zwyers, Diane Russell, Joe Emenheiser, Isaac Swortzel, and Chris Auville. Others in attendance: Brenda Reau (United Suffolk Sheep Foundation) and Isaac Lewis (Junior Coordinator).

President Sorensen called the meeting to order at 7:32pm central.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

President Sorensen called for any additions or corrections to the agenda, there were none. Kathy Krafka Harkema made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented, motion seconded by Michael Jensen. All were in favor, the motion carried.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

President Sorensen called for any additions or corrections to the February 2025 meeting minutes, there were none. Kathy Krafka Harkema made a motion to accept the meeting minutes as presented, the motion was seconded by Lloyd McCabe. All were in favor, the motion carried.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Everts reported on registry work and current projects including the Suffolk Source, membership renewals and Foundation projects. Diane Russell made a motion to accept the Secretary's report, the motion was seconded by Kathy Krafka Harkema. All were in favor, the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Carol Heupel reported the current investment account balance is \$243,815. The semi-annual meeting is scheduled for next week with the investment advisor. Diane Russell moved to accept the Treasurer's report, and the motion was seconded by Kathy Krafka Harkema. All were in favor and the motion carried.

United Junior Suffolk Sheep Association Report

Junior Coordinator, Isaac Lewis, reported on fundraising and upcoming virtual contests.

United Suffolk Sheep Foundation Report

Foundation President, Brenda Reau, shared that Andrew Berg and Michael Hoover have joined the Foundation Board, Christy Zelinsky has joined as an outside representative and Ken McMillan has stepped down as a director. There were nearly 90 applications submitted for the ewe grant program; 25 recipients were selected to receive grants. Any applicant who did not receive a grant will receive complimentary UJSSA membership paid by the Foundation. There were approximately 50 scholarship applications submitted. After reviewing applications of the various Foundation programs, the Foundation board plans to host a webinar in the future for youth that will discuss application tips.

The Foundation has been recipient of an annual \$25,000 donation – The Richard and Hazel Barth Memorial Fund – intended to support youth and young breeders.

Brenda also reported on a new program being developed by the Foundation – Suffolk LEADS. The program will recognize young Suffolk breeders from coast to coast who excel in all facets of the Suffolk breed, sheep industry, community service and scholastic achievement. Those individuals will have the opportunity to attend the Suffolk LEADS leadership experience, multi-day leadership training and sheep industry submersion experience.

The Foundation board will award 10 - \$750 Young Producer Suffolk Event Travel Grants. At the next board meeting, the Foundation board will discuss sale support opportunities for youth at the Suffolk Event.

Committee Reports

Budget/Business Development

No report.

Breed Improvement/Education

Chair, Bill Zwyers, shared the ewe and ram rendering with the board, a lengthy discussion followed. The edits to the renderings were summarized and Bill will share feedback with the artist.

Junior

Chair, Chris Auville, reported that the committee will begin to review the futurity program as well as what similar programs other breeds/species offer.

Event

Chair, Diane Russell, reported on plans for the 2025 Suffolk Event in Springfield, Illinois. She also discussed the need for additional sponsorship.

Marketing & Outreach

Chair, Kathy Krafka Harkema shared a summary of committee activities and suggestions with the board in advance of the meeting. She discussed the Member Monday social media campaign that the committee recently rolled out.

Old Business

Suffolk Source - Amanda Everts discussed the Suffolk Source project.

New Business

Spring Online Sales – Amanda Everts shared the dates of the upcoming USSA sponsored online sales.

Joe Emenheiser made a motion to move into executive session with Amanda Everts and Carol Heupel present. The motion was seconded by Bill Zwyers. All were in favor, the motion carried.

John Scott made a motion to leave executive session. The motion was seconded by John Baglien. All were in favor, the motion carried.

Joe Emenheiser moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by John Baglien. All were in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm central.

Minutes approved 4.14.25.