

United Suffolk Sheep Association

August 11, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Roll call: President, Dennis Sorensen, Vice President, Jack Blattner, Treasurer, Carol Heupel and the following directors: Lloyd McCabe, John Baglien, Kathy Krafska Harkema, Michael Jensen, Bill Zwyers, Diane Russell, John Scott, Chris Auville, and Isaac Swortzel. Others in attendance: Brenda Reau (Foundation). Absent: Amanda Everts.

President Sorensen called the meeting to order at 7:34pm central.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

President Sorensen called for any additions or corrections to the agenda. Michael Jensen asked to add acceptance of Joe Emenheiser's director resignation and 2026 Suffolk Event discussion will move from new business to the committee report. Lloyd McCabe moved to adopt the updated agenda, the motion seconded by Kathy Krafska Harkema. All were in favor, the motion carried.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

President Sorensen called for any additions or corrections to the July 2025 meeting minutes, there were none. Kathy Krafska Harkema made a motion to accept the meeting minutes as presented; the motion was seconded by Diane Russell. All were in favor, the motion carried.

Secretary's Report

No report.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Carol Heupel reported the current investment account balance is \$254,553 after a recent \$10,000 withdrawal. Kathy Krafska Harkema moved to accept the Treasurer's report, and the motion was seconded by Chris Auville. All were in favor and the motion carried.

United Junior Suffolk Sheep Association Report

No report.

United Suffolk Sheep Foundation Report

Foundation President, Brenda Reau reported that committees will be meeting soon and the next board meeting will be August 19. Brenda requested a summary of the Suffolk Event and the projected USSA budget for review by the Foundation to discuss shared administrative expenses (contribution). Derek Miller from West Virginia was the Foundation's Lamb Summit travel grant winner, \$1000 of his expenses were paid by the foundation.

Committee Reports

Budget

Chair, Carol Heupel, reported that work has begun on the budget, a committee meeting is scheduled for August 19. There has been discussion on the juniors contributing some funds to assist in shared costs. Carol discussed the Suffolk Event finances and visionary goals.

Breed Improvement/Education

Chair, Bill Zwyers, reported that the breed improvement committee has met twice since the last board

meeting. The committee continues to discuss concerns presented by members regarding off-type animals and how to work through possible remedies. The committee agreed to the proposed document that was shared with the board earlier in the day as part of the Committee report, a draft document that the committee had put together and was sent out by John Baglien just prior to the meeting on behalf of the committee was reviewed (this was different than the document previously shared by Bill Zwyers) in advance of the July meeting. The vision is to add photos to this document in the future. John Baglien added that document doesn't change the breed standard but positively addresses the issue and is incremental and continues to improve the breed – not a mandate.

Bill Zwyers moved to approve and adopt the document, post the document on the website, distribute immediately and include in the judge contract for 2026. The motion was seconded by Isaac Swortzel. A lengthy discussion followed. Bill Zwyers withdrew the motion to be discussed at the next meeting. John Baglien stated the document was a draft and the committee was open to feedback.

Junior

No report.

Event

Chair, Diane Russell, reported on the 2025 Suffolk Event evaluation, there was very positive feedback especially related to youth programming. There was discussion regarding the finances of event and grant funding possibilities. For 2026 she shared that there are three options: stay in Springfield, Boone County, Indiana or no Suffolk Event. There was a lengthy discussion on programming, sal and finances at the Boone County Fairgrounds. A deposit of \$500 is required to hold the facility. Diane Russell made a motion to make a \$500 deposit for the Boone County Fairgrounds. The motion as amended by Chris Auville to make the deposit and hold the 2026 Suffolk Event at the Boone County Fairgrounds. The motion was seconded by John Scott. All were in favor, the motion carried. There was discussion on the need to continue to investigate other options for 3 or 4 years in the future.

Marketing & Outreach

Chair, Kathy Krafka Harkema reported on social media presence.

Old Business

Event/Type Conference – Bill Zwyers suggested that we keep that option in mind for the future.

New Business

Emenheiser Resignation – Michael Jensen made a motion to accept Joe Emenheiser's resignation from the board of directors dated July 21, 2025. The motion was seconded by John Baglien. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Director Elections – Dennis Sorensen reported on the upcoming director election. In the west district there are two candidates (C. Heupel and J. Scott) running for 2 seats and in the east district there are four candidates (C. Auville, J. Harris, R. Hodges and V. Morris) running for 2 seats.

East District Vacancy – Dennis Sorensen discussed the process to fill the East District director vacancy. The regular election will be completed as normal, and the vacancy announcement will be shared with the

membership. Any member who is interested in being considered by the board vacancy should submit their name.

Member Concerns – Dennis Sorensen discussed the response the letters and there was a lengthy discussion. Michael Jensen made a motion that Dennis Sorenson will follow up with the member by phone. The motion was seconded by Lloyd McCabe. All were in favor, the motion carried.

2026 Scotland Trip – Amanda Everts is working to investigate if there is enough interest to have a Scotland trip again in 2026.

Suffolk Advantage Program – Jack Blattner discussed the brochure that was shared with the board and asked directors to review. The marketing and outreach committee will discuss it further.

Bill Zwyers motioned to move into executive session. The motion was seconded by Isaac Swortzel. All were in favor, the motion carried.

Bill Zwyers moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Lloyd McCabe. All were in favor; the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes approved 9/8/25.