

**United Suffolk Sheep Association
January USSA Board Conference Call
January 10, 2018**

Board Member Present: President, Matt Beals, Treasurer, Bill Royer, Secretary, Amanda Everts and the following directors: Ron Alves, Gayle Lucas, Blair Summey, Tom Burke, Bill Gergen, Jeremy Geske, Bret Henderson, Randy Hodges and Joe Emenheiser. Absent: Paul Skartvedt.

President Beals called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

Additions/Approval of the Agenda

Joe Emenheiser moved to accept the meeting agenda as written. The motion was seconded by Randy Hodges. All were in favor, motion carried.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Ron Alves made motion to approve the following meeting minutes – November 2016/2017 board meeting. The motion was seconded by Jeremy Geske. All were in favor, the motion carried.

Secretary Everts reported that the November 2017/2018 board meeting and annual meeting minutes will be emailed out later in the week for approval.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Everts reported that registrations and transfers are up compared to last fiscal year to date. Amanda continues to train Jenna on registry work and billing. The annual dues reminder letter will be mailed out the end of January. Bill Royer made motion to accept the Secretary's report. The motion was seconded by Jeremy Geske. All were in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Royer reported the current balance sheet shows \$284,946 in equity compared to \$254,446 a year ago at this time. The investment fund balance was \$237,072. He also reported that 990 long form has been completed for the association's last fiscal year and is available for board members to review. Directors interested in reviewing the 990 should contact Amanda or Bill Royer within the next 10 days, after that time the accounting firm will be given the go-ahead to submit the return. Bill Gergen made motion to accept the Treasurer's report, the motion was seconded by Jeremy Geske. All were in favor, motion carried.

UJSSA Report

Amanda Everts reported that the juniors continue to plan for the 2018 junior show to be held at the Boone County Fairgrounds in Lebanon, Indiana. The 2019 show will be at the Kansas State Fairgrounds with the All-American; communication has been made with the Kansas State Fairgrounds for a contract to be drawn.

Committee Reports

By-Laws - Chairman, Randy Hodges reported that the proposed language for Section 6: Vacancies that were sent to the membership for approval did not have any changes from what was previously included in the bylaws. The committee will review that section to determine if a change was supposed to be made. The board was asked to review the section as well.

Youth Promotion – Amanda Everts reported that futurity results are posted and checks have been sent to participants. Ewe lamb giveaway winners have been contacted and provided a list of breeders they can choose their ewe lamb to come from.

Marketing/Promotion – Chairman, Bret Henderson reported that the committee has spent a lot of time on the logo and believe it is ready for the board to review and vote on. An ad/sponsorship will be sent to ASI for their upcoming convention.

Budget – Chairman, Bill Royer, reported that income is up about \$3000 and expenses are up \$500 compared to the last fiscal year to-date. At this point, the association is well aligned with its budget.

Scholarship – Chairman, Ron Alves, reported that he had reviewed the scholarship applications and asked the board to consider the following changes:

USSA Scholarship:

Offer one scholarship.

Add that the applicant must own a registered Suffolk sheep.

Applications must be typed, not handwritten.

Previous recipients are ineligible for future USSA Scholarships but are eligible to apply for the Let's Grow Scholarship.

Let's Grow Scholarship:

Application must be typed, not handwritten.

Jeremy Geske moved that the BOD accept Ron's recommendations. The motion was seconded by Bill Royer. All were in favor, motion carried.

Hospitality – Ron Alves reported that the hospitality event at Reno is to be determined. Randy Hodges reported he will contact Tom Begg and donuts and juice or coffee will likely be provided at Ohio. Midwest Sale hospitality is to be determined as well – it's possible it will be a light breakfast before the sale on Friday.

Ambassador – Chairman, Tom Burke that he's concerned with the poor participation in the Ambassador program and the committee recommends that the Suffolk Ambassador position become a Suffolk Queen. Bill Gergen made Tom's recommendations a motion, the motion was seconded by Randy Hodges. After discussion Gergen and Hodges withdrew their motion. Ron Alves made motion that the Ambassador committee explore the possibility that Ambassador becomes the National Suffolk Spokesperson. The motion was seconded by Joe Emenheiser. Bill Royer commented that he sees no change in the position by changing it from the Ambassador to a National Suffolk Spokesperson and does not solve the problem. Jeremy Geske moved that motion be amended to state that the Ambassador position will become a Suffolk Queen or King position. Ron accepted the amendment. The motion was seconded Bret Henderson. Roll Call vote: Yes- Alves, Lucas, Geske, Henderson and Emenheiser; No – Summey, Gergen, Burke, Royer, Hodges, and Beals. Motion failed.

Blair Summey made motion that the Ambassador position changes to a Suffolk Queen contest. The motion was seconded by Jeremy Geske. Roll call vote: Yes - Summey, Lucas, Burke, Gergen, Royer, Geske, Hodges, Henderson; No – Alves and Emenheiser. Motion carried. Tom and the committee will put together an application.

Hall of Fame – Chairman, Tom Burke reported that the committee will be Wayne Skartvedt, Chuck Ream, Donna Mays, Randy Hodges and he was waiting to hear back from Steve George. The committee have their recommendations for the 2018 USSA Hall of Fame by the June board meeting.

Breed Improvement – Chairman, Blair Summey, reported that he emailed out some thoughts to the committee to begin brainstorming ideas. There was a brief discussion on possible requirements for rams which are consigned to the National Suffolk Sale – no action was taken. There will be a committee before the next USSA BOD meeting.

Online Sales- Chairman, Jeremy Geske, reported that the USSA Online Sales will be held on April 26 and May 22 through wlivestock. The committee will work on some entry changes and create a document with information to help improve the quality of entries and potentially garner better prices for those sheep consigned. The document will focus on tips for taking good photos. Amanda reported that there will be no June sale. There was a brief discussion about having online sales and the dates of the sales. Bill Gergen made a motion that the USSA should not have online sales. There was no second to the motion.

Strategic Planning Updates

Breed Improvement – Randy Hodges reported that the USSA should coordinate a webinar for those who responded to the survey that they wanted to learn more about NSIP. The webinar will cover the basics of NSIP and a question and answer session. It will be open to breeders and those who identified on the survey that they are interested will be contacted directly. The webinar will most likely be in February. Rusty Burgett has been asked to cover the basics of NSIP and Brenda Reau, NSIP Suffolk Breed Representative, will be available as well. Directors are encouraged to join and learn about NSIP.

Maintain a Financial Viable Association – Bill Royer reported that he has had discussions with Matt and Amanda regarding the association's registration program and the future of the association. He would like to continue to look into this topic. He asked if there are any board members that would like to work with him and Amanda on how we move forward with our registry program. He plans to have a recommendation for the board at the June board meeting.

Youth Development – No report.

Communication Plan – No update. Amanda suggested we put an update together to share with the membership this spring.

Old Business

Logo – The board reviewed 6 logo options. Bret Henderson made a motion that the board moves forward with Option 2, “Suffolk” in red. Jeremy Geske seconded the motion. Roll call vote: yes – Burke, Royer, Geske, Henderson, Summey, Alves, Lucas, Hodges, Emenheiser; no – Gergen. Motion passed, new logo adopted.

Drafted Criteria for National Suffolk Sale – There was a brief discussion on suggestions Kip Kuntz drafted for board consideration on requirements for the National Suffolk Sale. Jeremy Geske will continue to work on these requirements and report back to the board. Ron Alves reported that he be creating a catalog for the Suffolk portion of the Reno sale – the catalog should be completed by the middle of May.

2018 NAILE Open Show – Amanda Everts confirmed with the board that they wanted 2018 NAILE Open Suffolk Show to have the same set-up as 2017 but with only one judge.

New Business

2018 USSA Breeders Directory – The 2018 will be available electronically. There was a brief discussion about what should be included in the directory. Tom Burke made a motion that the association allows members to list what they have for sale. Ron Alves seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken, all were in favor. Motion passed. Amanda will add an area in the membership renewals return slip (included on the membership dues reminder letter). Amanda will contact Greg Deakin to determine the maximum number of words members can include to describe what they have for sale with their directory listing.

Survey – Bill Royer asked for the results of the survey that was sent out last spring. The results will be emailed to the directors.

ASI Convention – There as a discussion regarding Amanda attending ASI convention. Amanda reported it would cost her about \$2000 to attend. Ron Alves made a motion that Amanda attend the convention. The motion was seconded by Joe Emenheiser. Roll call vote: Yes – Summey, Alves, Lucas, Burke, Royer, Geske, Henderson, Hodges, Emenheiser; No – Gergen. Motion passed.

Topics listed on the agenda but tabled until the next meeting due to time: Nugget All American Show & Sale, Hall of Fame Criteria, Suffolk Judges Conference and Branded Suffolk Product/Program.

Randy Hodges made motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ron Alves. The meeting was adjourned at 8:58pm

Minutes approved 3.6.18.