

**United Suffolk Sheep Association
January Board of Directors Conference Call
January 13, 2020**

Board Member Present: President Jeremy Geske, Vice President Randy Hodges, Treasurer Tom Burke, Secretary, Amanda Everts and the following directors: Blair Summey, Greg Ahart, Cynthia Huckins, Jim Van Dyke, Carol Heupel, Randy Dombek, Brenda Reau, Bret Henderson and Junior Coordinator, Nancy Burton.
Absent: Gary Hoskins

Approval of the Agenda

Add Iowa State Fair as a regional meeting to the agenda under new business. Randy Hodges moved to adopt the amended agenda. The motion was seconded by Brenda Reau. The motion carried.

Matt Beals shared a few comments with the board.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Randy Dombek made motion to approve the November meeting minutes of the 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 board of directors. The motion was seconded by Randy Hodges. The motion carried.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Everts reported the association checking account balance is \$2,347.50 there are undeposited funds of \$2400. Registry work submission has increased and there's not concern at this time with cash flow as memberships and directory ad payments will come in shortly. The financial reports that were shared with the board do not account for the account write-offs approved last year. Those entries were finalized this week. A new balance sheet will be sent out to the directors that reflects those write-offs. Randy Hodges moved to approve the Secretary's report. The motion was seconded by Jim Van Dyke. All in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Tom Burke reported investment balance is about \$251,640, up \$14,000 since the last meeting seven weeks ago. There was question about the expenses for the foundation – those are one-time expenses used to establish the foundation (accounting fees, printing, legal fees, etc. for initial setup). Brenda Reau moved to approve the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Bret Henderson. All were in favor, motion carried.

Junior Report

Junior Coordinator, Nancy Burton, reported that the juniors had a meeting in December. They finalized the activity calendar, they're researching what regional junior shows are offered and working on show sponsorships. There will be a January meeting to finalize any changes for the All American Junior Show – Suffolk Show.

Committee Reports

Jeremy Geske notified that there was good interest from the membership to serve on committees. Each committee chair will receive contact information for committee members and the committee chairs can organize communication with their committee.

By-Laws – Randy Hodges reported that he has some changes he'd like to see the committee discuss such as time frame of when bylaws voting should be returned to the office. If there are other sections that directors would like to see the committee review, please contact a committee member.

Youth Promotion – Bret Henderson reported that futurity is complete and premiums have been sent to participants. Some money was used that was banked from past years to cover the new division - \$260 was used, \$700 remains banked. The committee will need to review the rules for the bred and owned division and provide more clarity on premiums.

Budget – Tom Burke reported that everything is satisfactory with the budget.

Ambassador/Queen – Tom Burke reported that the Suffolk Queen is doing an excellent job and is searching for a replacement.

Breed Improvement – Brenda Reau reported that there was a lot of interest from the membership to serve on this committee – the committee consists of 11 members. Amanda will report during the Genetic Stakeholders session at ASI Convention on the Spencer events. The first meeting will be scheduled in the next month.

Hall of Fame – Randy Hodges reported the committee will meet soon and plan to have the final names submitted to the board for approval at the May meeting.

Scholarship – Blair Summey reported that committee will be meeting in the next month or two.

Hospitality – No report – Randy Dombek will contact Blair Summey on the scope of that committee.

Online Sale – Jeremy Geske reported that we plan to offer the same sales this year – futurity ewe lamb sale, spring sale, semen sale/fundraiser and the fall bred ewe sale. Nancy Burton mentioned that the AAJS has asked for 3-5 lots of Suffolk semen to sell in their spring fundraiser (online sale).

GAP – Jim Van Dyke will have schedule a meeting with this committee in the near future.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

NAILE

Individual Slick Shorn and Fitted Show for the 2020 NAILE – Tom Burke reported that several members feel that the 2020 NAILE Open Show should have no overall champion ewe and ram. There was a lengthy discussion. Amanda Everts reported that she had contacted Catherine Riley at NAILE and each breed can only send one ram and one ewe to the supreme drive. Jeremy suggested that we explore if it is possible and discuss at the next meeting. Tom Burke will contact Mike Hancock, Chairman of the Sheep Show and ask about this.

Wiford Letter- The board discussed the letter submitted by the Wiford's. The letter suggested that the board consider changing the NAILE Open Suffolk Show schedule back to showing all slicks then all fitted sheep, rather than alternating between the divisions. A brief discussion followed and the board felt that the current setup, alternating divisions, works well.

2020 NAILE Open Show Judge – There were 59 ballots mailed to exhibitors and 25 were returned. Fitted Judge: 1st choice – Tom Willwerth, 2nd choice – Tad Thompson. Slick Shorn Judge: 1st choice – Travis Hoffman, 2nd choice – Dustin Cruit or John Jones.

Member comments regarding the voting process. A member has shared a concern regarding who places a vote for the NAILE judge. If animals exhibited are owned in partnership between two members, each member does not get to cast a vote, not allowing all owners to participate in the judge selection. A short discussion followed, no action was taken. Currently, each exhibitor gets to cast a vote for the judge in the respective division they enter.

Regional Meeting at the Iowa State Fair- Cynthia Huckins shared on behalf of some members that have contacted her that there is interest in holding a regional show/meeting/junior show at the Iowa State Fair as there is as much participation there as at NAILE. There was a brief discussion and it would be up to the local/state association to raise money and run a regional show, similar to the Western Regional in California or the Midwest Regional Junior Show in Ohio. There was mention that this would take place of the NAILE, board members were not in favor. No action was taken.

Association Financial Sustainability – Jeremy Geske discussed concerns about the long term financial sustainability of the organization. An idea was suggested to Amanda and Jeremy about creating a committee to look into this topic, possibly using a facilitator. There would be costs associated but come from the investment account. There was a lengthy discussion regarding to outsourcing registry work, reducing employee hours, and the board or a committee meeting to focus on long-term planning. Jeremy referred this topic to the budget committee to explore.

Randy Hodges made motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:32pm. Motion was seconded by Randy Dombek. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes approved 2.10.20