

United Suffolk Sheep Association  
August Board of Directors Call  
Monday, August 9, 2021

Attendance: President Jeremy Geske, Vice President Randy Hodges, Treasurer Carol Heupel, Secretary Amanda Everts and the following Directors: Greg Ahart, Cynthia Huckins, Matt Wolf, Jeff Baumann, Jim Van Dyke, Dennis Sorensen, Randy Dombek, Brenda Reau and Bill Zwyers. Others in attendance: UJSSA Director Creed Harker.

President Geske called the meeting to order.

#### **Additions/Approval of the Agenda**

Remove the first time under new business from the agenda and move item c in new business to the first item. Bill Zwyers moved to adopt the agenda as amended, motion was seconded by Randy Hodges. All were in favor, motion carried.

#### **Secretary's Report**

Secretary Everts reported that she has started to gather information for the new registration program build. She reported that projected registrations for the fiscal year will be significantly higher than last year. Other projects include website updates, drafting meeting minutes, NAILE events, election mailing and wrapping up the fiscal year end. Carol Heupel made motion to approve the Secretary's report. The motion was seconded by Brenda Reau. All were in favor, motion carried.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer, Carol Heupel reported the investment account balance was \$306,351 and \$7,019 in cash. Year to date return is \$27,739. There was a recent call with the investment account advisor to review the account, no changes will be made. A few changes will be made to current business procedures regarding past due accounts and account credits on inactive accounts. The executive committee reviewed and approved those changes. Letters have been to sent to delinquent accounts. There will be an account write-off this year and work to clean up inactive accounts. Randy Dombek moved to accept the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Brenda Reau. All in favor, motion carried.

#### **Junior Report**

Creed Harker, UJSSA Director, reported that the first UJSSA board meeting went well.

#### **Ambassador Report**

No report.

#### **Foundation Report**

No report.

#### **Committee Reports**

##### **By-Laws**

Randy Hodges, committee chair, reported the proposed changes will be included in the election mailing for member vote.

##### **Youth Promotion**

Jeff Baumann discussed the Ambassador position/role and asked for directors to think of possibilities for a special project.

##### **Budget**

No report.

##### **Hospitality**

No report.

##### **Hall of Fame**

Matt Wolf reported that an email has been sent to the inductees/families following up on this fall's event plans. Event sponsorship letters have been mailed. Sponsorships will cover the cost of the dinner to reduce the cost of tickets for attendees. The hall of fame banquet will be Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup>.

##### **Breed Improvement**

Brenda Reau, committee chair, reported that the committee will work on some guidelines for the new registry program. Subcommittee meetings are scheduled, the next committee meeting will be in September.

## **Online Sales**

There will a fall bred ewe and ewe lamb sale scheduled in October through Integrity Livestock Services.

## **Registry Programs**

No new flock applications.

## **Strategic Planning**

Greg Ahart reported that the committee has drafted some considerations for the committee to discuss; this information will be emailed to the board.

## **Old Business**

### **Registry Program/Digital Beef**

The contract has been signed and build start date is scheduled for September 1. A subcommittee will work on details surrounding the program and its abilities. An informational letter that will included in the election mailing for members to learn more about the changes with the association's registry program.

## **New Business**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Party Election Tabulation**

Randy Hodges reported that a director contacted him on having a 3<sup>rd</sup> party tabulate election ballots. A brief discussion followed. Amanda checked with the current CPA firm, and they do not offer those services and local attorney would need to get clarification in Missouri to be sure that there was nothing in Missouri law that they would need to follow. Amanda suggested that a local church group could do it or any unrelated to the organization could tabulate but she did not check in with any groups specifically until the board discussed that as an option. Cynthia Huckins reported that she checked with Jeff at the Hampshire Association, and they would charge \$100 or less to count the election ballots and bylaws if the USSA was responsible for sending out the ballots. Matt Wolf made a motion to have election/bylaws ballots returned to Associated Registries for counting. The motion was seconded by Dennis Sorensen. A roll call vote was taken: Yes: Ahart, Huckins, Wolf, Heupel, Van Dyke, Baumann, Dombek, Sorensen, Hodges, Reau and Zwyers, No: none. Motion carried.

Jeremy Geske left the meeting.

### **Tom Burke Letter**

Randy Hodges led discussion on the letter written to Tom Burke from Jeremy Geske. There was a lengthy discussion. Cynthia Huckins made motion that Jeremy Geske stays President until the 2021 election, at that time he is no longer President and no longer a member of the board. There will be 2 vacancies for the 2022 election in district 3. The motion was seconded by Matt Wolf. Discussion followed and was determined that removal as President is a board determination, removal from the board is determined by the membership in that directors' district. The motion was amended by Cynthia Huckins to remove Jeremy Geske from the USSA President due to lack of integrity to be held in his position. Matt Wolf seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: YES: Huckins, Wolf; NO: Ahart, Heupel, Van Dyke, Baumann, Dombek, Reau, Zwyers; Abstain: Hodges and Sorensen. Motion failed.

Jim Van Dyke moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Randy Dombek. All in favor, meeting adjourned at 9:04pm.

Update to motion made during August meeting on 8/27/21: After review of the bylaws, it was determined that ballots need to be returned to the USSA Office. Via email conversation the board agreed that the ballots will be returned to the USSA Office and all ballots, unopened, will be mailed to Associated Registries for tabulation. Per email vote/approval, the following proposed language will be added to the bylaws ballot to update the language addressing where ballots are to be returned to allow for 3<sup>rd</sup> party tabulation.

#### Article V. Directors

Section 4. Election of Directors. Candidates for a director's position shall cause to be delivered to the USSA office a letter of nomination, which letter shall be received at the office by August 1 of that year. An official ballot containing the names and resumes of district candidates shall be mailed to all members of the association by September 1 of that year. To vote in the election of Directors, a member must return the ballot to **a location at the board of directors discretion** by October 1 of that year. Director applicants receiving the most votes in his/her district shall be deemed elected. In the event of a tie, the present directors will pick the winner or one of the tie candidates may choose to refrain from election. The secretary of the USSA will inform, by mail, all voting members of the election results.

Approved 9.13.21.