

United Suffolk Sheep Association
March Board of Directors Call
Monday, March 8, 2021

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

Additions/Approval of the Agenda

Amanda Everts added Sedalia Meeting to new business. Randy Hodges moved to adopt the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Jeff Baumann. All were in favor, motion carried.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Everts reported on current projects: directory, committees, registrations, and Foundation. Amanda reported that she will have registry projections at the next meeting. Dennis Sorensen moved to accept the Secretary's report. The motion was seconded by Randy Dombek. All were in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Carol Heupel reported the investment account balance was \$284,609, up about \$5,000 since the January meeting. Cash balance in investment account is \$6,658. Brenda Reau moved to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Randy Hodges. All were in favor, motion carried.

Junior Report

Nancy Burton, Junior Coordinator reported that the juniors are working directory content, junior show plans and upcoming virtual contests. Again this year, there will be semen sale fundraiser for the All American Junior Show, there will be several lots of Suffolk semen.

Foundation Report

Brenda Reau reported that the Foundation plans to host an online semen sale/Foundation fundraiser in May through wlivestock. The Foundation is looking into new fundraiser ideas and ways to recognize donors.

Committee Reports

By-Laws

Randy Hodges, committee chair, presented the following redistricting proposal from the bylaws committee:

Proposed Language

Section 3. Term of Office. The twelve members of the Board of Directors shall be elected from four districts. Three Directors shall be elected from each district. The four districts shall be initially established as follows: District 1. Alaska, Hawaii, Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Wyoming, Montana and **South Dakota**. District 2. Nebraska, Colorado, New Mexico, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, **Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky**. District 3. **North Dakota**, Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin. District 4. Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, **Tennessee**, Virginia, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida. To provide equal representation for all members, each district shall have approximately the same average number of voting members represented by each Director. The Directors shall periodically and not less than every 5 years, review and revise each district by moving one or more states to contiguous districts in order to equalize membership representation in each district.

The term of office of the Directors shall be three years and until their successors are elected and take office. Nothing contained herein shall preclude a member of the Board of Directors from succeeding himself or herself, except that no person shall consecutively serve more than two three-year terms. Following service of two consecutive three-year terms, a member would again be eligible for election to the Board of Directors at the first election following the end of the most recent term served by that former Director. **Not more than two Directors residing in any one state may serve on the Board at any one time. All Directors must reside in the District in which they represent unless there has been a realignment of the District, as set out in this Section 3, during the Director's term of office. In the event of such realignment, an affected Director may serve until the expiration of that Director's term of office.**

There was a lengthy discussion. Randy Hodges moved that the board accept the proposed changes. The motion was seconded by Jim Van Dyke. A roll call vote was taken; yes: Hodges, Zwyers, Reau, Dombek, Sorensen, Baumann, Van Dyke, Heupel, Huckins and Ahart, no: none. Motion carried.

Youth Promotion

Jeff Baumann, committee chair, reported the 2020 futurity results have been posted. Amanda Everts discussed the end date for the ewe lamb futurity and suggested changing it from the birth date of the lamb to April 1. Jeff Baumann made a motion to change the end date for the Ewe Lamb Futurity to April, the motion was seconded by Randy Dombek. All were in favor, motion carried.

Budget

No report.

Hospitality

Randy Hodges offered to make arrangements for donuts and juice/coffee at the Ohio Showcase.

Hall of Fame

Committee has not meet. It was reported that the Ketcham family has respectfully declined the Hall of Fame invitation.

Breed Improvement

Brenda Reau, committee chair, reported the first committee has meet initially focus on 1) phenotype and breed identity, 2) meeting the needs of the commercial industry and 3) genetics. The committee will meet the end of March and formally establish plan of work and subcommittees for the year.

Online Sales

Randy Dombek, committee chair, reviewed upcoming sale dates.

Registry Programs

No new applications.

Strategic Planning

Greg Ahart, committee chair, commented on the SWOT responses from the directors and common themes between those responses and the needs assessment. The director SWOT responses will be distributed to the officers and Brenda, there will be a report back to the board at the next meeting.

Old Business

Needs Assessment

Brenda Reau asked if any directors would like additional information. There was a discussion on how to share the data and it was determined that the slide presentation given to directors will be made available to the membership.

Directory

Amanda discussed the directory which will be about 20 more pages than last year and has about 40 more ads.

Letter From Greg Deakin

The Breed Improvement committee touched on these concerns. There was discussion on looking for guidance from members who are more involved with the wether/sire and dams to look for some guidance on the issue of breed character.

New Business

AAJS

Nancy Burton reported that the All American Junior Show is extending the age to show for this year only to 22, to allow for those "last year exhibitors from 2020" to be able to show this year. Brenda Reau made a motion that it was okay for Suffolks to follow this, the motion was seconded by Jim Van Dyke. All in favor, motion carried.

Genomic Research Project

The board received information on a Genomics Project that the USSA has been ask to help support. The research group is looking to the breed associations to help support the cost of testing for their breeders. There was a lengthy discussion. Bill Zwyers made a motion to share a letter of support from the USSA for the project. The motion was seconded by Carol Heupel. All were in favor, motion passed. There was a lengthy discussion regarding funds to support the project. This topic will be table for a special meeting once directors can review more information on the project and further information can be gathered on questions about testing.

Sedalia Meeting

There was a discussion on meetings at Sedalia. It was determined that there will be no directors meeting but a informational meeting will be held on Thursday.

Randy Dombek moved to adjourn at 9:36pm. The motion was seconded by Dennis Sorensen. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Minutes approved April 12, 2020.

Minutes amended and approved May 10, 2021.