

United Suffolk Sheep Association
February Board of Directors Call
Monday, February 14, 2022

Attendance: President Jeremy Geske, Vice President Randy Hodges, Treasurer Carol Heupel, Secretary Amanda Everts and the following Directors: Greg Ahart, Cynthia Huckins, Jim Van Dyke, Tom Burke, Randy Dombek, Dennis Sorensen, Brenda Reau and Bill Zwyers. Others in attendance: UJSSA Coordinator Nancy Burton, Suffolk Ambassador Wesley Linke. Not in attendance: Matt Wolf.

President Geske called the meeting to order at 7:33pm.

Additions/Approval of the Agenda

Randy Hodges made motion to accept the agenda as presented. Motion was seconded by Carol Heupel. All in favor, motion carried.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Brenda Reau made a motion to approve the December and January Meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Bill Zwyers. All in favor, motion carried.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Everts reported that current office projects include Suffolk directory, registry work, membership renewals and testing the new registration program. Randy Hodges made motion 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 \$293,657 with \$8,010 in cash. Amanda and Carol met with the investment advisor – the association still has a conservative portfolio but may need to rebalance. In the last 5 years the association has had 11.5% growth. The checking account balance is \$21,599. Bill Zwyers moved to accept the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Dennis Sorensen. All in favor, motion carried.

Junior Report

Nancy Burton reported that the juniors are looking into whether they should have a banquet or small social gathering at the AAJS. Each exhibitor will receive a small item. The juniors are current running a photo contest and will host a webinar in May on Show Lamb Nutrition. The junior board will be looking for breeders to donate Suffolk semen for the upcoming AAJS online semen fundraiser auction.

Ambassador Report

Wesley Linke reported he's working with the junior board on fundraisers and attend NAILE. He plans to attend the Midwest Sale and AAJS.

Foundation Report

Brenda Reau reported that the Foundation will be offering a new program this year – it will cover the travel expenses and registration for a young producer to attend the American Lamb Summit. There will be a few changes to the Ewe Lamb Giveaway Program – upon video review, finalists will be interviewed by a committee. The Foundation will have a webinar on March 8 discussion the foundation and how to contribute to the foundation – a financial advisor and USSA member John Scott (attorney) will speak.

Committee Reports

By-Laws – Dennis Sorensen

Dennis Sorensen reported that the committee discussed USSA redistricting. The committee looked at the 4-district proposal from last spring and an alternative 3-district proposal. The committee recommended moving forward with the 4-district proposal. Dennis Sorensen made motion to adopt the 4-district proposal presented to the board last spring. The motion was seconded by Randy Hodges. All were in favor, motion passed.

Youth Promotion – Jim VanDyke

There was a lengthy discussion on the Suffolk Ambassador /Queen, needing clarification if we move forward with one or both, and if both how the funds are allocated as the budget only accounts for one individual. Randy Hodges made motion to move forward with a Suffolk Ambassador, one individual, allotting up to \$1000 for the position. The motion was seconded by Bill Zwyers. A roll call vote was taken – Yes: Ahart, Van Dyke, Heupel, Dombek, Sorensen, Hodges, Reau and Zwyers; No: Huckins and Burke. Motion passed. For the futurity program there was discussion on the current points submission deadline, which is past the date that the directory is finalized (results are printed in the directory). Amanda Everts suggested the submission deadline be moved to March 25th. Jim Van

Dyke made motion to move the date to March 25th as long as all the Texas/southern majors were past. The motion was seconded by Randy Hodges. All were in favor, motion passed. Amanda will look at the dates of these shows to be sure the March submission deadline aligns with the schedule of those shows.

Budget – Carol Heupel

No report

Hall of Fame – Randy Hodges

Randy Hodges reported that the committee met and discussed the NAILE Hall of Fame banquet, past attendance, cost of food and sponsorships of the event. The committee recommends the Hall of Fame inductees are honored during the NAILE Open Suffolk Show, with Tom Burke making the presentation, Randy Hodges moved on to make the proposal into motion. The motion was seconded by Tom Burke. All were in favor, motion carried.

Randy Hodges presented the names recommended by the committee as the 2022 Suffolk Hall of Fame inductees – Bill and Betsy MacCauley and Bill Royer. Randy Hodges moved to take action on the recommendation. The motion was seconded by Brenda Reau. All were in favor, motion passed. Amanda will add a question and answer piece in the directory from each of the inductees.

Breed Improvement – Brenda Reau

Brenda Reau reported there will be a meeting the end of February.

Online Sales – Randy Dombek

Randy Dombek reported on the dates for the 2022 Online Sale – 4/18 futurity sale, 4/25 ewe/ram sale, 4/26 equipment consignment sale, 6/6 ewe & ram sale – via Show Stock Planet. There will be a bred ewe/ewe lamb sale 10/24 through Integrity Livestock Sales.

Strategic Planning

Greg Ahart reported the committee has not met yet.

Education – Bill Zwyers

Bill Zwyers reported that the committee has met twice and have finalized an article and vocabulary list for the directory. The committee will meet again to discuss webinar topics.

Directory – Matt Wolf

Amanda Everts reported there about 60 committed ads equally about 38 pages. This is down some from last year but will continue to work on ad commitments. There will be some new content this year and updates to existing content.

Digital Beef/New Registration Program

Amanda Everts reported that the registration program committee has been meeting every other week. There was discussion on official electronic certificates, no action was taken. Amanda asked for board members to share their concerns and questions so that she could research/gather more information.

Amanda presented the new registration certificate template, completed with animal data and there were a few minor changes made. There were no concerns.

Amanda discussed and presented a proposed percentage certificate. With the ability for members to print a copy of the certificate, the certificate has been revamped to having a white background with a green color scheme. The certificate is titled PERCENTAGE registration certificate and the breed % that was printed in the bottom left-hand corner up and printed directly under ewe or ram that is printed next to the flock name and number header listing. There were no concerns with this change.

The NSIP functionality has been pushed back and will not be completed until after the new program is live, providing the needs of the registry first.

There will be some content in the directory about the new registration program including a question and answer section, an overview of the program and some screen shots of the program features.

Old Business

Directory Call – Jeremy Geske asked directors, if they had time to work on director calls to members in their district.

New Business

All new business was covered in committee reports.

Randy Hodges moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:49pm. The motion was seconded by Jim Van Dyke, meeting adjourned.