

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

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

**Approval of the Agenda**

President Geske ask for any additions to the agenda. Jim Van Dyke reported that he'd like to Sheep Industry Response to COVID. Tom Burke reported that he'd like to add stimulus money to new business. Randy Hodges made motion to adopt the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Tom Burke. All were in favor, motion carried.

**Secretary's Report**

Secretary Everts reported the office has been busy with finalizing the directory, preparing for the upcoming online sales and other projects/committee work. The office is a little behind on processing registry work. Amanda reported that the checking account balance is \$8598.03 – there is about \$3000 in bills due this month including insurance and directory postage. Brenda Reau moved to approve the Secretary's report. The motion was seconded by Jim VanDyke. All in favor, motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report**

Tom Burke reported investment balance is about \$219,155, down about \$30,000 in the last 30 days. Tom suggested we investigate stimulus money for the association. Amanda Everts reported that non-profits are eligible – it could potential be \$3000 - \$6000. Tom Burke made a motion that we apply for it immediately. The motion was seconded by Jim Van Dyke. Motion carried. Randy Hodges moved to accept 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 there were 100 participants in the junior's webinar, Lance Miller did a good job presenting. The photo contest is now open for juniors to participate in through June 1. The AAJS semen sale is in May and juniors will reach out for Suffolk lots. The next junior call is next Sunday.

**Foundation Report**

Amanda Everts reported that the Foundation is working on verbiage for the gift acceptance policy. The Board plans to have it's first large fundraising event at NAILE.

**Committee Reports**

**By-Laws** – Randy Hodges discussed the letter from the bylaws committee and the revised district map. Tom Burke made a motion that the board accept the recommendation from the bylaws committee. The motion was seconded by Jim Van Dyke. The proposed districts are approximately equal with memberships and registrations. District 1: Alaska, Hawaii, Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah Nevada, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, North Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, and Arkansas. District 2: South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Illinois. District 3: Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Washington DC. Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Rhode Island. Massachusetts, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine.

Roll call vote was taken – yes: Burke, Van Dyke, Reau, Henderson and Hodges; no: Huckins, Heupel, Hoskins, Dombek, Ahart, and Geske. Motion failed.

Randy asked for guidance from the board on what should be looked at – suggestion was to look at 4 districts and maybe less directors. Do we keep the same number of directors per district.

**Youth Promotion** – Bret Henderson reported that all rules have been updated.

**Budget** – No report.

**Ambassador/Queen** – No report.

**Breed Improvement** – Brenda Reau reported that the committee will meet in late April. In communications with the committee on the board response and some members were concerned we need to move forward. A brief discussion took place, the committee can work on preliminary work for the breed standards.

**Hall of Fame** – Randy Hodges reported the committee proposals that Jim Peifer/Kurt Birky, Marlin Berg, Alan Culham and William & Susan Shultz be inducted into the 2020 Hall of Fame. A brief discussion followed. Tom Burke made a motion to accept the 4 recommendations and Kim Ketcham. The motion was seconded by Randy Hodges. All were in favor, motion passed.

**Scholarship** – No report.

**Hospitality** – No report.

**Online Sale** – Jeremy Geske reported that there has been good interest in the upcoming sales.

**GAP** – Jim Van Dyke reported that several flocks have shown interest but no applications have been submitted.

**Jr. Association/Show Committee**- No report.

### **Old Business**

**Strategic Planning Session** – There was a brief discussion about moving forward with projects to support the strategic planning session. A needs assessment maybe something to be considered; discussion followed. The needs assessment should be available to current members, past members and potential members. Jeremy Geske reported that he will assign a registration program committee to further discuss Amanda's proposal.

### **New Business**

**NAILE All Breeds Sale** – Amanda reported she received a letter asking if Suffolks would like to move their independent NAILE Sale to an All Breeds Sale. The letter was from the Tunis Association. A brief discussion followed and it was determined that we will continue with our own independent Suffolk Sale at NAILE.

**Possible June Ram/Ewe Sale** – There was a discussion on having another online sale in June, directors were in favor.

**Adding NSIP Data to Suffolk Registrations** – Tabled, Blair Summey asked to add this agenda item and was not on the call.

**Encouraging NSIP Suffolk Breeder to Register all Lambs** - Tabled, Blair Summey asked to add this agenda item and was not on the call.

**COVID Sheep Industry Response** – Jim Van Dyke discussed a letter that had been sent from ASI and that the USSA should consider supporting the letter. A brief discussion followed. The letter will be shared with the board via email and further discussion will be discussed via email.

**Stimulus Money** – Discussed in the Treasurer's report.

Randy Hodges made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Jim Van Dyke. The meeting was adjourned at 9:03pm.  
Approved 5.11.20