

**United Suffolk Sheep Association
February Board of Directors Conference Call
February 10, 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 and Junior Coordinator, Nancy Burton.
Absent: Blair Summey & Bret Henderson.

Approval of the Agenda

Brenda Reau asked to add strategic planning to new business. Carol Heupel made motion to adopt the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Randy Hodges. All were in favor, motion carried.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Randy Hodges made motion to approve the January 2020 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Brenda Reau. The motion carried.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Everts reported that registrations and transfers are up compared to last year at this time. The registration increase is due to some members who submitted replacement ewe registrations later than they normal. The transfer increase is a result of several small flocks that sold out and transferred those animals. The checking account balance is low but there's currently about \$4000 of registry work in the office to be processed and membership renewal income will be coming as March approaches. Amanda reported that the employee that works part-time has resigned her position for a full time job. President Geske asked that the budget committee discuss that opening and come back to the board with a recommendation whether to fill it or not. Randy Hodges moved to approve the Secretary's report. The motion was seconded by Tom Burke. All in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Tom Burke reported investment balance is about \$253,500. Last year the investment fund had 16.5% return. Randy Hodges moved to approve the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Carol Heupel. All were in favor, motion carried.

Junior Report

Junior Coordinator, Nancy Burton, reported that the juniors are following up with sponsors and the deadline for their first quarterly contest is March 1. They plan to have a webinar in April on lamb selection. Suffolks are responsible for providing a few lots of semen for the upcoming AAJS Semen Auction Fundraiser and are looking for donors. The next junior board meeting is later in February.

Foundation Report

Amanda Everts reported that the USSA has a savings account that past foundation donations have been deposited in and has been used to pay any bills for the legal setup of the Suffolk Foundation. There needs to be a formal board approval to gift that money in that account to the United Suffolk Sheep Foundation. That money can be used to open a bank account for the Foundation. Tom Burke made a motion to gift the savings account money to the Foundation. The motion was seconded by Jim Van Dyke. All were in favor, motion carried.

Committee Reports

By-Laws – Randy Hodges reported that the committee will be meeting in the next couple weeks and should have information to present to the board at the March meeting regarding bylaws voting timeline and the evaluation of USSA districts and number of directors.

Youth Promotion – Amanda Everts reported that the committee will need to meet and discuss any changes to be made to the futurity and ewe lamb giveaway programs.

Budget – Tom Burke that the budget committee will be meeting soon.

Ambassador/Queen – No report

Breed Improvement – Brenda Reau reported that the committee will meet the end of February.

Hall of Fame – Randy Hodges reported the committee will have a meeting before the March meeting.

Scholarship – Cynthia Huckins reported that the USSA scholarship has been updated to include that eligibility is open to those attending a trade school. There are no changes to the Let's Grow Suffolks scholarship.

Hospitality – Randy Dombek discussed what was done last year and will work on this year's events as the sales approach.

Online Sale – Jeremy Geske reported that dates are locked in with ShowStockPlanet – April 20th Futurity Ewe Lamb Sale, April 27th USSA Online Sale, May 4th Semen Fundraiser and bred ewe sale in October.

GAP – Jim Van Dyke reported that a flock out of Kentucky has been accepted and there will be a committee call in the next month.

Jr. Association/Show Committee- No report.

Old Business

NAILE – Tom Burke reported that a letter has been sent to Mike Hancock and Bobby Bell requesting that the champion ewe and ram from both the fitted and slick shows be sent to the NAILE Supreme Champion Drive.

New Business

Strategic Planning Session

Brenda Reau suggested that the board consider a strategic planning meeting. The association is at a crossroads and it's not easy to discuss tough issues via conference call or at meetings that are along with other events. There was discussion as to whether the investment account should be used to support the travel expense of directors who may need assistance. There was a lengthy discussion. The budget committee will visit this topic.

Randy Hodges made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Tom Burke.

Approved 3.9.20