

**United Suffolk Sheep Association  
June Board of Directors Conference Call  
June 8, 2020**

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

**Approval of the Agenda**

President Geske ask for any additions to the agenda. There were none. Randy Hodges moved to accept the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Tom Burke. All were in favor. Agenda adopted.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

May meeting minutes will be sent via email for approval.

**Secretary's Report**

Secretary Everts reported that registrations are coming in but down. Time has been spent processing registry work and miscellaneous board items. Jim Van Dyke moved to approve the Secretary's report. The motion was seconded by Randy Dombek. All in favor, motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report**

Tom Burke reported investment balance is about \$248,000, up about \$20,000 from the last meeting and that the future looks promising for the investment account. Tom Burke reported an application was submitted for the EIDL loan and the USSA is initially awarded up to \$71,000. The loan is a low interest, 2.75% fixed loan over 30 years – repayment begins in one year. The board needs to decide if they choose to take any of these funding and then approval process will be finalized. There was discussion about taking out the loan versus using funds from the investment if needed. Some directors were concerned about approving a loan that is a 30 year commitment. Other directors were concerned how these funds would be use and would be opposed to use these funds for daily operation. The USSA was not eligible for the Payroll Protection Program. Tom Burke made motion that the USSA request up to \$15,000 from the EIDL Small Business Administration Loan. This money would not be used unless we endure an emergency. The motion was seconded by Jim Van Dyke. Randy Dombek amended the motion included final decision is contingent on favorable payback terms. Tom Burke accepted the amendment. All were in favor with the amendment to the original motion. A roll call vote was taken on the amended motion; yes: Burke, Van Dyke, Dombek, Hodges; no – Huckins, Ahart, Hoskins, Reau and Henderson. Motion failed. Amanda will investigate questions raised by the board regarding the EIDL loan and investment fund: What is the deadline to finalize the application process? What percent is funded of those who have finalized the process? Can we pay off the loan early with no penalty? What are the gains on the investment over losses over the last year (prior to COVID and after COVID)? Amanda Everts will share more information on these questions with directors via email. Randy Hodges moved to approve the Treasurer's report. The report was seconded by Jim Van Dyke. All were in favor, report approved.

**Junior Report/Junior Show/Association Committee Report**

Bret Henderson reported that some individuals on the junior board (and junior board alumni) have decided to host their own show. Meetings have been held to discuss this event and that the junior coordinator, Junior show committee chair, Amanda and himself were not invited to participate in these meetings. There was a conference call with Alison Knutson, Nancy, Greg, Jeremy, Amanda and Bret where Alison informed the rest that the Junior Board wanted to hold a junior show and that they had a signed contract with the fairgrounds in Spencer, IA. They are currently calling the show the National Junior Show.

Jeremy Geske noted that they need to be transparent that is not the National Junior Suffolk Show affiliated with the USSA or UJSSA. Gary Hoskins felt that this group started this on their own because they were not getting support from us and he would like to see the USSA work with the junior board to work something out with them. Greg Ahart reported that there was a set of deliverables that were asked for that were not provided related to supporting the event – 1) understanding the expectations for the fairgrounds, county and the state of Iowa, 2) put together a survey and sending it out, 3) clearly delineating what the expectations were and what participation would be. This information was to be gathered and provided to the USSA so the board could vote on it. Greg mentioned that it was communicated that the USSA Board must approve all activities of the association including the junior board. It was mentioned that there

was a clear lack of understanding of this and that the adult board needs to take responsibility for developing a better working relationship with the junior association.

Jaclynn Knutson reported for the UJSSA, on behalf of the UJSSA President, Alison Knutson. Jaclynn asked for support for the event – The UJSSA and some past UJSSA Directors are supporting the event and stated that the show committee has signed a facility contract, down payment has been made (cancellation verbiage in place), insurance policy through the venue, are working with an attorney to create a waiver for participants, Facebook event page and website created, marketing materials, a photographer and announcer. Judge will be finalized tonight at the committee's meeting. Money has been pledged by Suffolk supporters and a bank account. The committee asks that they can keep the name National Junior Suffolk Show for this year and change it for next year.

Jaclynn referenced an email from Jeremy Geske stating that the group of friends could host a junior show without approval from the USSA board but that the show would not be affiliated with the USSA/UJSSA. Jeremy clarified that this was in response to an email that was sent prior to that from Alison stating that the junior board did not need the USSA's approval or support to have our show. Nancy Burton stated that some junior directors have no clue what is going on and are very confused – and not all the details have been extended to the entire junior board.

Randy Hodges expressed concerns that when breeders were asked to sponsor the event, it was not clear that the event was not the National Junior Suffolk Show affiliated with the Suffolk Association. Randy also stated that members are concerned that this is going to cause issues with the joining of the National Junior Suffolk Show which is held with the All-American.

Brenda Reau asked for who the committee members are – Jaclynn reported that they are Alison Knutson, Creed Harker, Jaclynn Knutson, Joey Slack, Kasi Knutson, Katherine Parsley, Laura Brinkman, Matt Wiegard, Savannah Bailey, Ty Scholerman, Ty Skartvedt and Wesley Linke. Bret Henderson stated that knows one of the individuals and they have no idea what is going on. Jim Van Dyke mentioned that Wesley didn't know about the event until the last 5 days. Jaclynn stated the only thing that was done prior to original discussions with the senior board was to investigate facilities that could be possible venues. Jeremy mentioned that a contract was in the works and social media promotional flyers were developed before the adult board was notified. Greg Ahart asked why the committee went ahead with the planning process when it was clear more information was needed for the senior board. Jaclynn replied the group chose to move forward as the show was less than a month away and that if they waited any longer, they wouldn't have the time needed to plan the event. It was asked if the junior coordinator was included in this and Jaclynn stated that no, she was not, and she didn't know why.

Blair Summey asked Jaclynn what the group would like from the USSA. Blair also expressed his concerns with liability since the event is being called the National Junior Suffolk Show – the USSA board may need to seek legal opinion on this. Jaclynn stated that they do not need financial support from the USSA but if individual breeders would like to sponsor the event that would be welcome. Blair suggested that the USSA seek legal counsel on the use of the show name. Bret asked if anyone has contacted the office asking about the show, and if so, then it is clearly being connected with the USSA. Amanda Everts reported she's had at least 4 calls on the National Junior Show and it's hard to give them a clear answer to explain the senior board has not approved the show but they're not against it, it hasn't even been discussed in a USSA board meeting. There was concern that the show logo is similar to past National Junior Suffolk Show logo and that there's a lot of confusion and it's not transparent on what this show is. Blair and Bret suggested that the USSA needs to put something together that it is not a sanctioned event and that we support the youth but the board has fiduciary responsibility to protect our assets.

Jim Van Dyke asked how the checking account is written and contract signed. Jaclynn stated the bank account is under National Junior Suffolk and the contract addressed to Alison Knutson. Brenda Reau asked how a bank account was set-up without an EIN number or a number tracked by the IRS. Greg Ahart asked if potential donors have been told that this is not tied to a 501 (c)(5) and that it is a separate bank account from the UJSSA or USSA. Jim Van Dyke suggested they make sure that they know that. Potential sponsors have been asked to write check to the National Junior Suffolk Show.

Tom Burke expressed his concerns about the adult board and its relationship with the junior organization and that the senior board will look bad. He feels that we need to find a way to work together. Jim Van Dyke agreed, we need to find common ground and a way to move forward. Blair Summey stated they've setup their own show but we need to find out how or if the association is tied to the event.

There were major concerns about the broken communication with the junior board. Cynthia asked Jaclynn if there is someone, an adult mentor, who the committee feels comfortable working with and can help navigate things that they are not prepared for. Jaclynn said the

she feels its best work with someone who has similar goals as the committee and if there is someone that fits that they would be welcome to help.

Randy Hodges was concerned about what type of precedent is being set for the future. Jim Van Dyke agreed that the USSA should seek legal advice since the show is setup as the National Junior Suffolk Show and that doesn't bind the association to the event and would be open to having a meeting in one week. Bret Henderson agreed that it's a no-win situation and we need to leave with common ground but do need to address how we've gotten to this point and defiance that needs to be looked into. Brenda Reau expressed concern that we are rewarding inappropriate behavior – we want to develop good leaders, and this sends the message to young people that we can bully to get what we want. Jeremy Geske reported that we have a junior coordinator, a junior association committee and youth committee chair that all helped to discuss this. Tom Burke was concerned that if we do not support the juniors, we are going to be in issues with some of our Suffolk members. Greg Ahart asked Tom if he understood that his comments could also be taken as a vote of no-confidence in the junior coordinators and directors that tried to work on this. Cythina Huckins suggested that we seek input from legal counsel then let them move forward with this and they can be proud of their accomplishments and learn from their mistakes.

Tom Burke made a motion to co-sponsor the event in a unified effort, with Amanda Everts and Nancy Burton to assume their regular positions. Gary Hoskins seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: yes – Burke and Hoskins; no – Summey, Huckins, Van Dyke, Dombek, Henderson, Reau and Hodges; abstain – Ahart. Motion failed.

Greg Ahart made a motion that the USSA gives the show \$1500 as show of support from the USSA. Bret Henderson seconded the motion. Randy Hodges asked for clarification if the money comes from the UJSSA or the USSA, the money is to come from the USSA. There was concerns about the money coming from the USSA and connected to liability. All were in favor, motion passed.

Amanda Everts asked who she should direct individuals to with questions on the event – Alison, Jaclynn or the website. Amanda Everts also asked that the juniors who are a part of the event know that this is not affiliated with the USSA, how liability is held, etc. especially for parents with juniors involved that are young and may not understand how this has worked out.

It was requested that the show change its name, removing the word National, changing it to regional show. Jaclynn will share that information with the committee for discussion and will be taken into consideration.

There was discussion on a statement to be drafted stating that the show is not affiliated with the UJSSA, especially if the show is not in the position to change the name of the show to provide clarity. Jim Van Dyke made a motion that Jeremy Geske seeks legal advice regarding the show and association liability. Randy Hodges seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion carried.

### **Foundation Report**

Brenda Reau reported there was good response from the letter that was mailed out (\$1500). This summer the board will put together a grant details for an offering to help new breeders.

### **Committee Reports**

**By-Laws** – Randy Hodges discussed the changes the board approved in the previous meeting. It was determined that after finalizing the information to be posted a few minor changes should be changes including updating a word from substantially to approximately as it was better wording. The committee felt that it did not change the intent of the bylaws, just was better wording. Randy Hodges made the motion that the board accept the committee's small verbiage change. Tom Burke seconded the motion 8 in favor, 1 nay. Motion carried.

There was discussion on changing the requirements on the number sheep that needed to be registered by directors to run for the board and while serving on the board. A brief discussion followed. Gary Hoskins made a motion the upcoming ballot for bylaws include revising language that directors must register at least 10 head the year prior to running for the board, the year of the election and each year while on the board. The motion was seconded by Cynthia Huckins. Roll call vote was taken; yes – Huckins, Ahart, Burke, Van Dyke, Dombek, Hoskins, Reau and Hodges. No – Henderson.

Tom Burke moved to rescind the approved motion. Jim Van Dyke seconded the motion. Yes- Ahart, Huckins, Burke, Van Dyke, Dombek, Hoskins, Reau and Henderson. Abstain: Hodges. Motion passed, previous motion rescinded.

This topic will be moved to committee for further discussion.

**Youth Promotion** – No report.

**Budget** – No report. A committee meeting will be scheduled for June.

**Ambassador/Queen** – Tom Burke reported that this position will be inactive as there were no applicants.

**Breed Improvement** – Brenda Reau there will be a committee meeting June 18<sup>th</sup>. The webinar on parasite susceptibility and resistance on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, Dr. Andrew Weaver from North Carolina State University will speak on this topic.

**Hall of Fame** – No report.

**Scholarship** – Cynthia Huckins reported there were 2 applicants for each scholarship. The committee will meet soon for interviews.

**Hospitality** – No report.

**Online Sale** – Jeremy Geske reported the National Suffolk Online Sale. 21 of the 24 ewes sold, averaging around \$1000 and was close to a \$25,000 sale. The ram sale was softer but is similar to what we've seen in live sales. Overall the 2 day sale was successful.

**GAP** – Jim Van Dyke reported a flock from Nebraska applied. A few other flocks have shown interest.

**Strategic Planning Committee** – Jeremy Geske reported that the committee met for an initial meeting. Discussed possible switch to a new registry program and possible challenges of moving to a new system. The needs assessment was discussed.

#### **Old Business**

**Strategic Planning Session** – A needs assessment is being drafted.

#### **New Business**

Junior Advisor – Gary Hoskins reported that this was addressed earlier in the meeting.

Greg Ahart resigned his committee appoint for the Junior Show/Association committee.

Randy Hodges moved to adjourn the meeting. Randy Dombek seconded the motion.

Approved 8.10.20