

**United Suffolk Sheep Association  
May Board of Directors Conference Call  
May 11, 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, Carol Heupel, Gary Hoskins, Randy Dombek, Brenda Reau and Bret Henderson.

**Approval of the Agenda**

President Geske ask for any additions to the agenda. Tom Burke added a NAILE report to new business. Randy Hodges moved to accept the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Brenda Reau. All were in favor. Agenda adopted.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Tom Burke made motion to approve the March and April Board of Directors minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Carol Heupel. Motion passed.

**Secretary's Report**

Secretary Everts reported the office has been busy with registry work - many of the submissions is late registry work from last year. It was noted that because of COVID, there may not be the revenue for the year as set forward in the current year's budget. The website has been updated. There has been a lot of activity with committees the past month. 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 \$227, 615. There was discussion that at registrations and transfers may be down for the year and that there will be not expenses for staff travel to Sedalia. Brenda Reau moved to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Randy Dombek. All were in favor, motion carried.

**Junior Report**

No new report.

**Foundation Report**

Brenda Reau reported that a letter will be sent to possible donors soon. There will be grant setup for someone who wants to get into the Suffolk breed – apps due October 1<sup>st</sup>. The foundation plans to have a large fundraiser at NAILE. Amanda Everts mentioned that the Ewe Lamb Giveaway and semen benefit auction will be transitioned to the Foundation so that donors receive maximum tax benefit.

**Committee Reports**

**By-Laws** – Randy Hodges discussed the revised proposed bylaw changes:

Proposed motion from the committee: Update the last 2 sentences of Article V, Section 3 would be replaced by the following language: "To provide equal representation for all members, each district shall have substantially 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."

Randy Hodges made a motion to accept the changes and include on the fall ballot. Greg Ahart seconded the motion. A discussion followed. Roll call vote was taken; yes- Ahart, Heupel, Dombek, Henderson, Reau, Hodges, no- Burke, Hoskins, Huckins, and Summey. Motion carried.

Cynthia Huckins expressed concerns on the number of sheep an individual needs to register to run for the board and while on the board, noting that maybe there should a minimum number, greater than one sheep. There was a brief discussion – Jeremy asked Cynthia to investigate this and offer suggestions to the bylaws committee.

**Youth Promotion** – Bret Henderson discussed the futurity and the outlook for shows this summer. At this time the board will see how things play out and make no changes to the futurity but will allow points from virtual shows.

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

**Ambassador/Queen** – Tom Burke reported that applications are available.

**Breed Improvement** – Brenda Reau reported on the outcomes of the past committee meeting- 1)voted to sponsor a 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, 2)move ahead at looking at the breed standard, and 3)provide questions that they would like to see on the needs assessment. The next committee meeting will be June 18<sup>th</sup>.

Brenda shared concerns from the committee that the board decided to go against working on the breed standard, but the committee would like to work on it. With no face to face meeting in June, committee can continue to work on it. Any committee proposal would need to be approved by the Board.

**Hall of Fame** – Randy Hodges reported the committee will contact inductees. A formal letter will go out later this summer.

**Scholarship** – Cynthia Huckins reported the June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Hospitality** – No report.

**Online Sale** – Jeremy Geske reported the two April sales went well, there were very few no sales. The semen sale has been cancelled. There was discussion on moving the National Suffolk Sale online with cancellation of the Midwest Stud Ram Sale. There has been a lot of interest from breeders to consign. The committee will work to reach commercial breeders and work to provide more info on possible transportation to ease buyer concerns about moving sheep throughout the country. Jeremy reported that he checked with a couple of sale hosts and Integrity offered us a commission to Integrity of 5% and the USSA chooses their commission percent. There was discussion about looking into what other sale hosts offer.

**GAP** – Jim Van Dyke reported that there is a possible flock in Utah.

**Jr. Association/Show Committee-** No report, committee to be removed from future agendas.

**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** – Not scheduled, fall date possible.

#### New Business

**NAILE** – Tom Burke reported that the NAILE board approved the change that breeds can send a slick and fitted ewe and ram to the champion drive, as long as there are 50 head shown per division for the open show and 25 head shown per division in the junior show. Overall champion ewe and ram will be removed from the premium book.

Tom Burke discussed the All-American Junior Show and if it will take place. There was a lengthy discussion on concerns about having an independent show this year if the All-American is cancelled. Brenda reported on the status of the All-American Show in Michigan and that there is a backup location if the show cannot happen at Michigan State University. No action was taken.

Randy Hodges made motion to adjourn at 8:37pm. The motion was seconded by Jim Van Dyke. Meeting adjourned. With the Midwest Stud Ram Sale canceled, the next meeting will be June 8<sup>th</sup> and the July meeting will be the second Monday of the month.

Approved 8.10.20