

**United Suffolk Sheep Association
October Board of Directors Conference Call
October 12, 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, Blair Summey (later in meeting), Jim Van Dyke, Carol Heupel, Randy Dombek, Bret Henderson and Brenda Reau. Also in attendance: Nancy Burton, Junior Coordinator, Creed Harker and Katherine Parsley UJSSA Directors, and Incoming/potential USSA Directors Matt Wolf, Jeff Baumann, Mac Swortzel and Bill Zwyers.
Absent: Gary Hoskins.

Approval of the Agenda

President Geske asked for any additions to the agenda. Amanda Everts added NAILE Fitted judge to new business. Blair Summey added catastrophic relief program. Randy Hodges made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Tom Burke seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Brenda Reau moved to approve the October meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Randy Hodges. All were in favor, motion carried.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Everts reported year end registry numbers: registrations 4,582 (down 572) and transfers 1834 (down 66). Continuing office work included registry work, year-end financials, NAILE prep and work on committee activities. The current checking account balance is \$10,247. Carol Heupel moved to accept the Secretary's report, the motion was seconded by Randy Dombek. All were in favor, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Tom Burke reported investment balance is \$261,000, year-to-date the investment has earned 9.8%. Randy Hodges moved to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Brenda Reau. Motion passed.

Junior Report

Junior President, Katherine Parsley, reported that the juniors are working to finalize the photo contest and calendar, NAILE preparations, and a new logo. The juniors will have a webinar in December on lambing preparations. The deadline has passed for the drawing contest and entries will be reviewed.

Foundation Report

Brenda Reau reported that the Foundation board met last week, the board is going to send a fundraising letter in November. The Foundation has found a company that can offer online giving. This is a minimal monthly fee and gives the option to the donor to cover the cost of the credit card fees.

Committee Reports

No report: Bylaws, Budget, Ambassador/Queen, Hall of Fame, Scholarship and Hospitality.

Youth Promotion – Bret Henderson reported that the Ewe Lamb Giveaway entries are due November 1. He reminded those who nominated or purchased a futurity ewe lamb to encourage participation in the program. Futurity points have been submitted by a few individuals and will continue to be accepted through next spring when the ewe lamb turns 1 year old.

Breed Improvement – Brenda Reau reported that the committee has worked on the breed standard and is ready for consideration by the board. A lengthy discussion followed on text and photo. Brenda Reau made a motion to adopt the new breed standard text with the changes provided by Greg Ahart. The motion was seconded by Bret Henderson. A roll call vote was taken: yes: Hodges, Reau, Henderson, Dombek, VanDyke, Heupel, Summey and Ahart; no: Burke; abstain: Huckins. Motion passed. There was further discussion on the photo. Blair Summey made motion to use the ram head off the logo only. Tom Burke seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed.

Online Sale – Jeremy Geske reported that there will be a bred ewe and ewe lamb sale on October 26, hosted by showstockplanet.com. The entry deadline will be Oct. 17.

GAP – Jim Van Dyke reported there are several large flocks interested in enrolling in GAP but these individuals have concerns with the costs involved. There was also lengthy discussion on an amnesty program as presented by the committee:

Goal: Create a permanent Amnesty program with strict guidelines.

1) Formal application submitted to and approved by the (GAP) committee. Application will request: a) flock demographics, b) why there is a lapse in paperwork, c) number of sheep to be enrolled, d) sign-off on the disclosure of when a flock is eligible to enroll again. 2) With acceptance into the Suffolk Amnesty Program, registrations will be \$10/head. 3) Flocks are eligible to enroll every 7 years. 4) Yearlings are not eligible. 5) Program open to Purebred, Percentage and GAP Suffolks.

This program: 1) Provides an opportunity for flocks to catchup when they show interest, not having to reinstate an amnesty. 2) Has guidelines that limit the frequency a flock can use the Amnesty Program, encouraging flocks to register each year after they have completed their Amnesty work.

Randy Hodges made a motion adopt the permanent amnesty program. The motion was seconded by Jim Van Dyke. A roll call vote was taken, all were in favor. Motion passed.

Strategic Planning Committee – Jeremy Geske recapped the status on the registry program and strategic planning session.

Old Business

None.

New Business

NAILE

1) Judge Voting – There was a lengthy discussion on who is eligible to vote for the 2021 NAILE Open Suffolk Show judges with the challenges surrounding NAILE this year. Cynthia Huckins made a motion that the 2019 and the 2020 exhibitors NAILE Open Suffolk Show exhibitors are eligible to vote for the 2021 NAILE Open Suffolk Show judges. The same voting process will occur – ballots will be mailed to exhibitors. Fitted exhibitors vote for a fitted judge, Slick shorn exhibitors vote for the slick shorn judge and if the exhibitor has fitted and slick, they can vote for both judges. No list of judges will be provided. The motion was seconded by Randy Dombek. A roll call vote was taken; yes: Reau, Dombek, Burke, Huckins, Summey, Ahart; no: Henderson, Van Dyke, Heupel; abstain: Hodges. Motion passed.

2) Open Show Entry Refund - There was discussion on how to handle open show entry refunds. Randy Hodges made a motion that the USSA follow the same refund protocol as NAILE. The motion was seconded by Bret Henderson. All were in favor, motion passed.

3) NAILE Fitted Judge - Amanda Everts reported that the first and second judge choices (by exhibitor vote) have turned down the invitation to judge. Amanda provided the board with a list of individuals that will be attending NAILE that could judge. Discussion followed. Cythina Huckins nominated Tor Sorenson. Tom Burke seconded that nomination. Greg Ahart moved that nominations cease. Brenda Reau seconded that motion. All were in favor, Tor Sorenson will be asked to judge the 2020 NAILE Open Show – Fitted Division.

Director Election

Amanda Everts reported on the director election results: District 1 – Matt Wolf, District 2 – Carol Heupel (3yr term) and Jeff Baumann (1yr term) and District 3 – Jeremy Geske.

District 4 Director Vacancy

Amanda Everts reported that Mac Sworzel and Bill Zwyers have submitted a letter of interest for that vacancy.

Catastrophic Relief Program – Blair Summey discussed the association offering a catastrophic relief program, a short discussion followed. Blair Summey made a motion that the USSA assist senior and junior members through a Catastrophic Relief program that helps with the cost of registrations, transfers, and membership for 1 year following the event. Board members bring the information to the board and they are to connect with that member. The motion was seconded by Cynthia Huckins. All were in favor, motion passed.

Greg Ahart moved to adjourn the meeting. Randy Hodges seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:22pm.

Approved 11.23.20