



PAULDING COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

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The Regular Meeting of the Paulding County Agricultural Society was called to order by President Dan Howell on August 13th, 2025, at 6:30 pm at the Paulding County Fairgrounds Secretary's Office. The following members were present: Faith Meraz, Dan Howell, Sarah McCabe, Rebecca Kessler, Lori Davis, Rhonda Bates, Francis Saxton, Nolan Johanns, Chad Manz, Jonathon Rose, Austin Conlon, Shawn Hurd, and Randy Slattman.

Heidi Conlon, Miranda Leatherman, Bruce Farquhar, and Gus Davis were excused.

Guests present were Kaylie Tressler, Colton Howell, Tony Miller, and Michael Schweinsberg

Guests:

- Rhonda Bates moved to go to guests. Nolan Johanns seconded, and the motion carried.
- Michael Schweinsberg shared that he has a farm safety day at the end of this month, on Friday, August 29th, and he asks for individuals to help and use of bleachers.
- Austin Conlon moved to return to regular business. Randy Slattman seconded, and the motion carried.

Old Business:

- Jonathon Rose moved to approve the previous meeting minutes as sent out via email before the meeting. Nolan Johanns seconded, and the motion carried.
- There was a question of whether the open goat/sheep show is set for Sunday of the 2026 fair, per the previous month's minutes. A definitive date for this show will be discussed at a future meeting.

- The treasurer's report was sent out via email. Randy Slattman moved to table the discussion of the treasurer's report until next month. Rhonda Bates seconded, and the motion carried.

New Business:

- Randy Slattman reported that they took out some camping boxes and took out an overhead light on the grounds. He is requesting the installation of a dawn-to-dusk light at the door to the announcer's stand of the horse arena, wiring it into the building, and putting it on a pole outside the building. Jonathon Rose moved to purchase a dusk-to-dawn light for back by the horse announcer's stand up to \$250. Rhonda Bates seconded, and the motion carried.
- The board discussed that a request has been made for an aerial picture of the grounds, and that the electrical and water systems should be plotted on a map in case of emergency.
- Sarah McCabe asked for information updates for the website, clarifying that camping applications should be turned in by February 15th, winter storage date of October 25th from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., and move out by March 28th. Sarah also shared a copy of a working map of the fairgrounds with buildings labeled for use on the website.
- Nolan Johanns asked whether the NTPA money had been returned to the board yet, and this was unknown at this time. Nolan also shared that he is gathering up materials to pass this event onto someone else.
- Lori Davis shared that the \$40,000 came in for the lighting project. The quote is still in the works, and the board needs to ensure that pictures are taken before and after for the grant, which must be completed by October 31st.
- Rhonda Bates shared that with school starting, she would like the board to look into having a high school art show, and she was seeking the board's approval to work with the school art teachers. Austin Conlon moved to approve going forward with the project of holding a school art show. Francis Saxton seconded, and the motion carried.
- Francis Saxton shared the request of the Black Swamp Horse Show to purchase an arena drag for the tractor for use in the horse arena. Randy Slattman moved to allow the purchase of the drag using funds from the Black Swamp Horse account. Austin Conlon seconded, and the motion carried.

- Rhonda Bates moved to allow the use of \$500 from the Black Swamp Horse account to purchase food for the kids at the upcoming show. Austin Conlon seconded, and the motion carried.
- The board discussed the replacement of lighting around the horse arena. The board determined to hold off approval on this request until a quote is provided for which lights are to be purchased and a cost is determined.
- Shawn Hurd shared about cleaning up from the fair, and that the Black Swamp Horse purchased wood shavings from the junior fair for a cost of \$640. They would like to pay the junior fair \$700. Rhonda Bates moved to approve \$700 from the Black Swamp Horse Account to pay the junior fairboard. Jonathon Rose seconded, and the motion carried.
- Faith Meraz shared about interest in a wedding rental for May 30th, 2026, and if this was feasible due to the fair being the following week. The board discussed options, but determined not to offer rental on this date due to the livestock barns being set up at this time.
- Dan Howell shared that there will be schedule papers in the office in an effort to have the fair schedule finalized by December, and this will be extended to the junior fair to finalize their side of the events.
- A project list will be posted in both this office and the junior fair office for a clarification of which maintenance items need to be completed.
- There is a circus event taking place at the end of the month, a wedding, and then the fall festival next month. There are still two barns and the block building needing to be cleaned, and there are several maintenance items needing to be done as well. The board discussed that work sessions need to be put on the books to get these items done.
- The maintenance building has been painted on one side, but this will not be a long-term solution as the older paint is bubbled, and the wood is rotting. The board has steel available to side the building. Lori Davis moved to approve the siding of the maintenance building. Rhonda Bates seconded, and the motion carried. The board discussed that supplies could be around \$500 to finish off the building after the initial changes are made.
- The horse pulling and KOI are planning to return for next year. The individual, Jeremy, who has taken over the derby, would like to come back to Paulding for the same price as the Midwest promotion company.

- The board discussed forming a committee to reach out to the donors, get contacts from current sponsors, and any updates to logos and names. This committee would also look into Venmo and ACH transaction as has been requested by sponsors and discussed by the board previously. The board discussed changing the name of the sponsorship levels to eliminate having two general levels as well as clarifying the size of banners to be ordered for the different levels. Faith Meraz will chair this committee with Lori Davis, Austin Conlon, and Rebecca Kessler also serving on the committee.
- The board discussed that livestock project numbers are up. It was indicated that the Jacobs Building was donated for youth/junior fair purposes, and it is located beside the rabbit barn. It was suggested to utilize this building for the dog and rabbit shows. If the trophy room is removed from the block building, as previously discussed, the commercial building and craft vendors can be combined into this area.
- It was shared that there have been requests for the return of the arcade games at the fair, but the closest option may be out of the board's price range. The board discussed instead having rainy day activities in the extension hall, such as yard games or board games, or to involve more youth-oriented activities and games throughout the week. A committee was formed for developing new activities for youth involvement during fair week composed of Rebecca Kessler and Sarah McCabe.
- Jessica Stechshulte, who took care of contacts with and organizing businesses in the commercial building this past year, would like to be a part of the Friends of the Fair. Chris Wilcox would like to help with the fair and set the poles for the lights.

Adjournment:

- Rhonda Bates moved to adjourn the meeting, and Francis Saxton seconded. The motion carried.

President: _____ Secretary: _____