



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 July 9th, 2025, at 6:30 pm at the Paulding County Fairgrounds Secretary's Office. The following members were present: Faith Meraz, Dan Howell, Sarah McCabe, Miranda Leatherman, Rebecca Kessler, Brandon Wobler, Lori Davis, Gus Davis, Bruce Farquhar, Shawn Hurd, Austin Conlon, Rhonda Bates, Francis Saxton, Chad Manz.

Randy Slattman was excused.

Guests:

- Miranda Leatherman moved to go to guests, and Rhonda Bates seconded. The motion carried.
- UIS Insurance and Investments brought up discussion on the insurance renewal for July 15th. The rate is up from last year. An appraisal was done and increased the value based on the buildings owned. It was indicated that portable bleachers could be added to the schedule, and that rented equipment could be added for the time period that it is on the grounds, such as golf carts.
- Vickie Boroff provided an update on the outcome of the livestock sale. The current total was \$553, 400.11. The committee would look to begin check distribution to the exhibitors sometime after July 19th. The threshold amount to start cutting checks had been reached. Per the prior board decision, checks will be handed out checks rather than mailed.

- Colton Howell shared that the junior fairboard did not meet this month due to 4-H camp attendees as well as other members being on vacation. They will meet again in August
- Austin Conlon moved to return to regular business. Rhonda Bates seconded, and the motion carried.

Old Business:

- Austin Conlon moved to approve the previous meeting minutes as sent out via email before the meeting. Sarah McCabe seconded, and the motion carried.
- The treasurer's report was sent out via email. Bruce Farquhar moved to approve the treasurer's report. Rhonda Bates seconded, and the motion carried.
- Moving into discussion of the 2025 fair, Heidi Conlon shared that open show forms need to be updated, as well as receipts maintained to keep track of participant names. The board should consider having a second person work in the office on those days. It was suggested to use Google Forms for entries of open shows and look into the board's Venmo account.
- Brandon Wobler moved to compensate the camping fee Ben Webb, Tom Zuber, and Riley Hart for 2025 camp sites. Rhonda Bates seconded, and the motion carried.
- There was camping feedback from the fair with complaints of someone dumping their gray water. The health department was contacted about this. In the future, the board intends to reemphasize rules on fireworks, tents, dogs. It was discussed considering instituting a clear fine and camping eviction guideline for next year for violations.
 - On the discussion of the tent issue, campers are allowed one tent per campsite as part of camping contract. Permanent tent camping is also offered on a separate site. The board discussed considering charging extra for a tent to be added to a camper lot. Individuals camping who are not involved with the fair should have their own site, and this would limit campers who are not old enough to have a site. The current camping fees are \$200 camper with a power hookup, \$100 for camper primitive, and \$60 primitive tent camping. The board discussed checking in throughout fair week, such as instituting site checks. Deputies were sent back to tents due to reports of underage drinking.

- Another complaint involved a hose being run to a camper all week, and the camper was supposed to be filled up, not have a permanent water hookup. No filling is permitted while on the campsite. Once the camper is on site, there should be no water hook-up to the fairgrounds water supply. If caught, the camper should be asked to leave with no refund. There was discussion of allowing filling upon arrival. While not advertised, this has been permitted previously.
- Sarah McCabe gave an update on the website. Board members should keep her updated with changes and cancellations during fair week as they happen, both for the website and for Deb Howell's updates on Facebook page. The website is made viewable across desktop, laptop, and mobile devices, which can complicate changes and formatting. Photos from fair will be included on the website. She is looking into having junior fairboard help with making an Instagram presence for the fair.
- The Lego Contest had very high participation at the fair this year, and Sarah has looked into having Bricks and Minifigs back to help with the contest and display.
- Miranda Leatherman shared that the demo derby went well, and the fair overall went well.
- The board discussed having three individuals take over running centerfield events and getting sponsorship. They would be classified as Friends of the Fair, not serving on the board but being connected to it. Austin Conlon moved to appoint Riley Hart, Jeremy Goings, and Joey Barker as friends of the fair and to take charge of the centerfield entertainment. Rhonda Bates seconded. Discussion was held as to what type of agreement would be had with these individuals and how sponsorship would be kept track of. This would serve as a formal decision to have them oversee these events and cover them in the insurance. A fairboard member would still be appointed to each event to work with them. The motion carried.
- Rebecca Kessler shared from fair week that individuals working the back gates would benefit from having a golf cart back there. It should be better enforced in the future to checking on golf carts to have permits purchased. She also brought up the issue of animals being fed treats by fair attendees, outside the permission of the exhibitors, which could be posted against in the barns.

- Lori Davis shared that fair went well.
- Gus Davis shared a financial statement of racing events as rationale for remaining on a two-night event and not moving to a three-night event. The horse racing is very involved, and the volunteers are very committed to long, exhausting days. The horse racing turned a profit of \$3,100.70, while there are some expenses like blankets to be adjusted again.
- The lighting grant is due October 31st. Photographic proofs need to be taken before the project is started and after. The board is awaiting state paperwork and will have to submit a final expense report.
- Gus also shared that rental of horse stall has ended for an individual, and this individual still needs to pack up their materials and clean the area.
- Bruce Farquhar shared that there were complaints during the beef show about people asking questions and receiving curt responses from a fairboard member. As previously discussed, the board seeks to improve open show organization with an updated sign up form and process.
- Austin Conlon indicated that for the grant for the restrooms, the project needs to be completed by the end of 2026. The board would like to clarify whether the rules about the stall amounts were actually brought down by the state or only the architect.
- Austin also shared that fair week entertainment went well with a lot of positive comments about the interactive entertainment from Sky Circus and the Wonderdog Show. There was discussion of investing in bleachers for the future to avoid moving them around.
- Rhonda Bates shared about the paint class having an overwhelming attendance, and Ginger asking to return next year for this event. She would also be interested in helping the board do fundraisers for the fair. For Misti Meadows Flowers, Rhonda is looking into having her next year. There were 209 entries in the grange this year, and there was a sponsor to cover most of it.
- Rhonda indicated that increased advertisement for the mini horse pulling event would be beneficial if brought back in the future. It was suggested to not charge admission for the mini horse pulling next year.

- Francis Saxton shared that July 26-27 and September 6-7 are the upcoming horse show dates on the grounds. The board has previously decided to charge them \$250 a day, \$500 a weekend for the Quarter Pony Shows. There is a wedding in the barns on September 6, and it was suggested to move the show start time up.
- Dan Howell shared that two of the large fans used in the barns were posted as missing and never returned to the grounds this year.
- Further discussion of the fair will be revisited at the November meeting.

New Business:

- There was board discussion of the insurance premium of \$14,296. Lori Davis moved to approve the insurance premium of \$14,296. Rhonda Bates seconded, and the motion carried.
- The drainage pipes by the restrooms need maintenance. Francis Saxton moved to call to have an area company out to look at this issue. Miranda Leatherman seconded, and the motion carried.
- Clean up is needed beneath grandstand due to the mud tracked in following the rodeo. The grandstand itself is going to need power-washing.
- The boy scouts expressed interest in doing concessions at all of the grandstand events next year.
- The prom committee expressed interest in working the gates at all grandstand events if given dates and rain dates.
- For the cancelled NTPA event, the four classes that were not run will be reimbursed to the fairboard, but there is a fee for classes started as well as promotion.
- The individual flying the drone over the grounds was caught. It was a liability issue as it could have fallen on the crowd or people participating in an event.
- For the future, the board will have to confirm the location of the sale office. The trailer the board has is not in condition to be used. The board also discussed taking down the trophy case in the block building as trophies are kept close to the show arena anyway.
- Clean up needs to be completed on the livestock barns.

- Shawn Hurd shared \$140 of sponsorship has been turned in for the horse shows, and they are awaiting more monies. The configuration of the show arena has been changed to better serve the participants.
- Shawn Hurd moved to rescind the motion of purchasing the portable gate for the horse arena. Brandon Wobler seconded, and the motion carried.
- There is a bill to Fair Publishing Company \$463.11 and Riverside Acres to be paid from Black Swamp account.
- Shawn Hurd moved for approval for the Black Swamp Horse Shows participation in the Kalmbach Feeds Partners Program to collect Tribute feed bags. Brandon Wobler seconded, and the motion carried.
- Heidi Conlon shared that there was a fake bid on the cow carving, and they will look into calling the individual with the first bid. Otherwise, the money has been collected for the other carvings.
- The craft vendors in the block building would like to return next year. There was a good turnout.
- Austin Conlon moved to set next year's fair dates for June 6th through the 13th, 2026, to avoid overlap with other fairs. Rhonda Bates seconded, and the motion carried.
- Bruce Farquhar moved to set race dates June 8th and 9th 2026 with a rain date June 10th. Brandon Wobler seconded, and the motion carried.
- Miranda Leatherman moved to set the open sheep and goat show for June 9th, 2026. Brandon Wobler seconded, and the motion carried.
- The board discussed looking into KOI and the mini horse pulling event for next year.
- The board would like to have rulebooks ready by for the 2026 fair .
- The board will look to set dates to distribute sale checks, once they are printed during the week of July 27th. There should be multiple times of day offered to improve availability.
- A contract is in place for the new fall festival. The antique tractor pull has come on board to assist with this event.

Adjournment:

- Austin Conlon moved to adjourn the meeting, and Rhonda Bates seconded. The motion carried.

President: _____ Secretary: _____