



# 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 October 8th, 2025, at 6:30 pm at the Paulding County Fairgrounds Secretary's Office. The following members were present: Faith Meraz, Dan Howell, Heidi Conlon, Rhonda Bates, Sarah McCabe, Nolan Johanns, Gus Davis, Bruce Farquhar, Brandon Wober, Shawn Hurd, Austin Conlon, Lori Davis, Rebecca Kessler, Francis Saxton, Randy Slattman, and Chad Manz.

Guests present were Michael Schweinsberg and Brooklynn Schlatter.

## **Guests:**

- Nolan Johanns moved to go to guests. Francis Saxton seconded, and the motion carried.
- Michael Schweinsberg thanked the board for the use of the buildings for farm safety day. The livestock possession date calendar is out for review. Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, from 1-3 p.m. is a 4-H kickoff event.
- Brooklynn Schlatter shared that she plans to attend the state competition in January and asked for donations to attend. It is \$125 for the application and \$145 for each night at the hotel. In the past, the board paid up to \$500. Rhonda Bates moved to pay up to \$500 for Brooklynn Schlatter to attend the queen contest. Francis Saxton seconded, and the motion carried.
- Nolan Johanns moved to return to the regular order of 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. Nolan Johanns seconded, and the motion carried.
- Brandon Wobler moved to approve the September treasurer's report. Nolan Johanns seconded, and the motion carried.
- The board reviewed the profit and loss statement for the 2025 fair and received a list of outstanding livestock checks that have to be cashed by October 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- The finance committee met, and per discussion, there will be a profit and loss statement going forward.
- It was discussed that the rodeo profits are going to childhood cancer research. Brandon Wobler moved to set aside from the rodeo, from a \$ 1,500 loss; leave another \$2,000, \$3,500 total to carry for next year's expected cost out of the gate admission, and the rest to donate to childhood cancer research. Nolan Johanns seconded, and the motion carried.
- For the 2026 fair, the board discussed planning for the childhood cancer research donation, covering the cost of the event before anything is donated out, and advertising this donation intention on the event flyer.
- The District 1 Fall Meeting is on Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, starting at 12:30 pm, with a meal at 1 pm and discussion at 1:30 pm. Nolan Johanns volunteered to attend.

#### **New Business:**

- Pictures were requested to submit for the work completed with the lighting grant, as well as a copy of the invoice.
- Austin Conlon shared the plan for entertainment for the 2026 fair. This tentative plan involves Mike Bishop for Monday, the performance dogs on Monday-Tuesday, Sky Circus for two days, and Magic with Eli on Tuesday.
- The board discussed that registration for OFMA is coming up. Austin Conlon and Sarah McCabe volunteered to attend as representatives. Lori Davis moved to appoint Austin Conlon as the delegate with Sarah McCabe as the alternate for OFMA. Nolan Johanns seconded, and the motion carried.
- Shawn Hurd shared the finances from the 2025 season for the Black Swamp Horse Shows. There were 201 participants across five shows, and a profit of \$3,904.40 was made last year. Francis Saxton and Shawn Hurd are interested in staying on as superintendents of these shows. For 2026, the Black Swamp Horse Show would like

May 23, June 20, July 11, August 15, with rain dates of August 29 and September 26 for their shows. Brandon Wobler moved to approve the proposed 2026 schedule. Austin Conlon seconded, and the motion carried.

- Brandon Wobler shared that the wood carver's extra wood needs to be moved.
- The board discussed the outcome of the Paulding County Fall Festival. The organizers asked to reserve next year's dates for September 7<sup>th</sup> through 13<sup>th</sup>. Austin Conlon moved to approve the dates of September 7<sup>th</sup> through 13<sup>th</sup> for the Paulding Fall Festival, offering a \$4500 rental with an addition of the cost of water and electricity. Nolan Johanns seconded, and the motion carried.
- The Midway Café needs a new water heater. Options will be brought to the November meeting after some research is completed.
- Gus Davis shared the opportunity to apply for the feature race grant and the improvement grant.
- Rhonda Bates moved to approve the application to the feature race grant. Austin Conlon seconded, and the motion carried.
- Austin Conlon moved to approve the application to the improvement grant. Rhonda Bates seconded, and the motion carried.
- Sarah McCabe shared that plans are being made to expand the activities associated with the Lego contest planned for Thursday of the fair.
- The previously approved cheer clinic has all three county schools planning to participate and asks for a large grassy area for practice. The cheer coaches will be handling this event.
- For the planned Conservation Day at next year's fair, the board has reached out to Paulding Soil and Water District, FSA, and Timber Road Wind Farm.
- An inflatable costume obstacle course was proposed for the fair. An entry fee and prize were discussed.
- The board discussed putting up a photo station for show winners in the show arena and barns, including a QR code to be linked for submission of photos for use on the website.
- Online map of the fairgrounds is on the website.

- First aid kits have been donated for use in the barns. Chris and Bud Dobbelaere donated. Have a thank you letter for her?
- Website request to pay \$84. Stripe ACH payments.
- Austin Conlon moved to \$84 elementor pro for the website and allow ACH payments PayPal has a 1.99% fee and 501C-3. Stripe and ACH and .8% fee. Nolan Johanns seconded, and the motion carried. Set it up to have the sponsor pay the card fees.
- Canva subscription can be free with a 501C-3. \$120 savings. Used for all flyers and website items.
- 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the United States next year. Kits for \$5000 to make a mural of patriots. Has a kit that comes with the tile and paint. \$150 flat rate shipping. Arrives in 5-7 weeks. Need to install ourselves. Dan to look into a sponsor. Draw kids to the fair to see their piece of the mural.
- Weller's Farm. Binzebo for displays, grange, events. Grain bins and pavilion in the middle and rent out. Put it back behind the grandstand. Something for the board to think about.
- Camper move-in. Numbers are written out, stick it in the window. One individual person responsible for barn. Keep track of whose camper is where in case of emergency to know which is where promptly. All fairboard directors are permitted to bring them the week before.
- Rhonda Bates midway concessions to implement a taste of the fair. Any concession can participate, and come up with a specific special. Get the word out of who is here. Food competition, have judges, pick a food item to win. Triple D the panini lady would like to donate free hotdog coupons to participants in kiddie tractor pull.
- There is an interest in flat-track racing. Out of Chillicothe, Ohio. Concerns in the past about the track being unusable for harness racing afterward. There would be a fee for not replacing the condition of the track in the contract. Board interest in hearing from this group? Coincide with Van Wert and Lima for a point circuit series. Would be after our fair but before July.
- Faith Meraz shared that she will not be interested in reelection as secretary next month as a forewarning for anyone that may be interested or considering interest in secretary position as we look to elections next month.

- Frankart will start October 9<sup>th</sup> on lighting.
- Restroom design has been updated. We have the restroom grant already, and then there is an Ohio Bicentennial Grant and others we could apply for to use for the restrooms. This project is still in progress. Stay with Schweller Electric. Schlatter's to do plumbing. If the board came into more grant money, take out an update the block building restrooms. Will have a drawing at the next meeting.
- Have fire hydrants put in, gate 3 and main gate, so that the fire department can respond in a timely manner.
- Camper storage on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Start at 8 am. Make assignments that morning with helpers. Charge radios.
- Look into Paulding Putnam for internet for the grounds. The security system is attached to the hog barn, so this breaker cannot be turned off like the other barns for winterizing.
- Put the names on the barns. Proofs from the county to look at in the future. Aluminum. Reflective. Get a grant through the insurance company for safety purposes to get money back on signs.
- Jr. Fair has election of advisors. Tony Miller key advisor. Colton Howell and Kaylie Tressler as advisors.
  - Three-year term for jr. fair advisors. To keep it staggered.
  - Be put on ballot in June. Implement following November.
  - Nolan Johanns move to have a three-year term for junior fair advisors. One appointment per year in a three-year rotation. Randy Slattman seconded. Motion carried.
  - Has to go on the ballot June 2026.
  - Anything to be changed in the bylaws has to be brought up and voted on by November to be put on ballot in June.
- Wilson Demolition Derby was approved, but one organizer has left, so the name has changed to Midwest Derby Crew. The contract is still for \$3,500. They would like to add a class – second chance heat. Randy Slattman moved, Francis Saxton seconded, and the motion carried.
- Menodocia Pulling has contacted about bringing their tricks. Could be a hindrance to NTPA, so have declined interest. As long as the reimbursement from NTPA pans out.

- Put on an Easter egg hunt out for the kids of the community. Avoid Easter weekend. Move forward and do community events.
- People mover, wagon as with moving court during the parade, can be applied for from Ohio Bicentennial.
- Paulding Putnam internet for security cameras, livestream shows, and looking to put cameras in the barn to deter behaviors.
- Need to stress the issue of animal abuse. Dan Howell livestock superintendent, so notify about instances. Exhibitors can face serious charges for animal cruelty.

**Adjournment:**

- Nolan Johanns moved to adjourn the meeting, and Austin Conlon seconded. The motion carried.

President: \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_