



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 March 12th, 2025, at 6:30 pm at the Paulding County Fairgrounds Secretary's Office. The following members were present: Dan Howell, Rhonda Bates, Nolan Johanns, Miranda Leatherman, Bruce Farquhar, Gus Davis, Randy Slattman, Sarah McCabe, Francis Saxton, Chad Manz, and Faith Meraz.

Austin Conlon, Johnathon Rose, and Rebecca Kessler are excused.

The guests present were Colton Howell, Kaylie Tressler, Tony Miller, Michael Schweinsberg, Vickie Boroff, Rex Boroff, Heather Sherber, and Suzanne Hasch.

Guests:

- Miranda Leatherman moved to go to guests, and Francis Saxton seconded. The motion passed.
- Heather Sherber and Suzanne Hasch shared about the new Paulding Fall Festival. They would like access to the fairgrounds from September 8th through 15th and are looking at September 12th and 13th to hold the festival. They have gotten a lot of support from vendors and the local community. They do not currently have nonprofit status. In considering the rental agreement, they do not want access to the grandstand or racetrack area. Grover Hill Lion's building will also be out. The extension building has been rented out for a wedding on this date and interference with this would have to be avoided. This would make certain areas restricted for parking for the wedding. They are looking into security for the dates and potentially looking into different dates.

- Tony Miller shared that the junior fairboard picked a fair theme, Blue Jeans and Country Dreams, but it is similar to recent years, so they will pick a new theme at their lock-in. The junior fairboard lock-in will be on March 28th, if senior fairboard members would like to attend, the junior fairboard will be at the fairgrounds around 6:00 for pizza and games. The junior fairboard's first work meeting is on April 1st to prepare for weigh-in and tagging. April 5th is weigh-in and tagging. The fairboards will try to meet at the grounds around 8:00 a.m. After that, the junior fairboard will have work meetings on Tuesdays 6-8 and Saturdays 8-11. The senior fairboard is looking to mirror junior fair work meetings and work with each other. Tony also shared that the new goat pens will be here before the fair.
- Michael Schweinsberg shared that the fairbook was sent to West Bend yesterday. 350 copies will be made. March 22nd is the final quality assurance training. For the in-person Skillathon, he will need volunteers to do interviews. Michael had an individual approach him about an RC truck and tractor pull on Saturday to start the fair. He is looking to schedule training for FairEntry, and he will need to know classes and entry fees to put in open shows. The office is looking into Stripe for allowing credit card payments. They will chip in to buy two iPads to share among five counties and run the program. Rhonda Bates moved to join this plan and pay from the general fund to allow credit card payments for sale and camping. Nolan Johanns seconded, and the motion passed.
- Nolan Johanns moved to return to regular business. Rhonda Bates seconded, and the motion passed.

Old Business:

- Nolan Johanns moved to approve the previous meeting minutes as sent out via email before the meeting. Rhonda Bates seconded, and the motion passed.
- The treasurer's report was unavailable.
- Austin, Randy, and Brandon are going to meet to start working on camping needs. Outstanding camping fees have been collected.
- \$25,000 was donated by Diane Cooper to pay off the rabbit barn.

- Johnathon Rose could not make it to the meeting this evening but shared that more classes are being added to the open cattle show that the board previously agreed to participate in. The changes would include more dairy classes.
- Rebecca Kessler requested a better logo for the fairboard letterhead. Sarah McCabe offered to work on a logo.
- An individual asked about camping for the fair this year. This individual donates the use of a bucket truck. Rhonda Bates moved to compensate this individual by waiving the camping fee. Francis Saxton seconded, and the motion passed.

New Business:

- Rhonda Bates shared that the livestock committee met and now has the computer and other tech needs to be squared away. There was a question of how to handle back-to-back entries into a sale when an individual has a grand or reserve. The board discussed and opted to leave the natural computer-generated falling in the list to allow time for pictures. It was discussed that exhibitors have until the end of the weigh-in of the species at the fair to decide the destination of the animal. There is a rule in the fairbook on this matter, and it will be upheld. Training will be scheduled for Vickie Boroff to learn the FairEntry program and then a separate fairboard group training around mid-April to the end of April.
- All of the grange and domestic classes are updated and sent to Sarah McCabe for inclusion on the website. A kid's corner has been added as well as some classes removed. If there is growth in the baked goods entries, they would like to return to having a baked goods auction. A sponsor has offered to cover the cost of prize money for all exhibits.
- Miranda Leatherman proposed having the open goat and sheep show on Sunday after the dog show. They would weigh in in the hog barn to avoid interfering with the dog show and start the show at 6:00 p.m. If done so, the barn meeting would be moved up to 5:00 or 5:30 p.m. and out to the horse arena. The open cattle show is going to take place on Friday, June 13th at 5:00 p.m.
- Nolan Johannis shared that NTPA had to drop a class because all of the mini sleds are booked for that weekend. The board received a bill of \$2100 for a sled and another from West Bend for last year's gun raffle tickets. The insurance is \$820. Nolan also indicated

that a schedule should be made for the show arena so exhibitors know when they can walk their animals in there and avoid interfering with other species practicing. He proposed to hold the open hog show on Thursday of the fair. Individuals have reached out wanting to donate toward the awards for this show. He would also like to continue having the hog roast for the kids after the open show.

- Bruce Farquhar shared that April 26th will be the sponsor dinner. Doors will open at 5:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m. The junior fair will put on a presentation for guests, the senior fair will share, and the committee is still looking at entertainment. The committee has the letter from last year and wants to do tickets for attendees. They will have basket raffles.
- Gus Davis shared that the board received approval for a grant and will need to send in a signed copy of last month's minutes. \$2500 will be received for sound and lights. He also shared that the hanging outlets in the barns need new paracords. West Bend prices have increased, so the board could consider other options for banners, like Antwerp or Wayne Trace Schools. If any board is interested in learning about the horse and track events, see Gus to learn about it.
- Randy Slattman asked about a tractor for camper moving. It was shared that more equipment is becoming available.
- Sarah McCabe brought up that the board talked about fair photos at the last meeting. She proposed having a contest among kids and fair attendees so the board owns the photos for use. She requested additional information to link on the website, including still project guides, applications for king and queen and outstanding livestock, junior fair information and pictures, and vendor application. Sarah also proposed getting pictures of the senior fairboard members at next month's meeting. She also suggested having a LEGO exhibit, inviting kids to bring original ideas, and keeping it in the extension hall.
- Francis Saxton shared that Eric Priest will be holding a clinic on 4/26/2025. He proposed to pay him \$250 from the horse account for his time. Miranda Leatherman moved to pay Eric Priest \$250 for the horse clinic at 10:00 a.m. on 4/26/2025.

- Faith Meraz shared an example flyer for the proposed Rode's Meats fundraiser from Rebecca Kessler. The board passed the flyer around and marked down notes and suggestions to update the flyer before beginning the fundraiser.
- The board discussed which blow-ups to have Zach bring to the fair and determined to decline any ones with water involved.
- The district meeting is coming up in Putnam County on March 29th at 10:00 a.m. with a meal at noon Registration is due March 21st, and two individuals need to go. Nolan Johanns and Dan Howell will go.
- Dan Howell indicates that fairboard members should see Dave Kline for ID at the courthouse.
- A sheet was passed around to purchase fairboard shirts for new members. \$35 for polo through Signature Embroidery. T-shirts come through Deedi Miller.
- Alexis Howell and Brittany Turner are interested in working in the office this year. They will split the hours. Nolan Johanns moved to hire Alexis Howell and Brittany Turner to work in the office this year. Rhonda Bates seconded, and the motion passed.
- Radio station 93.3 would like to do advertising for the fair again. The board discussed having them give away a pair of tickets to each of the grandstand events. Rhonda Bates moved to have 93.3 advertise for the fair again for the cost of \$200. Francis Saxton seconded, and the motion passed.
- Van Wert Cart gave a quote of 12 carts, 4 of those for shuttle service. With the \$1000 sponsorship for the shuttle, the cost will be \$1820 to rent these carts. If the board decides now, they will be guaranteed the carts. Miranda Leatherman moved to take the quote for 12 carts and pay \$1820 with the additional \$1000 in sponsorship. Nolan Johanns seconded, and the motion passed.
- The board has signed the derby contract with Wilson's and has been asked to put a deposit down, around half of the amount, about \$1300. Bruce Farquhar moved to put down the deposit of \$1300. Francis Saxton seconded, and the motion passed.

- Nolan Johannis moved to work with Beryl Dasher to bring the BB gun and archery range back. Miranda Leatherman seconded, and the motion passed.
- By March 19th, the Van Wert Fire Department will be here to check extinguishers.
- The school clean-up day is coming up, and the board needs a list of projects for them. It was suggested to have a grass area clean up around the block building to make a seating area. In considering painting needs, paint is \$60 a gallon right now, and around 20 gallons will be needed. Francis Saxton and Nolan Johannis volunteered to be here on the grounds that day to monitor. It was also suggested to clean up the sticks, trash, and staples in the barns. The clean-up date is May 8th with a rain date of May 9th.
- Lippert Glass is donating windows for the ice cream pavilion and spruce up on the pavilion. They will repair paint damage to the block building while here. The board will need to provide the paint.
- The board is continuing to work on leaks in the water line.
- Progress is being made on the lighting project, and it will be done before the fair.
- The board discussed the fall festival. It was discussed that the festival would like to transition to a craft show and away from a flea market. The board agreed to support them and discussed that the festival would need its own liability insurance. If the festival changes the proposed dates, the board can continue talks with them to arrange the festival. It was discussed that the festival previously cost \$3500 for the rental of the grounds. There is an additional cost for the water bill and electric. A \$1500 deposit has previously been required as well as proof of insurance.
- The Leaders of Tomorrow 4-H Club would like to use Midway Café. The board agreed not to charge for rent.

Adjournment:

- Miranda Leatherman moved to adjourn the meeting, and Rhonda Bates seconded. The motion carried.

President: _____ Secretary: _____