

ST. CLAIR COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Monday, August 8, 2022 Minutes

1) ROLL CALL

Present: Linea Burch, Lori Warchuck, Jacqui Rabine, Scott Hill, Donna Wojtysiak, Mike Tomasek, Chris Ruemenapp, Rob Usakowski, Rick Ruemenapp, Tim Warchuck, Liz Pennazoli, Mark Pedersen, Bob Clogg, Linda Taylor, Bernie Dudek, Kim Hetzel, Bernie Dudek.

Excused: Kent Renn, Tom Vincent, Alan Thueme.

Guests: Kyle Veldman, Jodi Veldman, Kristy Hardy, Megan Tomasek, Tom Smidley, Bob Podjorski, Lindsey Uppleger, Yvonne Markel, Scott Dudek.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2) AGENDA

R. Ruemenapp requested to add to the agenda Bob Blumerich's truck. M. Tomasek requested adding a committee of electronic gates. B. Dudek requested adding golf carts to the agenda. A motion was made by T. Warchuck, supported by J. Rabine to approve the agenda with the additions.

Motion carried.

3) HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Yvonne Markel representing SCC Farm Museum thanked the Fair Board for letting them be a part of the fair. Farm Museum requested to borrow the electrical panel and bleachers for their fall festival August 26-28. A motion was made by C. Ruemenapp, supported by S. Hill to allow the Farm Museum to use our power cord and bleachers.

Motion carried.

L. Pennazoli and L. Taylor reported that the Farm Museum went above and beyond at the VIP tent by supplying food.

Scott Dudek stated that the birds that showed in the heritage class at the Fair this year weren't really heritage birds and didn't seem to fit well within the guidelines. That is an issue that the livestock committee should address first with the superintendent.

4) SECRETARY'S REPORT – None.

5) TREASURER'S REPORT

There is still a significant amount of money coming in and out, still trying to get caught up. A motion was made by C. Ruemenapp, supported by J. Rabine to donate \$400 to the Civil Air Patrol in addition to what they receive for the wood chip sales, trade the electrical panel and bleachers for using the field for a parking lot for the Farm Museum. Farm Museum will have to pay Matt Liebetreu for the hook up of the panel, donating \$1500 to Lenox EMS, \$1500 to the fire department.

Motion carried.

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A motion was made by T. Warchuck, supported by M. Pedersen to donate \$1500 to the Yale Band Boosters for bringing additional equipment for tear down which greatly assisted in the overall tear down.

Motion carried.

We need the list of tram drivers to be paid. Ray Long should supply that to us. We don't pay for horse trophies currently, but for ribbons. We pay .50 for each ribbon.

Bavarian Bleachers want to do a 3 year contract and said there's going to be \$1000 per year increase just because of the cost to have people haul the bleachers to the park and set up.

6) FAIR OFFICE REPORT

L. Burch is currently putting the class results in and would anticipate handing out checks on Saturday, September 10th and Monday the 12th this year. Office is being organized and cleaned after fair.

7) MSU EXTENSION

Enrollment is currently at 885 members, 230 of volunteers. View when we looked at 2015 there were 1359 total members, about 300 volunteers. 4-H Open House set for 10-15-22. Trailer was out here for the fair, going to get that wrapped. Lori Brockdorff is retiring in September and posting her position. Kristen Dyer is working out well.

8) COMMITTEE REPORTS

A) AG EDUCATION

The blacksmith and Native American displays were amazing and well attended. Fair trade cards come in droves for fair trading cards. Ag on the Move trailer was a hit. Couple helpers did not show up, ideally 2 people for that. Reserved Ag on the Move trailer for next year if we want it. A motion was made by C. Ruemenapp, supported by L. Pennazoli to have the Ag on the Move trailer in 2023. One opposed.

Motion carried.

B) AWARDS

B. Dudek put a form in the superintendent books for a ribbon inventory, a lot were returned blank. Banners and trophies to be discussed for 2023.

C) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Cook Drainage will be tiling the field now after fair. T. Warchuck will call them and get them started.

D) CRATER

Thueme wants to turn Wednesday night into farm truck races. Friday night at Huron Co. Fair they had 18 trucks started, 6 finished in final heat, paid \$800 to the winner and \$100 to each of the early heat races. We paid out \$6000 this year on Wednesday. Clancy said he'd

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bring 3 and commitment from 3 others that would come. Working on getting a fence around the crater.

Discussion about timing on Saturday night entertainment, possibly pushing it back an hour or two. Talked to several vendors not happy about that, so early that at night it seemed like there was nothing going on and we were slow. Think about that on Saturday afternoon. Discussion held about sawmill and equipment, would like to do that again next year. The sawmill was open Thursday through Saturday.

E) ENTERTAINMENT – No report.

F) FACILITIES

R. Usakowski met with emergency management personnel. Discussed number of Sheriff/Police personnel at our event. Other events in community usually have 50 deputies or officers and sharpshooters on the roof and they are only sending 6-8 to ours. Police presence is important at our event, even though we have not required it. Lots of issues with radios with emergency management. Central dispatch was out here prior to Covid. They dispatched from the trailer and no one from Central Dispatch was out here. Hoping to get more options. Emergency Management may come on instead of Central Dispatch.

DTE energy was here in the community outreach, there will be a recommendation to DTE to spend money here per that marketing person.

G) HANDICAPABLE DAY

This event went well. Carnival liked the kids matching shirts. Had 2 of 40 non Woodland people come for event, although others were registered.

H) LIVESTOCK

Sale was \$451,884.10. It was the largest sale we've had. 310 projects going through the sale. Record pricing. Longer dinner times and longer silent auction time suggested. Will have committee discuss heritage birds. Will discuss changing check in times, sign in up for tear downs. Looking for wider tent or longer tent for beef and goats. Utilized sheep panels in goats and were short about 20 of those. Had a discussion, goats is not a market project and would like to buy some goat pens and believe it will be primarily a fair board expense. Looking at additional fans and replacement fans. Committee will also be looking at reinforcing their resale policy. Current policy is anything donated is resold at Croswell Stockyards. This year auctioneer resold them at our sale. This resale policy was established because it could be costing kids money because the animals are being sold twice at our auction and/or adding additional time to the sale which then causes buyers to leave.

I) PARKS AND RECREATION

We appreciate Parks promoting our event during the week of the Fair. The current Parks Director has resigned and Dennis Delor will be taking over that role. We need final approval

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for the fence at the Crater. We will need a meeting with IT regarding internet at the park. Vendors did a nice job picking up their equipment. Problem with bees at the petting farm.

J) PERSONNEL

A motion was made by C. Ruemenapp, supported by S. Hill to approve the 2023 contract with Dusty Corners for bathroom clean up, with an increase in price due to lodging expenses.

Motion carried.

K) PUBLICITY – No report.

L) SPONSORSHIP

A meeting will be held August 30th to do banner inventory at 6 p.m. Sponsorship meeting September 12th at 6:30 p.m.

M) STILL EXHIBITS

No issues this year. Will be looking at parameters for judges as far as number of judges and how long to spend with each exhibitors. One project area took 7 ½ hours for judging. Will have a superintendent meeting to address how many judges projects should have, when superintendents should arrive prior to judging, how ribbons and trophies are awarded.

L. Warchuck asked for an updated list of superintendents to complete background checks. John from EBW TV did a video of the fair which can be used for promotional materials.

9) OLD BUSINESS

A) FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Andy Northrup emailed a week ago and is going to need an hour and he said he's got a ton of info for us. He received a lot of feedback and would like to set up a time to report that to us in September. He said he's going to need an hour. A motion was made by R. Ruemenapp, supported by L. Taylor to start the September meeting at 6:30 for First Impressions.

Motion carried.

B) VENDORS

Discussion held regarding political vendors. We had problems with political vendors this year, one coming from California and being asked to leave and refusing. He was standing in front of vendors collecting signatures. Sheriff's Dept. refused to remove him. We do not want political vendors, vendors that have political positions at the fair. Exhibitors also expressing dislike for the political vendors setting up in vendor areas.

10) NEW BUSINESS

A) BLUMERICH TRUCK

Bob Blumerich's truck was damaged at the fair and he noticed it upon its return to him from use during the set up and tear down of the fair. The door/mirror area is fiberglass and he

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requested that we fix the truck. The bolts for the mirror were torn. A motion was made by R. Ruemenapp, supported by J. Rabine to pay to repair the truck. We will have it delivered to St. Clair Collision for Mark Pedersen to fix and pay the bill.

Motion carried.

B) ELECTRONIC GATES

A committee is set up to implement electronic gates for the fair. Committee will be M. Tomasek, R. Usakowski, R. Ruemenapp, J. Rabine.

C) GOLF CARTS

We had difficulty getting them in 2022 and despite not wanting the flatbeds they helped in quite a few situations and could carry a lot on the back of those. Problem was it was a two seater and cannot offer a ride. Need to have someone work on getting golf carts reserved now for 2023.

11) ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by M. Pedersen, supported by T. Warchuck to adjourn at 8:53 p.m.

Chris Ruemenapp, Secretary