

ST. CLAIR COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Minutes of July 10, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 2023 – Goodells County Park  
Minutes of Monday, July 10, 2023

1) ROLL CALL

Present: Liz Pennazoli, Linda Taylor, Tim Warchuck, Donna Wojtysiak, Alan Thueme, Rob Usakowski, Scott Hill, Tom Vincent, Lindsey Uppleger, Mike Tomasek, Colleen Provost, Lori Warchuck, Linea Burch, Chris Ruemenapp, Rick Ruemenapp, Rob Usakowski, Kylie Veldman, Kim Hetzel, Bernie Dudek.

Guests: Joe Provost, Mary Ruemenapp, Megan Tomasek, Lois & Bob Podgorski, Tom Stickley, Kristy Hardy, Abbey Summers, Connie Murray, Cheryl Thuma, Karen Wesch, Ken Sieloff, Terry Dunn, Dave Goretski, Jake Sieloff.

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

2) AGENDA

No written agenda tonight.

3) HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Karen Wesch is asking for early dismissal. Up to the horse superintendents.

Connie Murray has a club that wants to bring a skid steer Fri or Sat to unload tack boxes. Need tar paper for mini horses, two rolls. Minis trailering in Mon and Thurs, done by 3:30 and 4:00. Will leave on Thurs by 2:00. Committee taken over responsibility for the open show, Connie and Colleen will be involved, Debbie Block, experienced leaders handling it. Rodeo slack at 12 p.m.

Ken Sieloff has the drivers for trams set up and ready to go.

4) SECRETARY'S REPORT - None.

5) TREASURER'S REPORT – None.

6) MSU EXTENSION

There is an interim director. The 4-H trailer is done with the wrap. Kids going to state 4-H Shoot and Horse Show. Requesting 6 wrist bands for her swag bags and gift baskets for the teams that win it the scavenger hunt.

7) FAIR OFFICE REPORT

Linea Burch is ready for the fair.

8) COMMITTEE REPORTS

A) AG EDUCATION

Ag on the Move trailer ready to go, cards ready, entertainment in place.

B) ENTERTAINMENT

Alpine Cycle gave Pete's Camper a good deal on bikes so the bikes are nicer than usual. McLaren will do a bike helmet give away at the same time.

C) AWARDS

Bernie won't be here on Wednesday of fair.

D) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

R. Usakowski met with Dennis Delor last week, had a discussion about Gold Barn. His thought is structurally building is in good shape, all stalls can come out without issues, enclose and use ½ closest to our storage location and then we wouldn't have to put up interior all. Take stalls out and needed stalls we could use portables. Big space a lot of room. This is the space we've needed for additional storage.

E) CRATER

25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Crater will be celebrated on Wednesday, inviting back people who worked on the creation.

F) FACILITIES

We need more cones.

G) HANDICAPABLE DAY

15 buses expected and will park in the north lot.

H) LIVESTOCK

Dairy animal numbers are way up and taking up the space allotted. There will be no tack area.

I) PARKS AND RECREATION – No report.

J) PUBLICITY

Camelot Studios will be coming out a day to film in order to put together promotional materials in the future. Port Huron Museum will do advertising for the fair on their Facebook. The Visitors Center has hooks at the roof line for hanging banners in future years. Ambassadors are being interviewed tomorrow about the fair.

K) SPONSORSHIP

There will be 72 banners hung at the Crater this year, two times as many as in past years. Sponsorship dollars coming in this year exceed past years.

L) STILL EXHIBITS

Likely to be replacing some still exhibit barn superintendents for 2024.

M) ELECTRONIC TICKETING

400+ weekly admission passes sold online, good presales all around.

9) OLD BUSINESS – None.

10) NEW BUSINESS

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A) SAFETY COORDINATOR

Jake Sieloff has volunteered to act as safety coordinator during fair.

11) ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by R. Ruemenapp, supported by T. Warchuck to recess at 8:44 p.m. Fair Board will be meeting daily at 1:00 p.m. during fair.

Minutes of Monday, July 17, 2023

Present: Rob Usakowski, Chris Ruemenapp, Liz Pennazoli, Kim Hetzel, Tim Warchuck, Bernie Dudek, Kylie Veldman, Rick Ruemenapp, Alan Thueme, Cathie Usakowski, Alex Vigneron, Ken & Jake Sieloff, Jeremy Modrich, Lauren & Matt Liebetreu, Julie Sovis, Mitchell Sovis, Mary Ruemenapp, Linea Burch, Nate Kenner, Kendall Richards.

Opening Ceremonies at Rodeo at 6 p.m. or after.

Kendall Richards didn't register for swine in May, didn't fill out a fair entry, and wants to show. Discussion held with Kendall as to the reasons. This is Kendall's last year in 4-H. Kendall's parents left it to Kendall to handle everything this year, being she's now 18 and last year in 4-H and Kendall did what she knew to do, which was send photos of her pigs, which she did, but they did not have the mandatory tags in their ears. Board decision that she would be allowed to exhibit, not eligible for Grand or Reserve in any class, no premiums, and she would sell last on the sale for swine.

Jeremy Modrich indicated there is a market poultry weighing in over 15 lbs and he went and has photos from Facebook indicating when the birds were purchased, which is too early. No verification if they are the same birds though. He's asking the birds be disqualified due to potential for having birds too old. Kay Smith said they turned in paperwork consistent with the project requirements and she has no way to verify if it's accurate. Carolyn Modrich indicated the feathering is not appropriate for the age the birds should be, it's a goose. She said there's no way to get a 15 lb. goose in 14 weeks.

Ian Mitchell indicated he turned in project record book for rabbits and it was not during the hours of opening time for the 4-H office. R. Usakowski picked up books on July 1<sup>st</sup>, the book wasn't there. Ian said he got it in but was unclear as to what time. He is being told he's not eligible for grand or reserve champion in rabbits. R. Usakowski said he picked up books at 10:45 and left office at 11:30 and the book wasn't there. Board decision that his projects in rabbits would not be eligible for grand or reserve champion.

Nate Kenner indicated the pressure tank issue is being resolved, showers back up and working.

Minutes for Tuesday, July 18, 2023

Present: Rob Usakowski, Kylie Veldman, Nate, Kyle from Parks, Tim Warchuck, Kent Renn, Lois & Bob Podgorski, Matt Laimon, Colleen Provost, Chris Ruemenapp, Mitch Sovis, Rick Ruemenapp, Jake & Ken Sieloff, Tom Vincent, Scott Hill, Linea Burch, Liz Pennazoli, Lindsey Uppliger.

Nate Kenner indicated this is a better this day. Water pressure was better today.

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Parking trailers form a column to come around and park in the back for pig trailer parking.

Matt Laimon indicated Major Crimes Unit will be working undercover on grounds.

Discussion held about the poultry issue from yesterday. Family provided an invoice for the hatch dates on geese, owner provided it to Kay. That individual that complained yesterday is going through the grounds bad mouthing the situation.

Kati Huntsberry has had an issue with Coggins and wondering if she gets it corrected with vet if she can bring horse in on the final ride. Kati Huntsberry said the vet messed up my Coggins, put the wrong breed, wrong photo. She's attempting to get it corrected and once corrected wants to bring her horse in to possibly show, but to do the final ride. Board decision is she must have a negative Coggins for a horse, if we have that, no issue bringing the horse in, if you can't get that borrow a horse. Negative Coggins is required for all horses.

123 pigs weighed in, no overweight hogs. No silent auction on pigs.

#### Minutes for Wednesday, July 19, 2023

Present: Alan Thueme, Bernie Dudek, Tim Warchuck, Nate, Rob Usakowski, Kylie Veldman, Lindsey Uppleger, Kent Renn, Chris Ruemenapp, Liz Pennazoli, Scott Hill, Rick Ruemenapp, Tom Vincent, Colleen Provost, Jake and Ken Sieloff, Mike Tomasek, Linea Burch, CJ Skerbeck and Bobby Skerbeck, Bob Podgorski.

Bobby Skerbeck said things are going well, should be finishing up special needs day. Need to clarify a few points for 2023, a couple squeaky points as to what's free and what's not free for Handicapable Day. Not free food at the carnival during that event. Numbers for two days, advance is \$25,000, online advance \$13,000 which is doubled from 2022, up \$18,000 from last year. Numbers up for Tuesday.

Colleen Provost indicated no one knows how to work the horse arena lights. You can adjust the lights from an app.

Scott & Lucy Brown said there was an issue regarding fitting & showing, concern is unfair way that the rules are being enforced. Either rules are everyone or no one, not you have to comply, you don't. What we witnessed last night was the same thing that Carrie Brown was accused of and happened last year, only Mikey was working on his steer This year Joey J. was standing there playing with his show stick, back turned to the animal or not near the animal and mom, dad and aunt doing all the work. No authority to call them out on it at the time so we didn't, but they videotaped it. If rules enforced for our daughter, fine, same letters and rules enforced for that. Consistency is important. Believe leaders and superintendents should be held to a higher standard. Discussion held, the incident in 2022 involved an exhibitor over 16 years old and the incident in 2023 involves a child under 12 years old. There is a different level of assistance for a different age, which corresponds with what's in the fair book.

Ries family came in, concerned about their young daughter being required to exhibit in the Sweepstakes Showmanship for rabbits and handle larger animals. She was told her award will be taken away if they don't participate. Trying to accommodate everyone that can participate, defeats the purpose of

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sweepstakes if top exhibitors don't participate. Told beef exhibitors do not plan to participate. The sweepstakes jackets are for participation in sweepstakes. Need to make that clearer to exhibitors and in the fair book. No participation, you don't get your sweepstakes jacket.

Letter from Katie Ries read. Katie said she would participate in sweepstakes. Accommodations will be made for any exhibitor who does not want to handle an animal that they are unsure of, they can merely answer questions by the judge and pass on the actual handling of the animal. Their score will reflect that.

Minutes of Thursday, July 20, 2023 – Special Time, 8:30 a.m.

Present: Linda Taylor, Lindsey Uppleger, Kylie Veldman, Tom Vincent, Rob Usakowski, Alan Thueme, Tim Warchuck, Scott Hill, Kent Renn, Chris Ruemenapp, Liz Pennazoli, Mary Ruemenapp, Rick Ruemenapp, Julie and Mitch Sovis, Donna Wojtysiak, Linea Burch, Mike Tomasek, Colleen Provost,

Burke Manuilow used a coloring products on pig his pigs at the show last night. Under the rules in the fair book his animals are disqualified and they plan to take them home today. He is a first-year showman, not the one who is believed to have applied the coloring agent. The child seemed confused during the show that his hand and clothes were turning black and didn't know why. He was allowed to show and the recommendation is that he be allowed to keep his awards, but be disqualified from selling at the auction as a consequence. His family was given the option to take the pigs home today, or they could leave them for the balance of the fair, but they won't be sold at the fair.

Minutes of Friday, July 21, 2023

Present: Kent Renn, Rick Ruemenapp, Bernie Dudek, Kylie Veldman, Lindsey Uppleger, Linda Taylor, Nate from Parks, Liz Pennazoli, Kim Hetzel, Alan Thueme, Rob Usakowski, Tim Warchuck, Mike Tomasek, Bob & Lois Podgorski, Donna Wojtysiak, Scott Hill, Dennis Delor,

Livestock Sale was very successful. Sold 441 animals, \$442,000, going back to kids for livestock project. Grand Champion lamb sold for \$22 lb. and they thought they bought it for \$22. The lamb was sold again at the end of lambs resold for \$40 a pound. Donation pig from Thorner family on behalf of Hunter Thorner sold \$4820. Going to purchase new scales and plaques.

Internet down hurt getting payments. There was a severe storm during the beginning of the sale, causing cancellation of the entertainment, loss of power to some areas of the fair. Damage is minimal. Tent company out fixing VIP tent and entertainment tent. Some vendors lost some tents due to damage. Lost power on Castor Road but is back up and working now. Will be able to use the crater lot now. DTE was great about getting restored to the park. Parking lots are a little rough, south lot completely unuseable.

Spoke to Coach Brown, he had about 7 people working partking lots when the contract says 25. Need to reinforce expectations and no one is taking responsibility for making it happen.

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Livestock dinner had some problems. Committee under impression they were serving only livestock people but it was open to the public. They weren't going to open until 4:00, but we had confirmation from them they would be open at 3:00, and they were open at 3:00. Breakfasts haven't been good. Power went out in their kitchen in the midst of the storm so there were problems caused by the weather. Will reassess after fair.

Pony pulls going to use cement blocks, their sled was ruined. Vandalism, Sheriff's Dept. aware and someone tried to break into the Farm museum building, stole something from the vendor's location and tried to take Farm Museum golf cart and we have a good idea of who was involved.

A motion was made by C. Ruemenapp, supported by T. Warchuck to pay Alex Vigneron \$1500 for doing sound this year. Alex is also going to do the internet stuff for us for next year and take it down this year, saving us some money.

Minutes for Saturday, July 22, 2023

Present: Alan Thueme, Kent Renn, Bob Podgorski, Tom Vincent, Bernie Dudek, Rob Usakowski, Lindsey Uppleger, Jake Sieloff, Colleen Provost, Mike Tomasek, Chris Ruemenapp, Mary Ruemenapp, Linda Taylor, Scott Hill, Rick Ruemenapp, Liz Pennazoli.

Discussion about cleaning up tonight and tomorrow. Going to start moving crates in place this afternoon before the crowds arrive. Discussion regarding parking. Last night's crowd was as heavy as we've had and we are prepared to have another great night tonight.

Chris Ruemenapp, Secretary