

ST. CLAIR COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Monday, August 12, 2024 – Goodells County Park

1) ROLL CALL

Present: Tom Vincent, Mike Tomasek, Robin Vigneron, Linea Burch, Jake Sieloff, Kevin Smith, Donna Wojtysiak, Lori Warchuck, Linda Taylor, Tim Warchuck, Kylie Veldman, Liz Pennazoli, Lindsey Uppleger, Alan Thueme, Rick Ruemenapp, Rob Usakowski, Chris Ruemenapp, Bernie Dudek.

Excused: Colleen Provost, Kent Renn.

Guests: Yvonne Markel, Chris & Abbie Summers, Derek Hayes, Kristy Hardy, Bob & Lois Podgorski, Tom Stickley, Ken Sieloff.

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m.

2) AGENDA

Request by T. Warchuck to add bleachers under new business and committee to review impact of other fairs running simultaneously to ours. A motion was made by R. Ruemenapp, supported by R. Vigneron to approve the agenda with those additions.  
Motion carried.

3) HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Bob Podgorski stated Yale came through for us and would like them to come back next year.

Tom Stickley asked about them helping with the parking, how many would they need. They would like that information so they could consider helping with parking.

Ken Sieloff did a great job with the trams.

Yvonne Markel is here with examples of some of the awards we may give

4) SECRETARY’S REPORT – None.

5) TREASURER’S REPORT

A motion was made by R. Ruemenapp, supported by A. Thueme to approve the treasurer’s report.

Motion carried.

A motion was made by R. Ruemenapp, supported by R. Vigneron to pay Lenox EMS \$1500, Kimbal Fire \$1500, Civil Air Patrol \$1000, Ken Sieloff \$550, and pay Civil Air Patrol \$1.25 per bale for wood chips for 540 bales.

Motion carried.

6) FAIR OFFICE REPORT

L. Burch is working on inputting fair results in preparation of premium checks.

7) MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Ending 2024 program year with 255 leaders, 549 youth and 118 Clover Sprouts. There are 34 incomplete enrollments. 14 State shooters medaled. State Horse Show this weekend at

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MSU. Saturday was Lake to Table with 25 kids participating from Macomb, Lapeer, St. Clair Counties. One injury, Tim Warchuck, knifed by a youth fisherman.

On October 19<sup>th</sup> will be the 4-H open house, October 27<sup>th</sup> Furry Scurry which is a dog fun match. L. Warchuck is planning workshops for livestock, Smith Meat Packing, Baker's Culinary Institute, MSU Beef specialists. Livestock is going to pay for those and held November through April.

### 8) COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### A) AG EDUCATION

Ag on the Move trailer lacked luster, the one last year was better. L. Warchuck will inquire as to the availability of the trailer used in 2023, who owns it, is it for sale, etc. Genesee County owns the good trailer. L. Warchuck would like a second basketball trailer, but need a box and running gear. Would like to make it shorter for younger children. Petting Farm needs a new coordinator, Sammy is not staying for 2025. This is a paying position, and Nathan Yera may be interested, but needs a committee to do a lot of steps. Need to put together a committee on petting farm.

#### B) AWARDS

The number of C awards given in the poultry area were a matter of complaints throughout the fair. Many exhibitors expressed they didn't know why they received a C and didn't know that that award did not pay a premium. Discussions regarding whether the judge was given expectations. A motion was made by C. Ruemenapp, supported by A. Thueme to change the C ratings to B's, and B ratings to A's in the poultry project area.  
Motion carried.

#### C) AUDIT – No report.

#### D) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

The tiling project will begin soon. Need to discuss restoration. A. Thueme will talk to Steve Thueme to see if he will do it. DTE finished the power to the Crater, which is about a \$25,000 donation. Need to start on the carnival camping area, DTE is working on getting power out there. Our cost will be about \$15,000, panels and disconnects donated.

#### E) CRATER – No report.

#### F) ELECTRONIC TICKETING

Eventry can send passes automatically. Volunteer management was more cost. \$3,746 for Saffire. We would replace Saffire with Eventry. Committee meeting on Electronic ticketing 8-29 at 6 p.m. Starlink worked great. Looking for a way to mount it. Alex Vigneron wants to build shelves to put the jacks on. A motion was made by R. Ruemenapp, supported by A. Thueme to purchase 2 Starlinks.  
Motion carried.

#### G) FACILITIES

Internet upgrades needed, cost of \$625 with new access point for office and show arena, switch. Items needed to be replaced, new cables, \$250. Alex and Rick talked

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about it. A motion was made by R. Ruemenapp, supported by L. Pennazoli to approve the upgrades recommended by Alex Vigneron.

Motion carried.

Need to rent a good forklift for 2025 and look at dumpster rentals.

H) HANDICAPABLE DAY – No report.

I) LIVESTOCK

Short on poultry pens, large and short pens. Kevin Smith got a quote, moving ahead with that, \$5200 for 75 cages. Currently working on a proposal to replace the show ring, met with livestock superintendents last week, permanent pin together gates, permanent wash rags, hog highway, gates for ends of barns. Sale largest we've had \$477,000. Fair had 5,984 entries, 627 exhibitors. 2023, \$443,000, up 300 entries, 622 exhibitors. 2019 high \$387,000 sale, 7,900 entries, 872 exhibitors.

J) PARKS AND RECREATION

Equipment went out of the park quickly this year. Going to go to the parks meeting on Wednesday. Hopefully bring a fair board report and game plan what we want to do.

K) PERSONNEL

A motion was made by C. Ruemenapp, supported by A. Thueme to approve the superintendent applications of Kara Geib for poultry and Veronica Ruemenapp for Home and Family Development.

Motion carried.

Color for 2025 is teal.

L) PUBLICITY

L. Taylor received initial reports from Cumulus, 76,000 geofenced with 15,000 and 16,000 on Friday and Saturday. Ken Sieloff said after his organization paid them, they never received a report from them.

M) SAFETY

Lots of small incidents and car lock outs. Bull rider, couple Facebook posts, mostly directed towards agencies. Spoke to transporting crew, after initial reports, there were no major damages and no major broken bones. 1<sup>st</sup> Bull rider had a broken collar bone, 4 calls in a short period of time that they were dealing with. All responders followed long standing protocols on how to respond to emergencies, which the public doesn't always understand.

N) SPONSORSHIP

Committee met and updated price list, about out of space at Crater to hang banners and beef arena. New package consists of one banner, small business to come to the fair, carnival and t-shirts.

9) OLD BUSINESS – None.

10) NEW BUSINESS

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A) DUETSCH SECURITY PROPOSAL

We will look at getting pricing for security. Sheriff's Department leaves between 10-11 each night. A. Thueme to get an estimate from Duetsch.

B) BLEACHERS

American Legion would like to use 2 sets of small bleachers for their tractor pulls. A motion was made by C. Ruemenapp, supported by M. Tomasek to allow them to use them.

Motion carried.

C) ROPE MAKER

A motion was made by L. Taylor, supported by L. Pennazoli to allow our equipment to be used by Ed Weber at the Harvest Days.

Motion carried.

D) CONCURRENT EVENT COMMITTEE

R. Ruemenapp offered to lead a committee to look at potential conflicts in equipment rentals and paid vendors due to Oakland County Fair being the same dates as ours.

Committee will meet after the electronic ticketing meeting.

11) ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by L. Pennazoli, supported by L. Uppleger to adjourn at 9:08 p.m.

Motion carried.

Chris Ruemenapp, Secretary