

## ST. CLAIR COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Minutes of Monday, January 13, 2025 – Goodells County Park

### 1) ROLL CALL

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

Excused: Kent Renn, Colleen Provost, Tom Vincent.

Guests: Cathie Usakowski, Megan Tomasek, Tom Stickley, Ken Sieloff, Melissa Wilson (Farm Museum), Michelle and Benjamin Weston, Dave Goretski.

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

### 2) AGENDA

Add under New Business, MDARD requirements. A motion was made by L. Pennazoli, supported by K. Smith to approve the agenda with the addition.

Motion carried.

### 3) HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Michelle Weston and Benjamin Weston from Rustic Ramblers feel the campgrounds should have “host families” to provide campers with a resource to talk to about their challenges, such as problems with their generators, backing in campers, help finding information about services such as Pete’s Camping, recreational things to do. They would like to see campground activities such as water balloon fight, karaoke that don’t interfere with the fair activities. They would also like to see the champion livestock housed in a common area or a bulletin board with the pictures of the champions with their exhibitors.

Ken Sieloff said he was here for the pumpkin rides for the Farm Museum and they had some very nice trailers, long, asking if we could rent, borrow, acquire some of those during our events. Would like to add another tram for the fair, and most specifically a handicap tram.

Melissa Wilson stated some belong to the Farm Museum, but some are borrowed.

Cathie Usakowski stated they had a problem in the rabbit barn with one leader in particular who the superintendent feels had multiple violations of the code of conduct in the fair book which started before judging with comments, questioning the judge’s decision in rabbit science, and interrupted judging. Her child refused to be judged in rabbit science, stating his parent did the project. That continued through fair, including some more severe actions at the end of the fair, grabbing an adult, swore a couple times. Fair Board will inform the adult of the code of conduct in the fair book and consequences of future violations.

### 4) SECRETARY’S REPORT

A motion was made by R. Ruemenapp, supported by A. Thueme to approve the December 9, 2024 minutes.

Motion carried.

### 5) TREASURER’S REPORT

No report. Treasurer asked to send all bills to [mgtomasek@hotmail.com](mailto:mgtomasek@hotmail.com). Gas receipts from MAFE convention should be given to the treasurer.

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6) FAIR OFFICE REPORT

L. Burch sent out 240 letters for trophy donations and have currently collected \$1,840.

7) MSU EXTENSION

T. Warchuck indicated they are currently working on workshops, club officer training and Winter Achievement.

8) COMMITTEE REPORTS

A) AG EDUCATION & ENTERTAINMENT

Meeting to be held on January 23 at 6:30 at the office.

Agri-Puppet contract presented. A motion was made by C. Ruemenapp, supported by A. Thueme to sign the Agri-Puppet contract.

Motion carried.

A motion was made by R. Ruemenapp, supported by T. Warchuck to purchase another electrical box, if needed, to accommodate the Kid Zone activities.

Motion carried.

A motion was made by C. Ruemenapp to sign the Animal Oasis contract, supported by A. Thueme.

Motion carried.

A motion was made by C. Ruemenapp, supported by R. Vigneron to sign the Thumb Tractor Pulling Association contract, adding a second sled if available, at the additional cost for that sled.

Motion carried.

B. Dudek will contact the person with the draft horse contract.

B) AWARDS

B. Dudek placed the Regalia and Action Awards orders. Best in Breed rabbit ribbons need to be ordered.

C) AUDIT

No report. Need to prepare, print and submit the 120-day report based on attendance of 155,000.

D) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS – No report.

E) CRATER – No report.

F) ELECTRONIC TICKETING

Discussed options on ticketing and QR codes. Meeting to be set for Facilities and Electronic Ticketing.

G) HANDICAPABLE DAY – No report.

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### H) LIVESTOCK

Beef weigh in and tagging is last Saturday in January. We have 11 set of small portable bleachers. We have 3-4 aluminum in the show arena during the fair. We have ordered a new show arena, hog highway, wash rack, gates for the ends of the barn. The gates will be delivered end of April. Will order 2 sets of aluminum bleachers to be stored at Blumerich's in the off season. They will be put on their trailer at the end of the fair to be taken to their home.

### I) PARKS AND RECREATION – No report.

### J) PERSONNEL

Abbie Summers resigned as poultry superintendent. A motion was made by C. Ruemenapp, supported by A. Thueme to approve the carnival contract.  
Motion carried.

Skerbeck Family Carnival talked to us about not opening the carnival in 2026 until Tuesday, to allow them to set up on Monday. If the decision is made to do this, which no one is opposing, we will ask them if they can set up their concession stands and have them available for Monday of fair at the Crater area.

### K) PUBLICITY

Signs will be ordered and Image Authentics are working on decals for the cement to give visitors guidance where the are and where to go.

There were approximately \$1500 worth of fair gear sold prior to January 1.

### L) SAFETY

J. Sieloff is reviewing the emergency action plan, looking for comments or ideas, whether things worked or not. They will have a meeting in the next few months with local agencies to review and update, and will seek barricades.

The plan is to have fair board directors, fair volunteers such as gate workers, parking lot personnel, tram drivers, superintendents, etc. to wear matching-colored shirts throughout the fair, which will give visitors a sense of who they can ask and seek guidance from if they have questions or concerns.

### M) SPONSORSHIP – No report.

### N) SUPERINTENDENT DEVELOPMENT

The committee will meet in the future to review guidelines for superintendents.

### O) AFTER-HOURS SUPERINTENDENT

No report. T. Vincent talked to contacts at convention.

### 9) OLD BUSINESS – None.

### 10) NEW BUSINESS

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A) USDA HORSE REGULATIONS

USDA is updating the Horse Protection Act, new requirements included if you have 100 or more horses that you have to have a farrier on site, and possibly an inspector to come in and evaluate the horses. There is further information needed and no guidance given to us at MAFE convention by the state vet who seemed to be unaware of this new requirement.

11) ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by A. Thueme, supported by M. Tomasek to adjourn at 8:28 p.m.

Motion carried.

Chris Ruemenapp, Secretary