

ST. CLAIR COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Minutes of July, 2025

Sunday, July 6, 2025

1) ROLL CALL

Present: Colleen Provost, Tim Warchuck, Bernie Dudek, Tom Vincent, Rob Usakowski, Rick Ruemenapp, Chris Ruemenapp, Donna Wojtysiak, Robin Vigneron, Lindsey Uppleger, Liz Pennazoli, Linda Taylor, Kevin Smith, Alan Thueme.

Guests: Ken Sieloff, Kristy Hardy, Dave Goretski, Bob & Lois Podgorski, Ben & Michelle Weston.

Absent: Jake Sieloff, Kylie Veldman, Kent Renn, Mike Tomasek.

Meeting called to order at 7 p.m.

2) HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Dave Goretski discussed bringing in additional horse trailers, as well as robotics team set up.

3) SECRETARY'S REPORT – None.

4) TREASURER'S REPORT

The north gate will be setting up an EZ Tent for shade, and need additional cones. Wednesday for Military Day they will let the entire carload in if there is military ID shown. Starlink generators discussed. They have ports on them that will charge phones.

Discussion as to who gets in for each night's entertainment. Tuesday drivers have passes, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday it's the driver, plus 1 person. Thursday it's just the driver and TTPA cards will get them in free.

T. Warchuck is getting the wood for the wood carver. Looking for National Anthem singers.

5) COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) ELECTRONIC TICKETING

There were 456 tickets sold from July 2nd to start of fair.

b) HANDICAPABLE DAY

There are 150 Woodland's students coming, 38 Early On and the RESA superintendent and Special Ed Director and director from the ARC for Wednesday.

c) PUBLICITY

Thumbcoast was out this morning when we moved the office to do a story on set up of the fair.

A motion was made to reimburse C. Ruemenapp for gas to drive to Grand Ledge to pick up fair shirts by L. Taylor, supported by R. Vigneron.

Motion carried.

d) SAFETY

Groups met a few weeks ago and went well, everything is in order.

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e) SPONSORSHIP

Four new sponsors in the last two weeks. Jeff's Rubbish won't be fully in-kind, but will deduct the cost of trash removal and we might get a bill at the end of the fair. We will place one extra dumpster behind Parks building for vendor alley on Saturday.

6) OLD BUSINESS – None.

7) NEW BUSINESS

a) CAMERAS IN OFFICE

The office will be closed to people walking in each night at 9 p.m.

b) AIR TAGS

A motion was made to purchase air tags for the golf carts by C. Ruemenapp, supported by R. Ruemenapp.

Motion carried.

c) TRAMS

The Farm Museum is completing their review of the trams for safety. They required quite a few repairs which are being completed and adding chains on the hitches, replacement of wheel bearings, power washing them.

A motion was made to reimburse the Farm Museum for the purchase of new tires for the trams by C. Ruemenapp, supported by R. Vigneron.

Motion carried.

The Farm Museum will do preventative safety checks on our trams annually in the future.

A motion was made to purchase whatever lights are needed for the trams by C. Ruemenapp, supported by R. Vigneron.

Motion carried.

8) ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to recess at 7:52 by A. Thueme, and meet daily during the fair at 12 p.m., and on Wednesday at 2 p.m.

Monday, July 14 at Noon

Present: Nate Kenner, Rob Usakowski, Tim Warchuck, Robin Vigneron, Lindsey Uppleger, Kylie Veldman, Alan Thueme, Liz Pennazoli, Kent Renn, Bernie Dudek, Mike Tomasek, Chris Ruemenapp, Rick Ruemenapp, Linea Burch, Jake Sieloff, Linda Taylor, Ken Sieloff, Tom Vincent, Donna Wojtysiak, Bob and Lois Podgorski,

Colleen looking for side by side instead of golf cart to switch out for the gates.

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R. Usakowski reported ticket sales are good. Problems with technology this morning. R. Vigneron, C. Provost, T. Vincent, M. Tomasek and Alex Vigneron worked the gates to help with the technology problems until it was resolved.

DOG JUDGING: The issue with the dog that Barb Hahn had addressed prior to fair ended up showing up the judging and it was sent home.

Someone hit a barricade and did damage to their vehicle. Apparently they thought it would move and the barricade is designed not to move and this was entirely the driver's fault since the barricade was clearly marked. Moved porta johns for the carnival. There are 60 carnival workers in that area and they need 10 porta johns for future years. Fair volunteer shirts look nice.

Signs on the ground look good and have been installed. Colleen wondering in the future we need to advertise County Park Drive is closed down during the week of the fair, since some people don't seem to understand that.

A motion was made to pay for the tire and rims on the two Farm Museum trams by T. Warchuck, supported by C. Ruemenapp. If the Farm Museum had communicated the need for the tires and rims, that could have been something we sought a sponsorship for, but that wasn't communicated. Motion carried.

The rodeo will be honoring veterans and first responders tonight at the event.

A request was made to keep as many people out of the office as possible so that it isn't so loud with people talking on their phones since there are people working in this office and it's not a place for social gatherings.

Discussion held about exhibitors grooming other exhibitor's animals when they are not exhibitors in the project area in which they are grooming the animals. This will be addressed on a case by case basis and something to be addressed after the fair in the rules.

R. Usakowski is working with Sapphire on a settlement on their contract for ticketing.

The contract for the pony pulls was not signed by our Board and returned this year, so there will not be a pony pull. Contracts can only be signed by the executive board, any member of the executive board, and contracts upon signing are supposed to be placed in the office. This has not been happening by all executive board members.

Thumbcoast will be here this afternoon filming.

Andy Northrop is going to do a class at MAFE about First Impressions.

R. Vigneron will be doing Facebook lives all week.

A motion was made to get 3 more golf carts and send the electric handicap golf carts back by T. Vincent, supported by L. Pennazoli.

Tuesday, July 15, 2025

Still exhibit barn and adult exhibit barns need to be unlocked daily.

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Dave Goretski will be given a golf cart to use throughout the week.

Good media coverage, including the Facebook live broadcast daily by R. Vigneron.

Puppet show is going over well, Kids' Zone looks great.

R. Usakowski indicated we will be meeting with MSU Extension regarding our hopes and expectations for a MSU Extension Educator to replace L. Warchuck when she retires.

There were calls regarding people in the crowd soliciting signatures on petitions.

Swine weigh in went well.

Attendance on Monday night discussed. There have been a few very good Facebook posts regarding our fair which were passed around. It's nice to get compliments for all our hard work.

Casco Rental continues to make a significant contribution to our fair in the Crater which is really appreciated.

Continue to need additional trash cans in the crater, parking lots.

The Park looks fantastic and Parks and Recreation are wonderful to work with and they have put in a lot of work prior to fair getting the park ready and it shows. They are a great working partner of ours again this year.

Kylie Veldman

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

Present: Nate Kenner, Rob Usakowski, Chris Ruemenapp, Alan Thueme, Lindsey Uppleger, Tom Vincent, Bernie Dudek, Kent Renn, Megan Tomasek, Liz Pennazoli, Kent Renn, Carlie Vertz, Jake Sieloff, Linda Taylor, Rick Ruemenapp, Mike Tomasek, Linea Burch, Colleen Provost, Kevin Smith, Kylie Veldman, Ken Sieloff.

National Weather Service is predicting significant downpours, lightening, We're on the edge of that area, so watch for that.

Gate receipts discussed. Handicapable day went very well. Well attended. Next year will be challenging since our fair dates move a bit and they are not in school during this time.

Ken Sieloff reported the trams are moving. Complaints of driving too fast on the back row which have been addressed.

Elizabeth Rooks addressed the Fair Board regarding her and her child's issues in the rabbit barn. Her issues started on Friday. Her child shows clover sprouts, poultry, goats and their own rabbit. Friday to be set up, read online which was advertised at the wrong time initially, then corrected. However, some exhibitors may not have noticed the correction from the fair book. She was told it was her responsibility to know the date was wrong on the set up chart, per Elizabeth. She apologized and told it was a mandatory thing and told to come in another time to make it up. Their rabbit developed "zits" during the day, my leader checked them prior, zits on the genitals of the rabbit. R. Usakowski said the safety of the barn is concerned, rabbits are checked in and any rabbit who has a contagious condition is sent home, and there is a time when those rabbits are checked in and she was told she had to come in with a different rabbit during that check in time. Elizabeth said

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the barn is to be open at 8 a.m. per fair book and she walked in the barn and was scolded not to come in until the doors are open. R. Usakowski said they go in and check the barn to make sure all rabbits are in their cages and sometimes it takes longer than a few minutes so the doors don't get open exactly at 8 a.m. Elizabeth said she was snapped at and told they'll open when I open them, and she didn't like the tone. R. Usakowski said he told her to close the doors until they caught a rabbit. Elizabeth said they weren't able to come back on Monday to feed and water, first year showing. She said when her son went to feed and water the rabbit jumped out of the cage, rabbit bit him and he dropped the rabbit. R. Usakowski said there have been other issues with the child and other kids. Several complaints of her son hitting the rabbit and mistreating the rabbit, squeezing rabbit while cleaning out the cages. That animals is sensitive to that. Health checks are necessary. R. Usakowski stated her son looks as though he is treating the animal aggressively, the rabbit is going to react. Elizabeth asked the Fair Board to revisit the rule that parents can't help their child in the barn or handle the animals during the fair. No problem with parent helping a clover sprout 100% in the barn. Elizabeth stated their rabbit fell more than once and brought it to Cathie's attention and she told me if my clover sprout can't handle the rabbit by yourself you shouldn't be here. Elizabeth stated there are rumors spreading about her son being kicked out of the rabbit barn.

T. Vincent stated we will review this rule and address that for future fairs.

Swine weights were discussed and apparently exhibitors of underweight hogs were told they could sell their hogs on the sale. Unclear as to who communicated this to the exhibitors. Underweight hogs cannot sell at the auction, no rule changes regarding this.

A horse was flagged for being lame, doing day to day checks, someone checked today, not sure if it was the vet. Wondering if we could have our actual vet and clear the horse or ride the other horse that's here. C. Provost said the superintendent can make the call on a lame horse, but you can bring the horse in and have the superintendent make the call if it's able to be ridden. However, there is no switching horses during fair, have to talk to leaders and superintendents.

All swine will be on the live auction. Kids can post for sale signs starting right now, don't have to wait until Thursday after the sale. The sale committee will facilitate underweight hogs to the processor.

Friday, August 18, 2025

Present: Nate Kenner, Rob Usakowski, Kent Renn, Alan Thueme, Lindsey Uppleger, Kevin Smith, Kylie Veldman, Robin Vigneron, Tom Vincent, Liz Pennazoli, Bernie Dudek, Tim Warchuck, Colleen Provost, Jake Sieloff, Donna Wojtysiak, Bob & Lois Podgorski, Mike Tomasek, Linea Burch, Rick Ruemenapp, Chris Ruemenapp, Kent Renn.

Livestock Auction went well, \$603,000. Great sale, highest number by a lot.

Concerns about animal abuse in rabbit barn, really no rules. Look if horses have a statement about it. Need a statement about animal abuse.

Used the two sleds at the crater. Feedback was good. Issues with the VIP tents this year, ground is too soft to hold the stakes.

Ticketing needs to have rules of things that they can't do, like no dogs, no vaping, etc.

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Saturday, July 19, 2025

Friday was our record highest gate. Someone arrested for driving while drunk, his car was towed.

Trailers will be staged today for haul out tonight.

Horses will be storing their fencing in their area of the pavilion. Make sure dumpsters are not blocked in

We will band the gates together for storage and see how that works. Will put Maggie in the storage unit last so we can use her when needed. Farm Museum will store 1 of our V-boxes.

Ice cream social went well, re-enactors went well. \$150 paid to Vern Preston for doing the movies.

Will throw away old speakers from the arena, no value.

Robin Vigneron