

ST. CLAIR COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Minutes of Monday, August 11, 2025

1) ROLL CALL

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

Excused: Rick Ruemenapp, Kent Renn, Tim Warchuck, Lori Warchuck, Linea Burch.

Guests: Megan Klemmer, Kristy Hardy, Tom Stickley, Crystal Jurczyk, Bob & Lois Podgorski, Melissa Wilson, Dave Goretski, Chris Knapp.

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

2) AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented by A. Thueme, supported by K. Smith.

Motion carried.

3) HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Chris Knapp came in during committee reports and presented the livestock committee with a \$500 donation to purchase fans for the 2026 fair.

4) SECRETARY'S REPORT

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2025 meeting by A. Thueme, supported by L. Uppleger.

Motion carried.

5) TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Motion carried.

A motion was made to donate the same amounts as in 2024 to Lenox EMS, Civil Air Patrol, Kimball Fire, Ken Sieloff, parking organizations by C. Ruemenapp, supported by L. Pennazoli.

Motion carried.

A motion was made to approve a 3-year contract with Bavarian Bleacher Rentals by M. Tomasek, supported by T. Vincent.

Motion carried.

Shane Tesluck will make modifications to the livestock's two new bleacher units to increase the height of them for approximately \$200 and will store them until 2026 fair.

A motion was made to purchase 2 more sets of small bleachers, just talker, five row, 8" rise for a cost of \$2,950 by C. Ruemenapp, supported by T. Vincent.

Motion carried.

6) FAIR OFFICE REPORT

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L. Burch passed out the list of suggestions. Needing to be addressed for 2026 is parents who have requested that superintendents not speak to their children. This can be addressed under Code of Conduct or some other area, and how that will be handled by the fair and/or superintendents in the future.

7) MSU EXTENSION REPORT – None.

8) COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) AG EDUCATION/ENTERTAINMENT

\$550 was donated from the car show exhibitors, collected from them as a donation.

b) AWARDS – No report

c) AUDIT – No report.

d) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

We need to put together a list of what we would potentially write grants for. Eves troughs for pavilion requested, campground electric, general announcing system for both sides of the park suggested.

e) CRATER – No report.

f) ELECTRONIC TICKETING

There were a few hiccups the first day, but resolved. R. Usakowski sent out a survey to those who purchased tickets online.

A motion was made to approve a final settlement with Sapphire over the ticketing contract for \$3,500 by C. Ruemenapp, supported by R. Vigneron.

Motion carried.

Electronic ticketing meeting will be held September 22nd at 6:30 p.m. at the fair office.

g) FACILITIES – No report.

h) HANDICAPABLE DAY – No report

i) LIVESTOCK

Going to look into a camera system for the livestock barns for 2026 fair due to issues reportedly taking place during the night hours in the barns. Melissa Wilson indicated the Farm Museum has requested of AT&T to bring a unit out here to boost internet service during the fair. That is something we may want to request as well.

Additional, larger poultry cages will be purchased for 2026, as well as cameras and new computers. The committee has set up subcommittees to work on educational workshops, rule consolidation and to work on auction details such as the dinner and events surrounding the auction, including purchasing a new backdrop for photos. Pullorum testing was discussed. The sale was \$603,000, there is \$144,000 outstanding. Checks will be disbursed on September 6th and 8th. There are several workshops being planned currently. 297 dinners were served.

R. Vigneron will work with the committee about displaying the name of the exhibitor while they're in the ring, and possibly the price of the animal.

If there is a caterer for the Community Building, L. Pennazoli needs to know that before November when she sends out contracts to vendors.

Committee discussed livestock insurance, and that needs to be looked at for 2026, whether that can be increased and/or limiting the committee's exposure if there were to be livestock losses.

j) PARKS & RECREATION

R. Usakowski will talk to Dennis Delor about approaches to the barns that have dropped making it difficult for handicap accessibility, wash racks behind the show arena and alongside with water flow. Additional garbage cans are needed around the park during the fair.

k) PERSONNEL

A meeting needs to be set to review superintendent applications submitted. We will add a Kid Zone superintendent position.

After-Hours Superintendent, Matt Duetsch, discussed with R. Usakowski activities going on during evening hours at the fair. That position will be continued for 2026.

l) PUBLICITY

The committee was happy with Thumbcoast and Camelot Studios. Will be purchasing A-frames.

A motion was made to advertise in early 2026 on the Blue Water Trolley on both sides if available by R. Vigneron, supported by J. Sieloff.

Motion carried.

m) SAFETY

Discussed feedback on the cameras that were placed in the park this year. If we want to do those for 2026 the cost will be significantly more than 2025. We may be able to negotiate a sponsorship option with them to reduce the cost.

Kimball Fire was upset that they were blocked in on the night of the monster truck show. Emergency Management doesn't like that we don't have sufficient storm shelters for the amount of people at the park, and that we don't have a public service announcement system throughout the park.

n) SPONSORSHIP

Committee is sending thank you cards to the sponsors. They will be meeting in early October, date to be determined.

C. Ruemenapp will purchase 7 coolers for the VIP tents, including 2 for B. Podgorski for their golf carts so they have water on board for the people doing parking.

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9) OLD BUSINESS – None.

10) NEW BUSINESS

a) MFEA Convention

Anyone wishing to attend, should make that decision by September meeting.

11) ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:47 p.m. by A. Thueme, supported by L. Pennazoli.

Motion carried.

Chris Ruemenapp, Secretary