



A nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to growing community through events like yours, and the Super Fair.

## Lancaster County Agricultural Society, Inc.

*A Nebraska non-profit corporation, designated as 501(c)(3) by the IRS  
and separate county-level political subdivision  
created under Nebraska law in 1870 to promote agriculture & youth*

### PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

#### Board of Directors Monthly Meeting

#### Lancaster Event Center Fairgrounds

Thursday, December 15, 2022 – 7:30 pm

4100 N. 84<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE 68507

Lancaster Room (Business Center Entrance – Pav. 1)

**Vice President Dowding** called the monthly meeting of the Lancaster County Agricultural Society board to order at 7:31 pm.

Proof of due notice was given in the Lincoln Journal Star and the Nebraska Open Meeting Law was displayed in the room.

**Roll Call** – Board members present in person were Hagan, Dowding, Suing, Rutt, Cooper and Doeschot. Board members not present were President Ronnau, Cusick-Rawlinson. Also present in person were LEC staff Amy Dickerson, Kim Bowen, Jason Rief, and Nate Dowding. Members of the public included newly elected LCAS board member Laura Hardesty starting her term in January 2023. LEC Staff attending via Zoom were Lois Harrison. Also attending via Zoom was Karen Wobig for UNL Extension.

**Approval of Minutes from November Regular Board Meeting.** Rutt moved to approve the minutes as read. Suing seconded. Motion to approve November minutes carried without objection.

**Financial Report** – Harrison presented the October financials. Harrison stated that there is more cash in bank this year than last year. Harrison explained that the Food & Beverage team had more banquets this year than last year which explained increased food & beverage

department costs such as labor, COGS. Harrison also explained that 2022 financials are still going against an unusual year in 2021 with the NHSFR. Suing made a motion to accept the October 2022 financials. Hagan seconded the motion. Dowding called for a roll call vote. Motion to accept the October 2022 financials carried 6-0.

Harrison presented the November 2021 post audit restated financials that reflected adjustments requested by the auditor in the recently completed annual audit. Hagan moved to accept the November 2021 financials report as adjusted by the auditor. Cooper seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. The motion to accept the restated November 2021 adjusted financials report carried 6-0.

Harrison shared the total for checks written in November 2022 was \$137,098.73. Doeschot moved to approve the November 2022 checks. Cooper seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

**Managing Director Report** – Director Dickerson reported that office staff level was down about 1/3 of the normal level. Dickerson reviewed upcoming staff assignment changes to help fill the open positions more thoroughly. Dickerson also shared information about a few new hires and the roles they will fill.

Dickerson said that the Lancaster Event Center has great staff doing all work with highly skilled, team-oriented managers and supervisors that provide great support to their staff. Dickerson shared that there are still positions open that need to be filled including a business development and marketing manager and that she will continue to recruit to get these positions filled as the State ARPA funds are disbursed.

Dickerson reported that Ronnau, Cusick-Rawlinson, and Rief are working on the upcoming VIP recognition “Blue Jean Gala” banquet February 16th. Current efforts include an online RSVP, paper invitations, sponsorships, and awards.

Discussion was had about the success of the recent VIP event during the Nebraska Ag Expo. Dickerson said that several city, county & state public officials attended and participated in the tour of the LEC facility hosted by INEDA to learn about the growth & impact of this show. Also highlighted were the need for capital improvements and expansion of the LEC Fairgrounds to support this important show for the local community and state.

Dickerson said the new state legislative session starts on January 4th and so work has begun on 2023 LEC goals with the lobbyists. Dickerson said that ideally a \$4 million yearly stream would help to support the ongoing needed updates and upgrades to the existing facility that is heavily used. Dickerson shared that the master planning team including the estimator for Hampton Construction was out to review the needed updates to the facility and estimated that of the ideal \$120 million in additional funding, 55% would be needed for updates to existing structures and the other 45% would fund phase 3 expansion. Dickerson said that the State



ARPA grant monies that were planned to be released in September still have not been released which continues to delay planned repairs and updates. Dickerson stated that first priority for any added funds after covering any remaining accounts payable are critical upgrades to existing facilities. Dickerson said supporting LEC events' needs is important to maintain the economic impact they bring to Lincoln and Lancaster County.

**Officer and Committee Reports** – None were reported.

**Extension Report** –Wobig shared that Calvin DeVries has received his master's degree and is leaving Lancaster Extension for a new position in Phelps and Gosper County as an Educator. He will be leaving Lancaster County in February. Doeschot stated that he spoke with Calvin about the change. Doeschot said DeVries is excited about the new opportunity but will miss the Lancaster County Super Fair and Lancaster's Ag Society support. Wobig stated new staff members are coming onboard in January, so she will have them come out to meet Ag Society Board.

**Communication from the Public** – no public comments

**NAFM conference attendance** was discussed. Harrison reminded the board that it will be held January 20-22 in Kearney. After some discussion, it was determined that N. Dowding, Rief, and Cusick-Rawlinson would tentatively attend to represent LCAS. Harrison will discuss with Cusick-Rawlinson. The board will need to revisit this in January to decide on a State Fair District 1 voting Rep.

**Operating Manager Report** – N. Dowding reported that the Ag Expo went smoothly with the busiest 3<sup>rd</sup> day (Thursday) ever. Doeschot said that the show management indicated that their attendance was up 8-10% and that there was again a wait list for new vendors as well as more space for existing vendors. N. Dowding said that four food vendors were present for the event, and all were pleased with their level of sales during the show. N. Dowding stated that the increased attendance carried over to the LEC café which also showed an increase of 8-10% overall for the show. N. Dowding reported that there was a roof leak over the new Innovation Hub area in P3 during the show. Staff believes that it was caused by condensation down the ridgeline of the building as it was built somehow outside cold air is meeting warmer air as building heated for the show.

The Arenacross event is coming up in January and will be in P4. N. Dowding said that this promoter is working to grow this event with live TV broadcast in the future. N. Dowding said that radio advertising will soon begin for this event and social media promotional work has begun. N. Dowding also reports that the promoter has a meet and greet track party planned for this year.

N. Dowding stated that preparations for the Deer and Game Expo have begun for January. The board discussed this newer expo at LEC and what a great event this has grown to become. N. Dowding said there are a variety of trade shows upcoming in the next few weeks and

months.

8:21 pm Cusick-Rawlinson arrived.

N. Dowding reported that the sharks national attraction contract has been signed for the 2023 Super Fair. N. Dowding also said that the local BMX show has been booked with contract negotiations ongoing and Darrel's Racing Pigs also wants to come back in 2023.

**Better Fair meeting feedback** – This was covered at the last meeting; no additional discussion was had.

**Other Business** – Rutt shared with the board that she will be retiring from her credit union job after 45 years. The board wished her well as she moves ahead, spending more time doing the things she loves—and working as a board member of the LCAS.

Dowding stated that Doeschot has moved out of the county, so this would be Doeschot's final board meeting. Dowding thanked Doeschot for his time on the Ag Society board. Doeschot stated that the Lancaster Event Center is a special and that he has enjoyed showing here. Doeschot said he loves this community and is glad to have served. Doeschot said he has many fond memories from his time on the board. The board thanked Doeschot for his service and wished him and his family the best in the future.

**Adjournment** – Doeschot moved to adjourn the meeting and Cooper seconded. The motion passed without objection. The meeting was adjourned at 8:27pm.

**Next Ag Society Public Meeting:**

**Thursday, January 19, 2023**

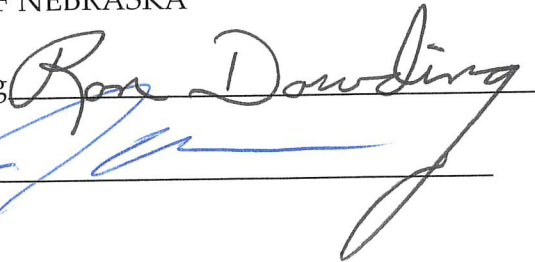
**Lancaster Room (enter Business Center, Pavilion 1)**

Monthly Ag Society Board Meeting 7:00 pm

(See final meeting timing/location at [LancasterEventCenter.org](http://LancasterEventCenter.org), click on About Us, Public Notices)

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED as set forth herein on this 19 day of January, 2023 Submitted by the LANCASTER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA

Vice President Ron Dowding



Secretary John Cooper

