



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*

MINUTES

JANUARY MONTHLY BOARD PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at 7 pm

Lancaster Room (enter Business Center in Pavilion 1)

Lancaster Event Center Fairgrounds

4100 N. 84th Street, Lincoln NE 68507

Optional Zoom link (was provided as convenience for non-voting attendees)

President Ronnau called the monthly meeting of the Lancaster Country Agricultural Society board to order at 7:03pm.

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

Board members present in person John Cooper, Ron Dowding, Kendra Ronnau, Karen Rutt, Jennifer Cusick-Rawlinson, Ron Suing and Bryce Doeschot.

Tom Messick joined via zoom at 7:50pm. Board member Lynn Hagan was not present.

Also joining the meeting were 4-H/Extension staff Karen Wobig, Tracy Anderson, Phil Wharton. LEC Fairgrounds staff present were Hoyt Kraeger, Amy Dickerson (zoom), Krissayla Rasmussen, Greg Rook (zoom), Nate Dowding (zoom), Megan Schafersman (zoom), Loretta Yerger (zoom) and Sarah Martin with her partner Marty Schmidt.

Approval of Minutes – Doeschot moved to approve the minutes from December 2021 Annual Board Meeting, December 2021 Regular Board Meeting, and January 11, 2022 Emergency Board Meeting. Cusick-Rawlinson seconded. Motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

Approval of Checks (Dec 2021) and A/P, A/R overview (Nov/Dec 2021 financials still in process)— It was moved by Cusick-Rawlinson and seconded Cooper to approve the paying of December 2021 checks in the

amount of \$313,180.67. Motion passed without objection, 7-0. Martin reviewed the A/P, A/R and said that there were errors caused by adjusting entries in process that she was in the process of finishing which were also the reason that Nov/Dec financials were still being finalized.

Officer and Committee Reports

President Ronnau testified on the Governor's budget plan for ARPA LB1014 recently before legislature in attempt to secure one-time public funding for LEC Fairgrounds. The Ag Society is telling the story of how it fits in, why state-allocated Federal ARPA funds would be a smart investment driving economic, social/cultural, agriculture benefits for the state. LEC is definitely getting noticed by state senators. There were a lot of questions from the Appropriations Committee. The city council has been actively working on ways to support the LEC Fairgrounds in recent months as well.

Vice President Dowding shared that Calvin called and asked to purchase tags for swine/cattle weigh-in.

2022 Fair Update

Schafersman gave an update on upcoming fair book deadlines and main stage music bookings. Vicki Jedlicka with Extension will be sending the book to the board and LEC staff for review on Feb 22. Goal is to have fully updated fair schedule on fair website by May 1. Feedback from a community survey connected the team with the Lincoln Hispanic Center who had interest to bring a Hispanic or multi-cultural event to the fair. Plans are in the works for this on the Sunday of the fair and should have more details on the plans by Feb 11. Ronnau was pleased to hear about this new event being able to broaden the fair's inclusivity with more of the community.

Nate Dowding shared an update on major decisions made including status of booking a new national attraction. Plan is to have Puppy Pals dog show from America's Got Talent and the contract is in the process of being finalized. The team has been working on new plans for the Multi-Purpose Arena entertainment booking more interactive and engaging exhibits such as Boy Scouts is on board to do knot-tying demonstrations. Horse shows will be the same as last year. The team has been looking into material to put on the floor to accommodate 4-H dog shows in the Ex Hall. Still working on open class livestock shows payouts/schedule.

Extension Update

Wobig and Anderson gave an update on Extension. Formally introduced Phil Wharton who is on 4-H Council and new Extension board member (ex-officio) for the year. Anderson thrilled to have Wharton representing 4-H Council due to being a great volunteer and heavily involved with mini horses. Anderson shared that 4-H is completing first session of Embryology program and next Friday will be the first hatch. Anderson also shared a new 4-H extension assistant has been hired to focus on STEM education.

Communication from the public – None

Legislative Update

Dickerson and Ronnau gave an update on LB73, LB1277 and LB1014 State ARPA budget process. For LB73, is on General File having been approved by the General Affairs Committee last session and Senator Susanne Geist is driving this bill's progress if possible this year. It was noted this is the casino local gambling tax bill and it is uncertain how much money it would bring in if Lancaster's Ag Society received a portion of these new taxes to better maintain the fairgrounds. Senator Clemens introduced the LB1277 bill this session asking for \$7M for LEC's most critical required upgrades that have fallen behind on funding since losing over \$6M in revenues due to the COVID pandemic with 240 cancelled events. It was noted it's very appropriate for LEC

Fairgrounds to apply for this support at the state level due to how much outside of county and outside of state visitor economic impact LEC generates for the city, county and the state.

Operations Director Update

Rook shared an update that operationally LEC is having a tough time with staffing that is making it difficult to keep up with shows, puts stress on the team. A heavy recruiting effort led by Sue Morrison is bearing early fruit with some quality hires.

Managing Director Report

Dickerson shared the team potluck has been postponed to a later date when everyone can gather more safely again due to the COVID surge in January as many staff are out. LEC is now in the final 3 for Airstream National RV Rally in 2024 along with Cedalia, MO and Des Moines, IA. Senior management has been having meetings to keep aligned on priorities with the biggest challenge of staffing. There are several events reaching out to us to book space this year and following year. The management team is only looking at high impact bookings for LEC or the community if less than a year out in our already full calendar as we "need to be kind to the team so we can take good care of our customers".

Other Business – None

Executive Session – NHSFR 2026/27 Contract Negotiations

It was moved by Dowding and seconded by Suing to enter into an Executive Session to discuss the NHSFR 2026/27 contract negotiations. Motion passed unanimously and the board entered into an executive session at 8:07 p.m. All members of the public exited, the board and LEC staff Dickerson, Rook, Kraeger and Martin stayed in person and on Zoom. Suing moved and Dowding seconded to move out of Executive Session at 9:01 pm. The motion passed without objection.

Added to agenda: Executive session for Urgent Personnel Matter presented by Sarah Martin

At 9:03 p.m., Cusick-Rawlinson moved, Doeschot seconded, and the board members in attendance voted unanimously to enter an Executive Session for an urgent personnel matter presented by Controller/HR Manager Sarah Martin. The Board including Zoom attendees for most of time and Sarah Martin were present, all other attendees exited. Doeschot moved to exit the executive session at 10:04 p.m., seconded by Cusick-Rawlinson and unanimously approved

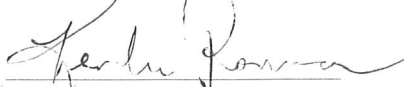
Adjournment

At 10:05 p.m., Cooper moved to adjourn, seconded by Rutt, and the board approved the motion unanimously without objection.

Next Meeting: February 24, 2022 at 7:00 pm

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED as set forth herein on this 24 day of February, 2022

Submitted by the
LANCASTER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA



President Kendra Ronnau



Secretary John Cooper