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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 Room — Lancaster Event Center Fairgrounds

4100 N. 84th Street, Lincoln NE 68507

7:30pm - Thursday, June 15, 2023

President Ronnau called the monthly meeting of the Lancaster County Agricultural Society board to order at 7:34pm.

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

Lancaster Ag Society Board members attending in person were Hardesty, Ronnau, Cooper, Hagan, and Suing. Arriving later at 7:54pm was Cusick-Rawlinson. LEC staff in attendance included Bowen, Rief, Dickerson, N. Dowding, and F. Cordova. LEC staff attending online was Harrison and General Counsel Gene Summerlin. Attending in person on behalf of Lancaster County Extension was Trudy Pedley.

Approval of minutes - The minutes from the May meeting were presented. Suing moved to approve the minutes; Hagan seconded the motion. The May minutes were approved without objection.

Eastern Nebraska Western Iowa Car Council (ENWICC) – President Jason Krueger and club members, Marvin Cooper, Douglas Swanson, Brad Swiggart, Gayle Hanshaw, and Charles Garber spoke to the board regarding the ENWICC event for 2024.

7:54pm Cusick-Rawlinson arrives

Executive Session - at 8:08pm, Suing moved to enter an Executive Session. Cooper seconded the motion. Motion passed without objection.

Motion to exit Executive Session made by Cusick-Rawlinson at 8:58 pm. Hagan seconded the motion. Motion passed without objection.

Officer Reports - President Ronnau thanked LEC staff for getting meeting information out early for review. Ronnau talked about the NE Quarter Horse Show currently running and confirmed that there were attendees from 25 states. No other Officer Reports.

Committee Reports - None reported

Extension Update - Trudy Pedley and Phil Wharton attended on behalf of County Extension. Pedley reports that a collaborative meeting was held last weekend for several extension boards to share information about their programs. Pedley also reports that the Clover College has now started and is keeping the staff busy.

Communication from the public - There was no public comment.

2023 Fair Update - The board had general discussion around the printed fair schedule. Pedley reported that ShoWorks is ready to launch for Open Static Exhibits. Pedley also reports that the Kiwanis Group is interested in volunteer opportunities to help raise money for the Kiwanis club.

Rief reported that the announcer is now lined up for the Demo Derby and Figure 8 Races at the same fee as past events. Rief said that drivers are already interested in signing up for the events. Rief talked about the sound equipment that is arriving and the preparation work being done in the Grandstand to ready it for installation. Dickerson shared that having Rief oversee the installation and set up of the sound system is saving over \$100,000 compared to the quote given for the same work, by an outside source.

Rief talked about ticketing structure for the motorsports events and the ability to purchase tickets online.

With Jones out sick, N. Dowding shared information about the new layout for the Attraction Zone. N. Dowding said that lighting and decorating upgrade plans are in process. Dowding talked about the MPA layout for the fair and discussed the changes that have been made.

Harrison shared information about sponsorship income in 2022 compared to 2023 to date. Harrison reports that sponsorships are a bit behind from this time last year as the team started later, but they are working diligently to catch up. Harrison said there are several new sponsorships in place for 2023 due to Jones' hard work. Ronnau praised Jones and the rest of the team for their dedication to building the sponsorship support.

N. Dowding said that volunteers are still needed to help with the Cafe and ticketing. He reported that advertising for needed volunteers is currently in process.

N. Dowding said that three bids were acquired on generators and equipment with NMC having the lowest bid. Harrison added that without the need for a generator in the grandstand, this expense is going to be at a good level.

Rief explained that the Demo Derby has increased purse payout to encourage drivers to pre-register for the event. Rief explained that drivers that pre-register and compete will receive \$100 return. N. Dowding said that the increased competition this will generate will create a better show for attendees.

Financial Report - Harrison reports that the 2022 Audit is complete but the Auditor is working on final numbers. Harrison shared information about the May A/R and A/P for information only. Harrison said that the acceptance of the May financials will need to be postponed as she is awaiting additional County treasurer property tax receipts report information. Harrison shared information on the May checks for approval. Cooper moved to approve the May checks totaling \$372,799.44. Hardesty seconded the motion. No additional discussion was needed. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 6-0.

ARPA fund, Line of Credit adjustment - Harrison requested approval of a process to use up to \$300,000 of ARPA funds as an internal line of credit through September 2023. Harrison stated that with monies going out to pay fair expenses, but no fair income yet coming in, it would be best to have some extra money to access if necessary. Cusick-Rawlinson made a motion to increase the internal line of credit from ARPA funds, from \$50,000 to \$300,000 through September 2023 with two Executive Board members approval for each transfer. Hagan seconded the motion. Ronnau called for additional discussion. There was no additional discussion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed 6-0.

There was discussion around interest negotiations with West Gate Bank. Hagan made a motion for the Executive Board to approve any changes regarding the West Gate Bank interest negotiations. Cusick-Rawlinson seconded. Ronnau asked for further discussion. No further discussion was needed. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed 6-0.

Operations Report - N. Dowding said that the National Cowboy Mounted Shooting event went well, and that the promoter wants to come back for two additional May weekends. The board discussed the local public officials that visited during the National Cowboy Mounted Shooting event with State Sen. Clements, County Commissioner Vest and new City Councilperson Tom Duden in attendance. N. Dowding also said that the LEC campground was nearly full, and many hotel rooms were filled for this event with competitors coming from all four corners of USA & Canada.

N. Dowding stated that the NE Quarter Horse Cornhusker Classic show has 750 stalls reserved on the property. Ronnau stated that exhibitors are participating from across the nation. Ronnau said that she has had several attendees comment on the grounds and how well kept they were. Ronnau said the staff deserve a huge pat on the back for all the work they have done to keep the facility looking nice.

N. Dowding shared several potential new bookings that are currently having conversations that include a 50 and over barrel race, Monster Truck Wars, and Kawasaki.

Information was shared about work around the creation of a promoter appreciation with some meal/catering vouchers for all shows which would really be appreciated by smaller shows where every dollar is precious and would act as a sampling for larger shows & gain more show support to share daily cafe specials or use LEC catering with their visitors.

Rief said that the database is ready for the cash registers. Rief said everyone is ready to get the new units in and see how they work. Ronnau stated that the board appreciates the work done to get the new equipment coming but that it is also important to make sure staff can operate it before putting it into effect so that implementation may be limited by fair time.

LEC Managing Director Report - Dickerson provided capital budget plan information and the research of different funding sources for a "Phase I Modernization of LEC Fairgrounds Infrastructure" project to be proposed in a State Shovel Ready Grant shortly. The grant will require matching funds and Dickerson has been working with our general counsel on the funding rules of the different funds. One possibility is LEC tapping into the "Additional Ag Society Levy" for the first time in LEC's 22-year history though county fairgrounds in Nebraska commonly tap into this levy. It can be used for capital improvements of the buildings/grounds or a setting up a qualified sinking fund for equipment which she and Kendra are discussing

with the county commissioners on our JPA to start with. These type of additional spend beyond the normal 3.5% per year limit increase are allowed to be added to the Ag Society's annual budget as long as they will meet the property tax lid exception for these exact types of spend. The State ARPA funds still on deposit could be used for particular capital improvements such as sewer system upgrade, adding to the National Campground a sewage dump station or high speed internet broadband infrastructure. Dickerson talked about strict matching fund requirements for the Shovel Ready Grant including timing of the match, source, commitment & spend deadlines and not being able to use in kind donations. Dickerson stated that as due dates for proposals are coming up quickly, she would like to send a first draft capital improvement list to the county next week. Dickerson said she would like to have board approval on projects selected for these grants.

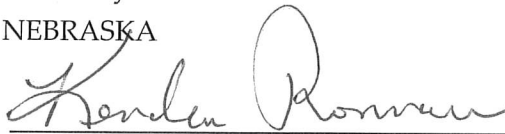
Hagan made a motion to authorize Dickerson to apply for a State Shovel Ready Grant for up to \$5 million dollars with matching funds provided by an Additional Ag Society county levy as needed and consistent with the lid exception and/or other City/private matching funds identified, as well as to represent the use of the Ag Society's State ARPA funds on deposit up to \$2.5 million. This motion was seconded by Hardesty. Ronnau called for additional discussion. No additional discussion was needed. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 6-0.

Other business - No other business was presented.

Adjournment - Cusick-Rawlinson moved to adjourn the meeting, Suing seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 10:54pm.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED as set forth herein on this 20th day of July, 2023 Submitted by the LANCASTER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA

President Kendra Ronnau



Secretary John Cooper

