



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

**Board of Directors Monthly Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 7pm**  
Farm Bureau Room  
Lancaster Event Center Fairgrounds  
4100 N. 84<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln NE 68507

Optional Zoom provided as convenience for non-voting attendees.

**President Ronnau** called the monthly meeting of the Lancaster Country Agricultural Society board to order at 7:01pm.

**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** Lynn Hagan, Ron Dowding, Kendra Ronnau, Karen Rutt, John Cooper, Jennifer Cusick-Rawlinson, and Bryce Doeschot.

Tom Messick joined in person at 7:06pm.

Board member Ron Suing was not present. Also joining the meeting were Community Mural Committee Members Liz Shea-McCoy, Mike McCullough; 4-H/Extension staff Karen Wobig (zoom) and NE Strategies lobbyist Mary Jacobson (zoom). LEC Fairgrounds staff present were Hoyt Kraeger, Greg Rook, and Nate Dowding all in person and by Zoom Los Harrison. Volunteer Tim Kenny was also also present via zoom.

#### **Update on Pershing Mural** – Liz Shea-McCoy, Community Mural Committee

Liz Shea-McCoy and Mike McCullough shared an update on the proposed plans for the relocation of the Pershing Mural to LEC Fairgrounds, which included an adjustment to the location to the south end of the property closest to 84<sup>th</sup> street. It was noted the first step is to settle on the location and design of it is next. The budget has moving parts when it comes to design so that there is money available to make the adjustments. The basic concrete structure is what is budgeted currently – \$1M to take it down, \$2M to restore and put it back up in new location. The Mural Committee is making sure the location was correct to have cooperation between any activities at the mural and daily use for LEC with consideration for Phase 3 development in mind. The committee is in support of current location. Rook noted current plans to move a portion of the rodeo stalls toward the marquee and this would just displace a few more. Hagan

asked for the total footprint on the proposed project. There is a general idea for how the mural fits, and it was brought up that the seating area would have the most impact on the footprint, and displacing stalls or other uses of the grounds. LEC staff would need to work with their architect and civil engineer to confirm the location fits the master plan and event uses. The seating could be delayed until full uses of the area are described.

Doeschot moved to accept the mural to be relocated to our grounds contingent on an MOU being signed. Cooper seconded. There were comments from Messick that the backside would be very visible from the trail for it to be a big slab of concrete. Cusick-Rawlinson stated there is nothing in this motion that ties the mural to the location that was presented this evening, so if we run into a problem with this exact location, we have the ability to adjust. Motion passed 7-1.

Next steps include McCullough to set up a meeting to add visualization. Cusick-Rawlinson will start on an MOU and get a draft to the Mural committee.

It was moved by Doeschot and seconded by Cusick-Rawlinson to have agenda item #5 up next. Motion passed without objection.

**Approval of minutes from February Board Meeting** – Doeschot moved to approve the minutes from February 24, 2022 Board Meeting. Dowding seconded. Motion passed 7-0, with Hagan abstaining due to absence at that meeting.

It was moved by Doeschot and seconded by Cusick-Rawlinson to have agenda item #7 up next. Motion passed without objection.

**Officer and Committee reports** – President Ronnau noted board meetings start time changes starting next month at 7:30pm. Ronnau also shared the district one meeting is next month.

Ronnau gave an update from the Mural Committee sharing it is the duty of the board to protect the facility and uses of the grounds. There is no question of the mural culturally and from a feel-good aspect it is a great fit and the board just needs to know that it will not be a financial burden in the future. Cooper noted concern that the budget is too low and does not want the \$3M planned for take down and restoration to not be enough to put it up.

**Lobbyist Update** – Mary Jacobson of Nebraska Strategies shared an in-depth update on the legislative bills related to LEC to secure more ongoing funding including LB 73 and LB 1277. The ARPA Bill Amendments are on Tuesday with debate on Wednesday. Other priority bills will come next week and will work on LB 73 to get it added into the law. Jacobson noted they've been working with other lobbyists and asked if the board has located enough people to send them to in person meetings to senators to share the personal stories to advocate. Ronnau shared positive remarks with the lobbyists work and Hagan shared positive words on the bills' movement.

**Financial report and approval of checks** – Ronnau shared and congratulated Lois Harrison returning to the team in the Controller position. Harrison shared the January financials while the board looked through, noting there is a buy down on one of the JPA Bonds on the balance sheet that will clean itself up by March so the comparison will be more equivalent.

It was moved by Cusick-Rawlinson and seconded by Messick to approve January financials. Motion passes 7-0 with Doeschot abstaining.

It was moved by Cusick-Rawlinson and seconded by Hagan to approve the paying of January checks in the amount of \$289,117.94. Motion passed without objection.

Harrison shared the February financials noting the difference in February is still the paydown of JPA bonds. Harrison plans to ask the auditor about the bond on the other side of the balance sheet not adjusting with the pay down. Harrison noted for Profit & Loss the team is feeling caught up on all outstanding balances and collecting invoices, but due to a discrepancy that has been found and not yet fixed, Harrison asked to wait to approve February financials until next month.

It was moved by Doeschot and seconded by Hagan to approve the paying of February checks in the amount of \$864,622.66. Motion passed without objection.

Cooper and Doeschot asked status on accounts payable.

**2022 Fair Update** – Nate Dowding shared the Kiwanis Club wants to do the Exhibitor Breakfast at a cost to the Ag Society of \$1,200. It was moved by Hagan and seconded by Cooper to approve payment of \$1,200 to the Kiwanis Club to run the Exhibitor Breakfast. Motion passed without objection.

Kraeger shared plans for Lincoln Room second weekend are still up in the air.

**Extension Update** – Wobig shared Tracy Anderson is out preparing to chaperone kids to DC and new Ag Extension Education Melissa Bartels to fill the position left by Tyler Williams.

**Operations Director Report** – Rook shared an update that staffing has been going well, shavings has gone up \$1 to help with costs and plans to have camping go up as well. The team is currently working on the pool tournament with a busy weekend ahead.

**Managing Director Report** – Ronnau gave an update on Managing Director Amy Dickerson and her family as she is out dealing with medical issues with her parents. Messick asked and the board discussed how this situation fits into FMLA or standard practices, making sure the board is protected and it is equitable to all of our employees.

Kraeger gave an update on business development as part of the Managing Director report, noting currently just outside of last year's Super Fair Sponsorship total. With 2 additional companies certain to sign, we will be right at the 10% growth from this year's goal.

**Other business** – It was moved by Doeschot and seconded by Messick that the Mural Committee will draft a Memorandum of Understanding that will be approved by the Ag Society. Motion passed without objection.

Communication from the public – None.

**Executive Session –**

Hagan moved to go into exec session at 8:38 pm. Ron Dowding seconded. Motion passed without objection and the board entered into Executive Session to discuss NHSFR 2026/27 contract negotiations.

Doeschot moved to exit exec session at 9:14pm. Hagan seconded. Motion passed without objection.


**Adjournment –**

At 9:15pm Messick moved to adjourn, seconded by Ron Dowding, and the board approved the motion without objection.

**Next meeting: April 21, 2022 at 7:30pm  
(note time change)**

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED as set forth herein on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2022

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

  
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President Kendra Ronnau

  
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Secretary John Cooper