



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, May 19, 2022 at 7:30pm

Lancaster 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 7:35 pm.

**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** Ron Dowding, Ron Suing, Kendra Ronnau, John Cooper, and Jennifer Cusick-Rawlinson.

Board member Karen Rutt joined in person at 8pm.

Board member Tom Messick, Lynn Hagan, and Bryce Doeschot were not present. Also joining the meeting were 4-H/Extension staff and board Karen Wobig (Zoom), Tracy Anderson (Zoom) and Trudy Pedley. Vagas Mathiesen with UNICO. LEC Fairgrounds staff present were Nate Dowding, Susan Bulling, with Lois Harrison and Megan Schafersman joining via Zoom.

**Update on Facility Insurance Renewal from UNICO** – LEC’s Agent Mathiesen with UNICO gave a high-level view of updates to LEC Fairgrounds insurance policy noting two lines that went up at a 25% rate increase: property and workman’s comp. The reasons for property going up include: 1) cost of goods has gone up and 2) value of the properties went up now that there is more out at the LEC Fairgrounds (grandstand, expanded campground, etc.) Mathiesen stated the “cliff note” version for why workman’s comp went up is due 1) increase in payroll from the NHSFR with more volunteer/part-time help and 2) code classification. Mathiesen is working with Rook and Dickerson to implement more safety meetings, preventative measures, reporting claims fixed and return to work program, which can have an impact on decreasing workman’s comp. It was noted plans are already in the works

for when NHSFR returns in 2026. Cooper wanted to know how we stand on some of our assets when the value changes. Mathiesen stated equipment/vehicles/trailers considered 'green value' are discussed with Dickerson and Rook twice a year so they are regularly up to date on the values.

Rutt entered the meeting at 8 pm.

Buildings are a replacement cost value' Jennifer asked is there any other way handling the additional insurance for outside vendors. Mathiesen noted the biggest thing is to have outdoor vendors have very specific dates since LEC has such quick turn-around to new vendors/events.

**Approval of minutes from April meeting** – It was moved by Cusick-Rawlinson and seconded by Ron Dowding to approve the minutes from April 2022's meeting. Motion passed without objection.

**Financial Reports for April 2022** – Harrison shared the April financials while the board looked through, noting all missing invoices should finally be accounted for other than one from the City of Lincoln for IT which is not shown in the financials. Cooper asked what makes us so negative to which Harrison responded leftover from COVID and that April is historically a bad month financial wise due to lack of events. It was noted there is typically a Tractor Pull in March that drives some dollars, but that was canceled this year from effects of COVID, which played a factor in lower numbers for this April. The year-to-date negatives stems from finding missing invoices left over from last year. Suing moved to accept April 2022 financials. Ron Dowding seconded. Motion passed without objection.

Harrison commended Kraeger and Bulling for doing a great job on getting fair sponsorships this year, noting there may be more traction stemming from success with NHSFR. Ronnau shared they are still in the process of figuring out the \$5M from the State ARPA law LEC was included in.

**Approval of Checks for April** – It was moved by Cusick-Rawlinson and seconded by Ron Dowding to approve the April checks in the amount of \$296,773.61. Motion passed without objection.

Harrison shared the price of goods has gone up everywhere and recommends to raise our goods and services by another at least 5%. Ronnau requested Harrison to share the final price increase plans with the board in a future meeting.

**Officer and Committee reports** – President Ronnau shared lots of staff dealing with personal issues and all are trying to do the best they can and that some new great people have been added to the team. Dickerson and Ronnau went to meet with CVB and shared they had a great understanding of the event center and excited to help. There has been no more movement with the Mural relocation as it might be looking at Pinewood Bowl.

**Extension Update** – Karen Wobig with Lancaster County Extension introduced Trudy Pedley as a new board member. Tracy Anderson shared an update on various 4H activities, new interns and grants they're working on.

**Communication from the public** – none.

**2022 Fair Update** – Nate Dowding gave a high-level update on plans for the fair including the addition of a farm animal petting zoo during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week. Ronnau requested the backseat driver contest and ice cream social be moved to Pavilion 3. Bulling shared an update on opportunities for cookouts sponsored by some local businesses to provide meals for 4Hers, their families and staff.

**Operations Director Report** – Nate Dowding shared a brief report on Operations on behalf of Rook, who was out of town.

**Managing Director Report** – Ronnau shared Dickerson was out suddenly for emergency personal reason.

**Report on Status/Ongoing Plan for Board Committees** – It was decided by the board the NHSFR committee would be disbanded.

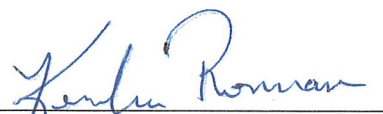
**Other business** – Trudy Pedley, board member for Extension and member of Cornhusker Kiwanis shared excitement for Cornhusker Kiwanis to run the exhibitor breakfast.

**Executive Session** – Cusick-Rawlinson moved to go into exec session at 9:04pm. Rutt seconded. Motion passed without objection and the board entered Executive Session to discuss NHSFR 2026/27 contract negotiations, UNL Rodeo feedback related to future contract negotiations, personnel matters related to fair & even readiness, fair security plan and update on LEC Managing and Operations Director's pay adjustments status per contracts. Cooper moved to exit Executive Session at 9:43 pm. Cusick-Rawlinson seconded. Motion passed without objection.

**Adjournment** – Cooper moved and Cusick-Rawlinson seconded to adjourn the meeting. The board approved the motion without objection and meeting adjourned at 9:44 pm.

**Next meeting: Jun 16, 2022 at 7:30pm**

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED as set forth herein on this 16 day of July, 2022  
Submitted by the LANCASTER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA



President Kendra Ronnau



Secretary John Cooper