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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.*

MINUTES

Board of Directors Monthly Meeting

Lancaster Room – Lancaster Event Center Fairgrounds

4100 N. 84th Street, Lincoln NE 68507

7:30pm - Thursday, May 18, 2023

President Ronnau called the monthly meeting of the Lancaster County Agricultural Society board to order at 7:30pm.

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

Board members present in person were: Dowding, Hagan, Suing, Sump, Hardesty, Ronnau, Rutt, Cooper. Not Present was Cusick-Rawlinson (arrived later in the evening as noted). Also present in person were LEC staff: Dickerson, Bowen, N. Dowding, J. Rief, and Huss. Attending virtually were LEC staff Harrison and Yerger. Also attending in person were Karen Wobig and Gerald Clausen for Lancaster County Extension, and several members of the public.

Approval of minutes – The minutes from the April meeting were presented. Sump moved to approve the minutes; Hagan seconded the motion. The April minutes were approved without objection.

7:36pm Cusick-Rawlinson arrived

2023 Lancaster County Fair update – Rief said that he is working with officials to help increase interest in the Demolition Derby. Rief explained that the promoter wants to get the payout scale posted early to get more cars involved and higher payout. Rief stated that a payout increase, with payouts to the top 4 places would put Lancaster County toward the top of the payouts for fairs in the area. Rief said that pre-registrations would help to get an idea of how many cars will participate. Rief stated that the team is also looking for ideas to get the crowd to come out to the derby. Rief said he would like to get some VIPs to attend, to help increase numbers in the stands.

N. Dowding stated that he is working on adding items to the MPA and Lincoln Room on the 2nd week of the fair. N. Dowding said he has reached out to the NE Sports Council, cornhole, and the Pink Ladies (pool/darts) to fill those areas, but he has not heard back yet. N. Dowding also said that the team is working to build higher open livestock show premium payouts, to draw higher participation in open livestock events.

N. Dowding stated that he is getting bids for generators and golf carts--so far, they appear to be about the same price as last year.

Extension Update - Karen Wobig attended on behalf of Lancaster County Extension. Also attending was Lancaster County Extension board member, Gerald Clausen. Wobig said that the new Extension assistant hired to replace Calvin, has started working with her first program event happening tonight. Wobig also shared information about the Clover College. Wobig said that Extension is receiving a steady number of calls this year, keeping everyone very busy. Wobig and Clausen said that they are ready to move ahead with a fantastic fair.

Operations Report - N. Dowding shared information about recent and upcoming LEC Fairgrounds events including the UNL Rodeo on May 5-6. N. Dowding shared that ticket sales and ticket prices were both up this year. N. Dowding said there was a 23% overall increase in attendance with increases each night of the event. Rutt reported that UNL Volleyball Coach Cook attended every performance; UNL Football Coach Ruhle and his coaching staff along with football, softball, girls' basketball, and volleyball players also attended several of the performances. Rutt who volunteered to help both nights reported that the VIPs were a great addition to the event.

N. Dowding also shared that Jurassic Quest was well attended and that Make-A-Wish was able to use the dinosaur event to help an 8-year-old child passionate about dinosaurs get his wish to attend with his entire family with complimentary tickets secured by the Ag Society.

N. Dowding said that the Nebraska Quarter Horse Hall of Fame Horse Show is coming up this weekend and the stall count is good. He also stated that the new National Cowboy Mounted Shooting event is coming in next week.

Financial Report - Harrison discussed the April financials including the accounts receivable and accounts payable information provided to the board in advance of today's meeting. Harrison said that the April profit and loss statement and balance sheet for April will be presented to the board next month. Harrison said that the campground rental income has increased recently due to the upcoming National Cowboy Mounted Shooting event. Harrison explained that this is the first time the event has been held at the Lancaster Event Center Fairgrounds and people are attending from all over the country.

Hagan made a motion to accept the April 2023 A/P and A/R financials; Dowding seconded the motion. Ronnau asked if there was further discussion. No additional discussion was needed. The motion passed with no objections. Harrison presented the checks to be paid for April totaling \$449,190.03. Suing made a motion to approve the April checks; Dowding seconded the motion. Ronnau asked if there was additional discussion--there was none. The motion passed with no objection.

Harrison shared information about the hiring of additional accounting staff. Harrison said that nine applications had been received with one standing out, Ashley Duff. Harrison said that Duff has previous accounting experience working at law firms and in Applebees corporate offices. Harrison said that Duff will be offered the position with a potential start date of June 1 so she can transition with Loretta Yerger before her retirement after the Super Fair. Ronnau thanked Harrison for getting the information out early on the financials. Dickerson thanked Harrison for jumping in to help with a State Wrestling event where cafes were busier than anticipated on Sunday while she in town to supervise ticketing for UNL Rodeo on Friday/Saturday while our Ticketing Manager was on vacation.

Officer and Committee Reports - Ronnau stated that she has attended several events this spring and believes there are more people out and around this spring, enjoying a variety of events; more than she has seen since the pandemic started. Ronnau said that she wanted to thank the staff for their hard work mowing, keeping up the facility, and working the events so

that the promoters can have successful shows. No other officer or committee reports were presented.

Managing Director Report - Dickerson provided an update on legislative funding progress. Dickerson said that there are several state legislators that understand the impact that the Lancaster Event Center Fairgrounds has to the community and the state.

Dickerson introduced Scott Lockard of Hampton Construction to discuss use of the remaining ARPA Funds. Lockard talked about the relationship between Hampton Construction and the LEC Fairgrounds. Lockard said that this is a partnership, not just a business relationship as Hampton is proud to see the work that LEC is doing and proud for Hampton to be involved in the upcoming construction process. Lockard stated that his team has done a walk through to evaluate needed updates with rest of the LEC master planning team to prioritize items on the master plan. Laughlin said they are building a picture of what final quotes for the updates will be. Ronnau stated that the LCAS board appreciates this support as LEC staff, while multi-talented, do not have the construction expertise that Hampton can provide.

Dickerson shared that she and Ronnau had a working session with our two county commissioners from the Fairgrounds JPA to let them know that LEC Fairgrounds would like to propose this year to tap into its other levy for the first time to use for capital improvements. Dickerson said that feedback from the commissioners was that they would consider this during this summer's budget process. The commissioners encouraged LEC Fairgrounds to continue to support youth and agriculture while maximizing revenue driven by the fairgrounds itself by consideration of which events are most able to support the fairgrounds in generating as much revenue as possible to cover as much of its own maintenance and capital improvement costs as possible.

8pm LEC General Counsel Gene Summerlin arrives, attending online.

Dickerson provided a hiring update regarding the marketing and graphics coordinator. Ronnau stated that Rief has done a fantastic job filling in at this position and applauds his efforts. Dickerson said that the search for interns continues with one part-time paid by a UNL program starting soon. Dickerson also talked about adding more social media presence like SnapChat, TikTok with the interns help.

Dickerson provided an update on the higher risk events' insurance requirement from LEC's liability insurance carrier. Dickerson said that these higher risk events were finding it to be very costly and difficult to find, so through continued conversations with the insurance carrier, they

agreed to waive the requirement for additional excess/umbrella coverage. Dickerson said staff are working to contact event clients to notify them of this change.

Other business - There was no other business presented.

Communication from the public - Members of the public that spoke included Brad Swiggart, Dan Wesolowski, Jim McNeil, Eldon Stege, Jim Stanley, and Natalie Stege among others in attendance. Each spoke about their desire to hold the 2024 Car Swap event run by the Eastern Nebraska Western Iowa Car Council (ENWICC) at the LEC Fairgrounds. President Ronnau thanked them for their comments and explained that by NE Public Meeting laws that the Ag Society could not enter into a discussion on a topic not on the agenda as well as the fact that since ENWICC had threatened legal action such that communications were in process between the LEC Fairgrounds and ENWICC via legal counsel.

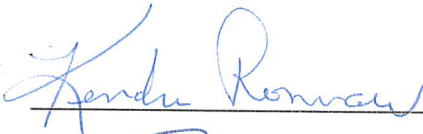
BREAK - 8:42pm Meeting took a restroom break before moving into Executive Session. Board Clerk Bowen (in person) and online LEC staff attendees Harrison and Yerger exited the meeting.

Executive Session - Cooper moved and Cusick-Rawlinson seconded to move into Executive Session to discuss the ENWICC contract negotiations. The motion passed on a roll call vote 9-0. The Ag Society Board moved into Executive Session at 8:48pm with all nine members of the board and LEC staff Dickerson, N. Dowding, Huss and J. Rief in the room. Legal Counsel Summerlin remained online via Teams, Cooper moved and Sump seconded to come out of Executive Session. The motion passed without objection at 10:05 pm on a 9-0 roll call vote. Legal Counsel Summerlin exited the meeting online.

Adjournment - R. Dowding moved and Hagan seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed without objection and the meeting adjourned at 10:06 pm.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED as set forth herein on this 15 day of June, 2023 Submitted by the LANCASTER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA

President Kendra Ronnau



Secretary John Cooper



