



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*

**PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

**Board of Directors Monthly Meeting**

**Thursday October 20, 2022—7:30 pm**

**Lancaster Event Center Fairgrounds**

4100 N 84<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE 68507

Lancaster Room (Business Center entrance—Pavilion 1)

**President Ronnau** called the monthly meeting of the Lancaster County Agricultural Society board to order at 7:33 pm.

**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 Kendra Ronnau, Ron Suing, Bryce Doeschot, Lynn Hagan, Karen Rutt. Jennifer Cusick-Rawlinson arrived at 7:46 pm. Also present in person were LEC staff Amy Dickerson, Sue Morrison, Jason Rief, and by Zoom: Lois Harrison. Also attending in person was Extension staff Karen Wobig and Tracy Anderson. Board Members Not Present: Ron Dowding, John Cooper

**Approval of September minutes** - Doeschot moved to accept the September board meeting minutes as sent. Hagan seconded the motion. The minutes were approved without objection.

**Financial report** – Harrison shared the September financials with the board. Harrison reported that the total amount of checks paid in September totaled \$311,332.32. Doeschot moved to approve checks for September. Suing seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0. Harrison shared September Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statements. Harrison pointed out the deposits are up due to event team increasing deposits making the deposits due during months that have cash flow issues. This will allow the shows to better match when LEC pays for labor and materials. Event team working are with shows that need time to adjust to the higher deposits. P&L—Harrison mentioned there are 3 payrolls in Sept 2022 vs. 2 payrolls previous year - Doeschot mentioned payroll could be more consistent if went to two times per month pay periods on 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Suing moved to approve September financials and Hagan seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried 5-0 by roll call vote. Harrison presented for information only the P&L views TYD vs last year, vs. budget and by class. Harrison presented the Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable for information only. She mentioned that remaining longer-term A/P is being held as part of payment plans agreed upon as we wait for State ARPA grant.

Officer and Committee reports – **President Ronnau** reported that LEC Staff had a lot of hard work the last couple of weeks completing the State ARPA grant application with assistance from volunteer Tim Kenny and our lobbyists Ken and Mary. Ronnau said Ken Major will be Hall of Fame inductee and is trying to get information for his award. Deb Schorr has also been notified. Ronnau stated that Board Members Cooper and Dowding are busy with harvest and family obligations tonight. **Treasurer Rutt** asked about doing service anniversaries in the November banquet for 20 year and other long-time LEC team members. No other committee reports were reported.

**4-H Program / Extension Update** - Wobig mentioned Water & Cropping position is open on the UNL Extension website. The candidate will need a master's degree in Agronomy or related fields. Anderson reported that Extension team is busy with compiling annual numbers, golf tourney, national 4-H conference among other activities. There will be a Better Fair Meeting on Monday Oct 24<sup>th</sup> at 10 am at the Extension office with LEC staff and LCAS board representatives.

**Communication from the public** – No public comments

**Fair Report** –Harrison reported on 2022 vs. 2021 fair financials. This was an improvement of \$39,027 in 2022 over 2021.

**Report from Annual Board Election Nominating** Committee (Cusick-Rawlinson, Hagan, Ronnau) to nominate candidates for positions up for election: Cooper, Doeschot, Dowding are up for re-election. Candidate statements and pictures are due by November 14, 2022 for election slate to

be set at Nov. 15, 2022 board meeting

**Managing Director Report** – Dickerson asked 4-H to help with upcoming Gala. Anderson to check next week at their 4-H meeting to see if they can help. Dickerson asked if they had a musical group and Anderson said that they did not have a musical group. Dickerson handed out an updated organization chart. Operations Manager Rook has moved on, and Dickerson said it will be a few months before a decision is made whether to replace Rook or not. In the meantime, a committee was formed (Nate, Chas, Sue and Lois) to handle the day-to-day operations. Jason will now be reporting to Amy. The 2 departments that were reporting to Greg is split between Nate and Lois. Lisa needs a counterpart, so there is an opening there.

Dickerson stated that the Carnival needed to continue to help with costs, Nate sent request via email to them to agree to pay for more of our attractions. Our plan is negotiating as much as we can before the fair. They want our signed contract so they can get financing for new equipment. The contract will be for 2026 and 2027. We were wondering about the dates, they said they have 3 fairs after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July – begin the week after the 4<sup>th</sup> so the calendar this year will be the far end of the calendar Aug 3 to 11<sup>th</sup>. Our worry is that the school activities will begin. Was hoping that we will always be in July. Need to look what the contract states. 2024 is Aug 5<sup>th</sup> thru the 12<sup>th</sup>. Kendra stated that she loves the carnival, but the issues that have been related to the Carnival, and we need to really question if we need to have a carnival. Would we need to have the security? #1 going to check contract on the dates #2 going to ask them why so late if only 3 events ahead of them. 4H would like to have the fair one week earlier. If we move the week earlier, would it affect the Motor Sports? Jennifer would like to keep the carnival since so many people think of the fair with a carnival.

Funding update - on Sept 30<sup>th</sup> we received the application from the State on the ARPA funds. The application was due on Oct 18<sup>th</sup>. We were able to talk to our legal firm which has an expert on the ARPA funding, to help guide us through the process. We started our timeline at the beginning of COVID to 2024 for expected lost revenue's, this included stating which events have stopped, were reduced in size, and anticipating new events. Other questions we were to answer was on how we weather hardship, how we cover the increase in costs, and our challenges covering operating expenses.

Reminder: Board prep session for Nov. 17 banquet in conjunction with board meeting Tues Nov. 15

**Executive Session** Doeschot made a motion to begin Executive Session to discuss personnel matters related to Separation Agreement being negotiated with departed Operations Director Rook and Managing Director performance review update. Hagen seconded. Motion passed with no objections. Executive session began at 8:58 pm. Board and LEC staff members



Dickerson, Morrison and Harrison were present.

Doeschot moved to exit from the Executive Session, Hagen seconded. The motion to exit the Executive Session passed with no objections. Executive session was exited at 9:19 pm.

**Adjournment** – After exiting the executive session, Suing moved to adjourn the meeting. Rutt seconded. The motion passed without objection. The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 pm.

**Next Monthly Board Meetings:**

- o December 15 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday - Annual election, annual meeting 6:45 pm & regular month meeting 7:30 pm
- o January 20, 2023 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday – 7 pm

(check website to confirm final timing/location at  
LancasterEventCenter.org, click on About Us, Public Notices)

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED as set forth herein on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2022 Submitted by the LANCASTER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA

President Kendra Ronnau Kendra M. Ronnau

Secretary ~~John Cooper~~ K. Rutt

Treasurer Karen Rutt