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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*

MONTHLY BOARD PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 13, 2023 at 7 pm
Lincoln Room (building closest to 84th St by LEC Office)
Lancaster Event Center Fairgrounds
4100 N. 84th Street, Lincoln NE 68507

President Ronnau called the monthly meeting of the Lancaster County Agricultural Society board to order at 7:03pm.

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 Hagan, R. Dowding, Ronnau, Suing, Rutt, Cooper, and Cusick-Rawlinson. Board member Hardesty attended via zoom and did not vote. Also present in person were LEC staff Dickerson, Bowen, Rief, Jones, and N. Dowding. LEC Staff member attending via zoom was Lois Harrison. Also attending in person were Karen Wobig and Nicole Miller on behalf of County Extension and member of the public Mitch Sump.

Approval of minutes – The minutes from the January meeting were presented. R. Dowding moved to approve the minutes; Suing seconded the motion. The minutes of the January board meeting were approved without objection.

Approval of the January checks and January aging summaries - Harrison reported that the total amount of checks paid in January totaled \$183,366.82. Cusick-Rawlinson

made a motion to approve the checks for January and Hagan seconded. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was approved 7-0. Harrison presented information on the January aging summaries. Harrison also talked about a second State ARPA draw proposed for board approval. Harrison reminded the board that monies from draw 1 approved in January just before State ARPA monies arrived were used to pay longer-term outstanding bills including the last WW panels payment and to pay off the bank operating line of credit. Harrison stated that she is now requesting to make a second draw to pay additional bills that are due and to move \$200,000 into the operating account to use for operating uses as needed periodically instead of the line of credit now closed by the bank after its recent payoff. Ronnau explained that we had found out upon disbursement of the State ARPA funds of \$5 million that all were all disbursed at once to LEC rather than only upon presenting draw requests to the State. Ronnau asked if the \$200,000 could be placed in another account to keep the funds separate. Harrison explained that it would work best to keep the money in the operating account to limit the number of times it gets moved and to keep it within the parameters of acceptable uses of the ARPA money. Cooper suggested the money be left where it is and pulled out when needed so that it can be better tracked. Dickerson said that this reserve amount had previously been in the account to eliminate the need for manual tracking of daily cash flow as had been done both pre-pandemic and throughout the pandemic years. Dickerson suggested that Harrison could report to the board, any amount that is used from the \$200,000 each month. Cooper said that he worries that it will be difficult to keep the monies separate if this \$200,000 is in the operating account and wanted to keep visibility to the use of the funds. Hardesty asked how Harrison arrived at the \$200,000 amount. Harrison said this is what the line of credit was pre-pandemic but that it was increased to \$350,000 during the pandemic. Harrison stated that there is currently zero reserve in the checking account. Ronnau suggested a smaller amount be moved into a separate account named ARPA Operational Expenses with email to the E-board for approval to draw. Discussion was had around this idea. Cooper moved to approve ARPA draw request #2, with the inclusion of \$50,000 instead of the proposed \$200,000 in a third account to be labeled ARPA Operating Expenses, with removal of funds requiring approval by 2 E-board members, via email. Hagan seconded the motion. Ronnau asked if there was further discussion before a roll call vote was taken. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed 6-1, with Cusick-Rawlinson voting no. Hardesty did not vote as she was attending via zoom.

Harrison provided an update on the budgeting process. Harrison explained that the inflation rate had increased 4-9% or more for some operating budget items. Harrison said the capital budget showed approximately 3.8 million dollars left of the state ARPA funds with some adjustment from the change in the requested draw #2. Harrison shared that the team is putting together an ARPA budget proposal to present to the board, with

the most critical maintenance and booked event needs including the NHSFR. Cusick-Rawlinson asked if the 2019, pre-pandemic P&L results can be included in this information for comparison to the current, post-pandemic year. Harrison stated that this information will be presented to the board once completed.

Replacement board member election - An election was held to name a new board member that would complete the last year of an open board seat vacated when Tom Messick moved out of state last fall. This term is end in Dec. 2023. Ronnau said that there are two strong candidates for this position and introduced information about the two candidates--Mitch Sump and Barry Froistad. Mitch Sump was in attendance and spoke to the board about his qualifications for the position. Froistad attended the January board meeting to share his information. Dickerson provided written ballots and instructed that the person who received 5 or more votes would be the winner per voting rules confirmed with our general counsel, Gene Summerlin. Dickerson said that if neither candidate received enough votes, new ballots would be distributed, and another round of written votes taken until one candidate received the required 5 votes. Ronnau asked for nominations from the board. Cooper nominated both Froistad and Sump as potential candidates for the remaining year of Tom Messick's board seat term. Hagan seconded the motion. Ronnau asked two times if there were any additional nominations. No other nominations were made. Motion passed without objection. Written ballots were distributed to the board to vote. After the ballots were counted, it was determined that Mitch Sump received the required 5 votes and won the seat. Ronnau congratulated Sump on behalf of the board. Sump joined the board for the remainder of the meeting.

Officer and Committee reports - President Ronnau shared that she and Dickerson had recently testified for LB709. Dickerson said that INEDA with the Ag Expo testified in person along with Roma Amundson on behalf of the County Board. Letters of support with examples of specific critical upgrades needed to keep their shows healthy in Lincoln were sent by Arenacross and HBAL that runs the Home & Garden Show, among others. Dickerson said that FMCA sent a letter of support indicating specific items that they would like to have in order to bring their event back to the LEC Fairgrounds.

Rodeo Committee: Hagan stated that he recently had conversations with vendors at the Black Hills Stock Show about their experience at the High School Rodeo Finals held at the LEC Fairgrounds. Hagan stated that they expressed concerns with some items but were unaware of the microburst storm damage that had occurred to the facility just 4 days before the event. Hagan felt that he was able to address all concerns and said he would share them with the board at a later date. Hagan also spoke with a gentleman

interested in providing trade show management support to LEC staff for the 2024 NHSFR. Ronnau suggested they invite him to speak to some of the board members and Dickerson via zoom to discuss what support he could offer.

There were no other committee reports.

2023 Fair Update - N. Dowding shared information about the Grandstand schedule for the fair. N. Dowding said that the schedule will include the Figure 8 races, Demo Derby, a new Garden Tractor pull, new Bull Ride, and new Tough Trucks. Joni Jones shared that she is working on acquiring ticket sponsorships with UStop, B&R, Whitehead Oil, and Westgate Bank. Jones reported she is also reaching out to other possible Sponsors with more information. Jones said Frontier Coop will do a hot dog feed and are willing to do the exhibitor breakfast, serving breakfast burritos. Jones said that the kiddie tractor pull & big wheel race will move to the MPA with more traffic instead of the Ex Hall. Cusick-Rawlinson asked about marketing for the fair. Dickerson said that she is putting together a job description for a marketing position and will be moving forward in search of candidates soon and meanwhile Jason Rief and she were covering critical early marketing tasks.

Extension Update - Karen Wobig and Nicole Miller were in attendance on behalf of County Extension. Wobig stated that there are some items for the fair book that need attention in order to go to print on time. Dickerson said that Rief is working on them and will get them out as soon as possible. Wobig reports that they have not found a candidate to replace Calvin. Miller shared that the 4-H achievement celebration is this upcoming Thursday, and they are excited about this event.

Communication from the public - No members of the public spoke.

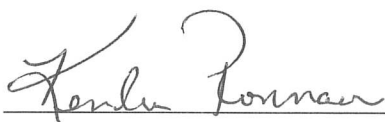
Operations Update - N. Dowding shared information about recent and upcoming events. N. Dowding reported that both the Boat Show and the Home Show had increases in attendance this year. N. Dowding said that staff were preparing for the upcoming Bike show and Cutting show. N. Dowding said that new bookings have been confirmed including the Magical Lights Christmas Lights show. N. Dowding said that Jurassic Quest is also coming in May and plans to come back on a yearly basis.

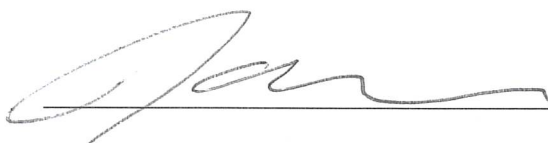
Managing Director Report - Dickerson stated that everyone on the staff is excited for the upcoming Blue Jean Gala. Dickerson said there have been 185 RSVPs received and more than 30 staff are planning to attend. Dickerson said four farm families are going to be recognized. Dickerson reports that there are several tables sponsored and that with additional personal outreach, there are more sponsors signing on for the event.

Other Business - Dickerson shared that she would like to have service anniversaries recognized at the Blue Jean Gala. Discussion was had around possible nominal gifts. Cusick-Rawlinson suggested a "New Person of the Year" award.

Adjournment - Suing moved to adjourn the meeting and Dowding seconded. Motion passed without objection. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED as set forth herein on this 30 day of
January, 202~~3~~⁴ Submitted by the LANCASTER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL
SOCIETY IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA

President Kendra Ronnau  _____

Secretary John Cooper  _____

