



Home of the



A nonprofit 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to growing community like yours, and proud home of the Super Fair

### **Lancaster County Agricultural Society, Inc.**

*A Nebraska 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation  
and quasi-governmental organization created under Nebraska law in 1870  
to promote agriculture, youth, and community  
through management of Lancaster's county fairgrounds  
and organizing the annual Lancaster county fair*

#### **MINUTES**

Board of Directors Monthly Meeting  
Farm Bureau Room - Sandhills Global Event Center  
4100 N. 84<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln NE 68507  
Thursday, August 22, 2024 – 7:30 pm

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

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

**Lancaster Ag Society Board members attending** in person were Ronnau, Suing, Dowding, Hagan, Cooper, and Sump; Hardesty attended remotely. SGEC staff in attendance included Bowen, Rief, Bohaty, Stara, Juengel, Bunch, Orton, and Dragoo. SGEC staff member N. Dowding attended remotely.

Also attending remotely were Karen Wobig and Tracey Anderson on behalf of Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County.

**Approval of Minutes** - The minutes from the July meeting were presented for approval. Sump moved to approve the minutes and Hagan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed 6-0.

7:36pm Cusick-Rawlinson arrived.

**Introduction of BMG Accounting** - In attendance were Todd Blome and Annie Hopping, representatives of BMG CPA firm. Blome explained that BMG was hired to formulate a plan for SGEC accounting and bookkeeping. An overview of the areas being updated and reviewed was provided. Blome said that their firm was working to update SGEC bookkeeping in order to make recommendations for accounting processes that will lead to clearer checks and balances, closing the hole that the auditor pointed out in the past. Ronnau stated that BMG is doing a great job sorting through the financials and came with the recommendation of Ryan Burger. Ronnau asked if anyone had any questions for BMG. Cusick-Rawlinson asked what type of organization would be most similar to the Event Center. Hopping replied that smaller scale space rental businesses would probably be a good comparison to SGEC. Cusick-Rawlinson asked how fees are structured. Blome explained that fees are based on an hourly rate for staff who are working on the SGEC account. Blome stated that once the initial accounting information is entered, hours on the account will drop and the monthly charges from BMG will likely be less than what was being paid to in-house accounting staff. Bohaty stated that the BMG accounting team has been good to work with and given thorough feedback to support better future accounting procedures.

**Officer Reports** - Ronnau said that she walked through the gravel world event and was excited for the future of this event. Ronnau said there were 2500 bikers and 400 runners signed up for the Gravel World event. Dowding stated that he wanted to thank everyone for a great fair and say that he appreciates all the work that staff did to make the Super Fair successful. Cooper shared that there were a few grievances at the Super Fair, but things went well overall. Ronnau stated that Cooper is a dedicated, hard worker and thanked him for all the time he dedicated to the fair.

**Committee Reports** - Hagan provided an update on the NHSFR. Bohaty said that he had talked to Kaiser about his current list of national sponsors. Hagan said that Kaiser will visit in October and wants to share his ideas with the team at that time.

Bohaty stated that during conversations with rodeo officials, they stated they are interested in renting or possibly purchasing the SGEC's old stalls once they have been replaced.

Ronnau stated that design plans for the sidewalk along 84<sup>th</sup> street have begun. Ronnau also wants to talk to the city about adding a bus route to the area.

Cusick-Rawlinson said that the application submitted for the foundation grant, was unsuccessful. Cusick-Rawlinson said she was hoping to find additional capacity building grants in the future.

There were no other committee reports.

**Veterans Car Show Request** - Pete Shoup and Mike Loll spoke to the board about the possibility of a Veterans Day Car Show and Expo. Sump stated that he loved the idea. Cusick-Rawlinson agreed. Ronnau suggested that staff meet with Pete and Mike at another time to discuss the specifics for this event.

**2024 Fair Initial Impressions** - Bohaty thanked everyone for their help with the carnival and talked about issues with the one entrance and one exit plan. Bohaty stated that the bag checks went well with no problems noted. Bohaty stated that parking also worked well with the new entry-fee structure. Bohaty said that the carnival people will share their feedback before next year.

Juengel said she had a lot of fun moving around, talking to the vendors, and thanking them for coming to the Super Fair. Juengel reports that there were 20 outdoor vendors and 32 indoor vendors. Juengel

stated that the open competitions went well with 112 attending the kids tractor pull. Ronnau said feedback from the ice cream social was fantastic. Juengel shared that everyone had a ton of fun at the dog races too. Ronnau stated that she observed people happy and excited and enjoying being together. Suing added that open and 4H static went fantastic.

Bunch shared that the new food booth worked great.

Hardesty said the marching band was a lot of fun, parents and attendees loved it, and that next year she will reach out to marching bands from additional areas to add more bands.

**Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County** - Wobig thanked the SGEC team for all of their work during the Super fair. Wobig said the heat may have hit a bit on attendance, but she saw many people having fun. Wobig said that families are now moving into the State Fair judging with their items. Ronnau asked the board to help attend the various 4H after-fair meetings.

Sump moved to alter agenda in order to go on to item 14. Hagan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken; the motion passed 7-0.

**Communication from the public** - One person was in attendance but did not wish to speak. She was welcomed. There were no further public comments.

**Interim Managing Director Report** - Bohaty introduced Scott Tousignant and presented information and layout idea for adding RibFest to the end of the Super Fair. Bohaty talked about the possibility of combining this with a bull riding event. Ronnau asked questions about the financial aspect of this type of event. Cooper said he likes the idea of adding this event. Cusick-Rawlinson asked about days to be open during the second week of fair. Ronnau asked if everyone felt that this event might be a good fit. Ronnau, Hagan, and Cooper all stated that they felt that this should be explored with SGEC staff, and a proposal created to share with the board. There was discussion about changing the 2nd part of the Super Fair as a different titled event.

Juengel gave an update on progress on the Blue Jean Gala which will be held on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Juengel said work has begun on the invitation list. Bunch suggested shrinking down the invitation list. Ronnau asked if the event can be narrowed down and instead made into a good party for farm families and vendors. Ronnau asked to have the invitation list sent out to board members for review. The goal to get the Save the Date's out is September 1, 2024. The Aksarben Farm Family presented for approval by Aksarben is the Nissen family. Cusick-Rawlinson made a motion to approve the Nissen family as the 2024 Aksarben Farm Family; Sump seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed 7-0.

**Operations Director Report** - Bohaty talked about key events on the SGEC grounds since the last meeting and coming up soon. Bohaty shared that the Gravel Worlds event is opening as well as Morgan horse reining, and the Latino Small Business meeting. Bohaty also said there are a variety of horse shows coming up along with other events and construction continuing all around the facility.

Bohaty shared that a few new events, including Totally Rad Vintage Fest and Monster X are going to be coming up soon. Bohaty said that an Arena Cross event is in discussion, but the dates may not work into our available schedule. Bohaty said that he had met with LPD to discuss the layout plans for the upcoming Trunk or Treat. Bohaty also said that a planned Horse Show Cutting event has been cancelled.

Bohaty gave a construction update and said that Hampton and the SGEC team now have weekly meetings to continue tracking what is being done and what is coming up. Bohaty stated that the Big Ass fans have arrived as well as lighting for the campground. Bohaty reported that the HVAC work in process is 80% done and the balance of the restrooms should be completed by 12/04.

**State ARPA and SRG Updates** - Dragoo explained that all needed information has been provided for the Shovel Ready Grant for request for payment, and payment was issued. Rawlinson asked if they were able to determine if any additional funds were available for the Shovel Ready Grant. Dragoo said no additional funds were available at this time, but she had contacted a good resource for possible future grants.

Stara shared information about total grant monies spent and what remains available for spending.

Dragoo stated that she is also currently working on a small open-door grant.

**Financial Report** - Stara reports that the financials will be presented next month once BMG gets the backlog of information updated.

Stara shared information about the July operational account. Cusick-Rawlinson moved to approve the July checks totaling \$302,117.22; Suing seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken; the motion passed 7-0.

Stara shared information about checks issued from the Union Bank, Super Fair account in July. Cooper moved to approve these checks totaling \$14,734.01. Hagan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken; the motion passed 7-0.

**Other Business** - Discussion was had around the 2024 Hall of Fame nominees. Dowding nominated Wilma Knipplemeyer, Hagan seconded the motion. Ronnau asked if there were any other nominees. No other people were nominated. Ronnau asked if there was any other discussion, there was none. The motion passed without objection.


There was discussion about discontinuing the remote link option at future board meetings. Ronnau stated that this could cause difficulty for those who are otherwise unable to attend. Cooper stated that he felt an invite only link would be appropriate. This discussion was tabled for the next meeting.

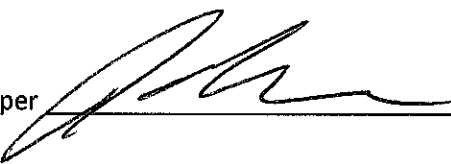
The date for the September JPA and LCAS meetings was discussed. Suing moved to change the September meetings to September 17<sup>th</sup> with the times as previously planned. Hagan seconded the motion. Ronnau asked for additional discussion. There was none. A roll call vote was taken; the motion passed 7-0.

**Adjournment** - Dowding made a motion to adjourn, Suing seconded the motion. The motion passed with no objection. The meeting was adjourned at 10:31pm.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED as set forth herein on this 18<sup>th</sup> day of

September, 2024. Submitted by the LANCASTER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY IN  
THE STATE OF NEBRASKA.

President Kendra Ronnau  \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary John Cooper  \_\_\_\_\_

