



A 501(c)3 nonprofit, operationally unsubsidized organization dedicated to growing community through events like yours and proud to be the 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*

DRAFT MINUTES

**Board of Directors Monthly Meeting
Ag Society Hall - Sandhills Global Event Center
4100 N. 84th Street, Lincoln NE 68507
Tuesday, November 19, 2024 – 7:00 pm**

President Ronnau called the monthly meeting of the Lancaster County Agricultural Society board to order at 7:02pm.

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 Hagan, Dowding, Ronnau, Suing, Rutt, Cooper, Hardesty, and Sump. Arriving later was Cusick-Rawlinson. SGEC employees attending in person were Bowen, Rief, N. Dowding, Juengel, Nathan, Roeber, Bohaty, Kumm, and Hobelman. Also attending in person was contracted NHSFR support John Kaiser.

Approval of Minutes - The minutes of the October meeting were presented for approval. Sump made a motion to approve the June minutes; Hagan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed 8-0.

Officer Reports - Ronnau applauded the staff for their hard work getting ready for the Blue Jean Gala. Ronnau said the room looked beautiful and appreciated that the prep work was done with enough time for the board to see it put together. Ronnau announced that Cooper ran for the Waverly School Board

and won a seat. There were no other officer reports. Ronnau thanked Annie and Todd at BMG for their efforts in getting everything caught up. It was explained that more detailed reports can be provided as needed.

Financial Report - Todd from BMG CPAs talked about the process to get the financials entered and ready for the meeting through October 31, 2024. Todd explained that there are now procedures in place to continue moving forward with the financials. Annie from BMG CPAs shared information about formatting and accounting reports in the future. Bohaty reports that there were several recent high expenses that will balance out with incoming payments and reimbursements.

There was some discussion around the new law regarding paid sick leave for all employees and how that might look in future expenses.

Cusick-Rawlinson arrived at 7:07pm.

Annie provided information regarding October financial numbers to date as was presented in the draft provided by BMG to the board. Cusick-Rawlinson moved to accept the financials for August, September, and October (draft) as presented. Suing seconded the motion. Ronnau asked if there were any questions. No questions were asked. A roll call vote was taken; the motion passed 9-0.

Todd and Annie reviewed the information that was provided about the accounts receivable and accounts payable for Augusts, September, and October (draft). Bohaty stated that these are current as of 11/14. Bohaty talked about statements that are out waiting for payment to come in and how that will affect the current account balances.

Bohaty reviewed the information provided on the year-to-date August, September, and October (draft) budget financials. Cusick-Rawlinson asked a few questions that were explained by Bohaty.

Bohaty reports that the general ledger codes have been updated and the team is working on individual budgets for each department head. Information on the profit and loss details year-to-date to August, September, and October (draft) were also presented.

Annie presented information on the October checks for approval. Ronnau asked if there were any questions. Cusick-Rawlinson moved to approve the October checks totaling \$675,317.22 Hardesty seconded the motion. Ronnau asked for discussion; there was no discussion. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed 9-0.

High level 2024 Super Fair revenue and attendance information was provided by Bohaty. Bohaty reports an increase of 34% over the 2023 tickets and parking. Bohaty stated that attendance showed significant increase in 2024; approximately a 40% increase over 2023. Ronnau talked about the need to visit other fairs and use the ideas from those experiences to increase new opportunities for the next Super Fair.

Standing Committee Reports - Ronnau introduced John Kaiser. Ronnau said it's time to get excited about the 2026 Rodeo and start working on advertising the event. Kaiser and Bohaty shared information about what they have been focusing on in planning sessions for the next NHSFR. John discussed creating a loading and unloading structure for exhibitors upon arrival. Kaiser and Bohaty talked about marketing and sponsorship opportunities as well. Kaiser talked about what to expect for attendance and about future growth of the HS Rodeo circuit. Kaiser shared optimism about moving forward with the 2026

Rodeo. Ronnau talked about how to keep engaged with the Rodeo administration. Kaiser talked about the areas that can be given to the Rodeo administration to handle, in order to help relieve pressure from SGEC staff. Kaiser also spoke about meeting with the City and the University to discuss their roles in promoting their own entities to Rodeo competitors as this will allow them to guide the NHSFR economic impact to their institutions.

No other committee reports were made.

Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County Update - There were no extension representatives in attendance.

Communication from the public - There was no members of the public in attendance.

Operations Report - N. Dowding reported that the sidewalk along 84th street is completed and the concrete work in Fr8Star is also done. N. Dowding said that work in the bathrooms across the campus are on schedule to be done before the Farm Show and the roof repairs on Livestock Pavilion are being completed. Bohaty reported that the new horse stalls will be delivered after Thanksgiving. N. Dowding said that the new Big Ass fans have been replaced and are up and running. Bohaty thanked N. Dowding for taking on overseeing the construction. Discussion was had around additional updates that are being slated for upcoming months. The board talked about looking for other construction companies to provide bids on future construction projects.

2024 Ag Society Election and Annual Meeting - Ronnau reported that there are 5 submissions for the upcoming election. Bohaty said that staff had reviewed facility locations for the election and determined that the Lancaster Room would work best to shorten the walk for those coming to vote. Staff discussed plans on arrangement of tables, the number of staff needed, and other details to help keep the traffic flow moving.

Managing Director Report - Bohaty introduced Cassie Roeber as the new Assistant Managing Director. Bohaty talked about Roeber's work experience and relationship with the Ag Community. Bohaty explained the skills Roeber brings to help support the Managing Director position. Bohaty also talked about the separation of duties between him and Roeber.

Bohaty and N. Dowding talked about the Federal surplus program. Bohaty said that an application was filed and accepted, and some purchases were made at largely discounted prices. N. Dowding said a dump truck, snowplow, spreader, water pump for another water truck, a large floor sweeper, welder, and air compressor have all been purchased and will be put into service soon.

Bohaty talked about the preparations for the Blue Jean Gala. Juengel stated that the VIP list had been confirmed and reminder calls made. Bohaty congratulated County board members Christa Yokum and Chelsea Johnson. Ronnau said that Johnson will take Amundson's place on the Ag Society JPA.

Bohaty shared that the staff marketing department and KidGlov are working on updated information on the Super Fair and NHSFR websites. Bohaty explained that the addition of their information on the SGEC website instead of running separate websites for these two events, will make it easier for those looking for information to find what they need.

Bohaty stated that work is underway to apply for a tourism grant. Bohaty said that the paperwork in process and staff should know by February 1, 2025 if SGEC will receive this grant.

Proposed 2025 Board meeting dates - Ronnau asked the board to review the proposed 2025 monthly meeting days as presented. Ronnau asked about making the meeting times 7pm year-round rather than adjusting for daylight savings time. Cooper said it would be easier to have a set time that does not change. Cusick-Rawlinson moved to accept the proposed 2025 monthly meeting dates as listed with the meeting time set to 7pm year-round. Cooper seconded the motion. Ronnau asked for further discussion; there was no discussion. The motion passed without objection.

Other business - Ronnau stated that the concert business is no longer restricted for SGEC which might open some new event options in the future.

Rutt said that Channels 10/11 news at 4pm, had information about the Ag Show and the Magical Lights events that are coming soon. Roeber said that the first 2 nights of the Magical Lights will have some extra things added.

Adjournment - Rutt moved to adjourn the meeting. Dowding seconded the motion. The motion passed without objection. The meeting was adjourned at 9:03pm.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED as set forth herein on this 3 day
of December, 2024. Submitted by the LANCASTER COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA.

President Kendra Ronnau



Secretary John Cooper

