



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
Thursday, January 16, 2025 – 7:00 pm

President Ronnau called the monthly meeting of the Lancaster County Agricultural Society board to order at 7:01pm.

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. SGEC employees attending in person were Bowen, Rief, N. Dowding, Juengel, Nathan, Roeber, Bohaty, Morrison, and Kumm. Also attending in person were staff from BMG CPAs.

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

Financial Report - BMG reports that the financials are now current.

The information on the October financials was reviewed. Ronnau asked if there were any questions. There were none. Hagan made a motion to accept the October financials as presented. Suing seconded the motion. Ronnau asked for additional discussion; there was no additional discussion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed 8-0.

The information on the November financials was reviewed. Ronnau asked if there were any questions. There were none. Sump made a motion to accept the November financials as presented. Hagan seconded the motion. Ronnau asked for additional discussion; there was no additional discussion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed 8-0.

The information on the December financials draft was reviewed. Ronnau asked if there were any questions. Rutt asked to have the bank statements provided to her so that she can look through them each month. BMG said they will get them for Rutt to review.

Information was provided on the checks to be issued for December. Ronnau asked for questions. There were none. Dowding moved to approve the December checks totaling \$1,025,886.58. Hardesty seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed 8-0.

Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County Update - Karen Wobig, Unit Leader for Lancaster County Extension shared information about the upcoming 4H lock-in night. Wobig talked about the fair book deadlines for 2025. Nathan stated that she has already been working with 4H staff to get the fair book updates completed. 4-H lock-in night is tomorrow and everyone is excited. Time to start thinking fair book. All changes are due Feb. 24th. Nathan has been working with 4-H staff already to get the fair book changes made. Wobig stated that Fair books will be mailed out to families on April 7th. Wobig also shared that the Better Fair Meeting will be held on Feb. 6th and that the 4-H Achievement Awards celebration will be held on February 13. Wobig stated that due to a conflicting meeting, she will be attending the LCAS meetings virtually for the foreseeable future.

Officer Reports - President Ronnau reports that all events have been up in attendance numbers from the previous year and staff are working hard to meet the needs of these events and doing great.

Ronnau introduced Chelsea Johnson, the new Lancaster County Commissioner and JPA member appointee. Johnson shared information about herself and her previous 4-H experience.

Roeber introduced Makenna Morrison, the new Assistant Food and Beverage Manager. Morrison talked about her previous experience.

Treasurer Rutt shared that Scheels sent out an email to all cardholders with information about the upcoming Deer and Game Expo.

No other officer reports were made.

Standing Committee Reports - Hagan provided an update on the NHSFR stating that he will be attending the Stock Show soon and will spend time with Kaiser during that time to continue moving ahead with NHSFR plans.

No other committee reports were made.

Election of Officers - Ronnau explained the LCAS officer positions and their roles on the board. Ronnau asked for nominations for office. Suing made the motion to retain the 2024 slate of officers for 2025, Hagan seconded the motion. Ronnau asked for discussion. There was no discussion. Ronnau asked three times for additional discussion or other nominations. There were none. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed 8-0. The officers were elected as follows: President - Ronnau, Vice President - Dowding, Secretary - Cooper, and Treasurer - Rutt.

Designation of JPA Members for 2025 - Ronnau shared information about the JPA. Cooper moved to retain the existing JPA members from the 2024 JPA positions. Hagan seconded the motion. Ronnau asked for discussion. There was no discussion. Ronnau asked three times for discussion and there was none. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed 8-0. The 2025 designated JPA members are: Ronnau, Hagan, and Suing.

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

Operations Report - N. Dowding reviewed information provided about active projects including the Restroom remodels, Campground Electrical Panels, Garage Door Replacements, Roof Repair, and Fan Replacements. N. Dowding also reviewed the upcoming projects. Bohaty discussed contract pieces that have been addressed with Hampton Construction regarding previous projects. Bohaty said that everything is moving forward toward starting on the upcoming projects. Ronnau spoke about the need to address timelines for these upcoming projects with the construction management to keep SGEC services moving forward. Ronnau asked that continuous contact be maintained with Hampton Management to keep to the timelines.

N. Dowding reviewed the upcoming shows and events to be held including the Deer and Game Expo, Women's Expo, Boat Show, Home Show, Trade Show, and Gravel World, all to be held before the end of February.

N. Dowding talked about recent discussions regarding allowing outside shavings to be brought to the facility. After some discussion, it was determined that this could be a safety issue for the animals and would cause inventory need struggles for the facility.

2025 Fair Update - Juengel shared information about deadlines for the 2025 Fair Book. Ronnau asked Nathan if she had any concerns or questions about how the information planning is going; Nathan had no concerns.

Bohaty talked about some of the new events at the 2025 Fair and the need to extend the hours until 11pm a few nights during the fair. There was discussion around making this change. It was suggested that certain nights would be better in relationship to larger events.

Bohaty discussed parking and possible changes. Discussion was held about ideas on managing traffic at the gates and how they could be made more efficient.

Juengel reports that she is going through vendor applications to make them easier to understand. Vendor pricing changes were also discussed.

Juengel reported that the three big ribbers for Ribfest are in the works and a preliminary layout is underway. There was discussion around the electrical generators and possible changes to be more efficient

Nathan and Kumm reported that the 2025 Fair website changes and updates are underway to make the site more user friendly, bright, and fun.

The 2025 Carnival contract terms were reviewed with rates that will be close to the same as last year.

Managing Director Report - Bohaty reported on legislative updates of interest during the current legislative session.

Roeber reports that she has been speaking with the liquor board for information about SDLs for the facility each year. Bohaty reports that he has recently been added to the liquor license.

Roeber reintroduced McKenna Morrison as the new Assistant Food and Beverage Manager. Bohaty shared that there have been many good reports about the food at recent events.

Bohaty and Roeber talked about moving job opening information and background checking into the PayCom system. Roeber shared information about increases in wages of staff working events with the recent change in the way gratuity and tips are divided out.

Other business - Sump moved to go into an executive session and Hardesty seconded. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed 8-0. Moved into executive session at 9:05pm.

Suing moved to exit executive session and Hagan seconded. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed 8-0. Exited executive session at 9:43pm.

Adjournment - Hagan moved to adjourn the meeting. Sump seconded the motion. The motion passed without objection. The meeting was adjourned at 9:44pm.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED as set forth herein on this _____ day
of _____, 2025. Submitted by the LANCASTER COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA.

President Kendra Ronnau _____

Secretary John Cooper _____