



*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*

### **MINUTES**

Board of Directors Monthly Meeting  
Ag Society Hall - Sandhills Global Event Center  
4100 N. 84<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln NE 68507  
Thursday, March 20, 2025 – 7:00 pm

**President Ronnau called the monthly meeting** of the Lancaster County Agricultural Society board to order at 7:00pm.

**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, Rutt, Cooper, Sump, and Hardesty. Arriving later was Cusick-Rawlinson. SGEC staff attending included Juengel, Nathan, N. Dowding, Bohaty, Roeber, Bowen, Orton, and Rief. Also attending in person was Annie Hopp of BMG CPAs. Also attending in person was Rob Burkett of UNICO Insurance.

**Approval of Minutes** - The minutes of the February meeting were presented for approval. Sump made a motion to approve the minutes; Hagan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Dowding and Hardesty abstained. The motion passed 5-0.

Cusick-Rawlinson arrive at 7:07pm.

**Annual Facility Insurance Renewal Update** - Rob Burkett of UNICO Insurance provided a summary of proposed insurance coverage updates and premiums. There was discussion about the proposed insurance as presented. Cooper asked about building valuations and how they were determined. Burkett explained the process. Ronnau asked Burkett if he feels confident with the current level of insurance as proposed. Burkett said that he does feel comfortable with this proposal and explained the support included when creating this insurance plan. This plan reflects an increase in premium. Cusick-Rawlinson asked about leasing rather than purchasing certain equipment during the fair to save on premium. Cooper asked if the policy coverage also covers items that are borrowed, even if no rental money changes hands. Ronnau thanked Burkett for being so thorough and efficient to create a cost-effective insurance plan for the Sandhills Global Event Center. Ronnau asked for additional questions. There were none.

**Financial Report** - Hopp of BMG CPAs presented the financial information for February including a review of the accounts receivable and accounts payable information. Ronnau asked if there were any questions; there were no questions. Cusick-Rawlinson made a motion to accept the financials as presented and Hardesty seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed 8-0.

Hopp presented information regarding the February checks to be paid totaling \$785,737.79. Ronnau asked if there were any questions; no questions were asked. Sump made a motion to approve the February checks. Dowding seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken; the motion passed 8-0.

**Extension update** - No Extension representatives were in attendance.

Cusick-Rawlinson made a motion to move item 9 up in the agenda. Hardesty seconded the motion. The motion passed without objection.

**Communication from the public** - Jill Guyer on behalf of the Nebraska Excavation Safety Summit was in attendance to share feedback on her 2025 event at SGEC in February. Guyer said that the quality of service for this event had dropped over recent years.

8:00pm Cooper stepped out.

Guyer stated that she asked to meet with current staff for support; she felt her concerns were heard and addressed appropriately for her 2025 event. Guyer thanked the SGEC staff for their hard work to make her 2025 event successful. Guyer thanked Rief his support in helping her IT troubleshoot and resolve presentation issues and Roeber and Morrison for their work in the event's food and beverage needs. Ronnau thanked Guyer for sharing her information with the board and encouraged her to let the SGEC team know if there are any additional points that need addressed. There were no other members of the public in attendance.

8:09pm Cooper returned.

**Officer Reports** - Ronnau shared that staff is keeping busy with events and preparing for the visit with the NHSFR event staff.

Ronnau stated that she is excited about the upcoming events and asked everyone to look at the list at end of the agenda each month.

Ronnau thanked Rutt for her time spent working with BMG CPAs each month.

Dowding shared a thank you card received from Susan Bolling.

There were no other officer reports.

**Committee Reports** - Hagan and Bohaty shared that the NHSFR Rodeo staff are coming to town to meet the SGEC staff to talk about the upcoming Rodeo preparation.

There were no other committee reports.

**Operations Report** - N. Dowding reviewed the current construction status and damage that occurred during the recent blizzard and high wind event. N. Dowding reports that repairs are currently underway.

N. Dowding said that the bathroom remodel is almost complete. Ronnau talked about bathroom repair issues that she saw during a recent horse show that need to be reviewed.

N. Dowding said the playground install will begin on Monday and is expected to 45 days.

N. Dowding reported that the gravity flow system work for sewage is going back out for bids.

N. Dowding stated that all demo for the office remodel is complete, and the remodel is approximately 2 weeks ahead of schedule.

Bohaty stated that the AC work has been paused until the sewer rebid is finished and the budget could be evaluated.

**2025 Fair Update** - Nathan talked about the fair book and the final review process. Nathan said it has going smoothly. Ronnau asked Nathan to share the current copy with Rief and Bowen to also review.

Juengel reviewed the 2025 Super Fair Grandstand schedule. There was discussion around the admission for Grandstand events.

Hardesty provided an update on her work toward building the marching band competition.

Juengel stated that Hi-Land Dairy will be donating the ice cream for the exhibitor highlights show/ice cream social event.

Juengel reviewed proposed changes for the Ribfest and Attraction Zone areas during the 2nd week of the Super Fair. There was discussion around seating and cleaning needs in the food zone area.

Juengel said that she is working on new attractions and is excited about how they can play into other events held at the SGEC.

Ronnau asked Rief to provide an update on the motor sports events.

**Managing Director Report** - Bohaty provided information about upcoming legislative hearings and information on the Nebraska legislative progress. There was group discussion relating to searches into grants and additional funding.

**Other Business** - Bohaty talked about renaming the South Hall due to confusion with the South Hallway. N. Dowding suggested a few options. Other naming suggestions were made, and discussion was had about naming rights.

Bohaty asked the board to consider moving forward with money processes at the Super Fair. There was discussion around the possible changes and how they could work.

Bohaty talked about Event Contract changes to make information flow better for staff and event managers.

No additional other business was presented.

Hagan made a motion to **adjourn the meeting**; Cooper seconded the motion. There were no objections. The meeting was adjourned at 9:16pm.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED as set forth herein on this 19<sup>th</sup> day  
of April, 2025. Submitted by the LANCASTER COUNTY  
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA.

President Kendra Ronnau 

Secretary John Cooper 

