



Lancaster County Agricultural Society, Inc.  
4100 N. 84th St, Lincoln, NE 68507  
Board of Directors Monthly Meeting  
MINUTES  
Thursday, April 18, 2019 at 7:00pm  
Lancaster Event Center Board Room

Vice President Ronnau called the meeting of the Lancaster County Agriculture Society to order. Proof of due notice was given with the Nebraska Open Meeting Act posted.

Board members present were Messick, Rawlinson, Ronnau, Rutt, Suing, and Swanson. Board members absent were Dowding, Cooper and Bauman. Guests present were Amy Dickerson, Tracy Anderson, Trudy Pedley, Karen Wobig, Roma Amundson and Chris Speith.

It was moved by Rawlinson and seconded by Messick to approve the March minutes as presented. Motion passed 6-0.

Moved by Rawlinson and seconded by Suing to approve the March Financials. Motion passed 6-0. Dickerson said she would ask Weatherford what amount Check Number 20911 for Staybridge Suites was. It was blank on check listing and is to be corrected for the minutes. Dickerson found out after meeting from Accounting Manager Weatherford that this was simply a voided check related to a sponsorship with zero value and no impact on check total for the month. It was moved by Messick and seconded by Swanson to approve the paying of the checks in the amount of \$540,169.33. Motion passed 6-0. The Aging Summary was presented for information.

John Cooper joined the meeting at 8:02 pm.

**Officer and Committee reports**

- President (Dowding)-absent
- Vice President (Ronnau)-no report
- Secretary (Bauman)-absent
- Treasurer (Rutt)-no report
- Premium Auction – no report
- ⊙ Personnel (Rawlinson) – Team member listening session Tuesday April 30<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 – 6:30pm
- LEC Phase 3 Ad hoc Committee report by Rawlinson - 4<sup>th</sup> meeting scheduled 5/8/2019 for committee to discuss what recommendations would be to Ag Society for proceeding with Phase 3

expansion—if, how, when, how finance. 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting in April covered Phase 3 Virtual Reality model hosted by Heather with Clark Enersen, Phase 3 costs overview covered by Scott Lockard with Hampton, impact of breaking apart and phasing Phase 3 on pro forma P&L by Susan Sieger, financial model options by Marc Chauche, rodeo project update by Dickerson. Rawlinson and Ronnau explained how the committee can give us valuable input. Amundson said committee taking unvarnished look at history and future plans of LEC and taking a hard look at how LEC operates and funded. The committee is becoming more aware of the impact of the LEC e.g. \$16M impact with new NHSFR event on top of \$40M annual impact. It's counterintuitive to not support growth of LEC and really fits the agrarian nature of our state, Amundson said. Ronnau said it was timely with recent floods for the state of NE to have new revenue streams beyond the traditional ones. Amundson commented it's a leap of faith to invest in growing LEC.

- NHSFR Rodeo Board Committee (Ronnau) – Commented that the Ag Society took leap of faith to go after the NHSFR as it really fits our mission and felt it was time to help spur growth. Amundson said the Ag Society should feel good there was an unanimous vote of county board 5-0 to schedule a special VPC (Visitor Promotion Committee) meeting to consider the request for \$4M added funds to complete NHSFR preparations.
- Grievance (Cooper)-no report

### **2019 Fair Update**

- Super Fair report started with Dickerson filling in for Bauman to give entertainment update. 70% of bands booked and strong plan. 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Nebraska Beers & Brews festivals in MPA coming together. Ronnau gave update on adding rodeo education area to the fair in preparation for the NHSFR in 2020. Ronnau suggested adding rodeo merchandise like kids cowboy hats, stickers “I roped a calf today”, 1<sup>st</sup> 100 kids get a hat etc. ideas.
- Printed Fair flyer--Board and Extension supportive to shorten and make more visual
- Paula Peterson nominated by Extension for Ag Society Hall of Fame.
- Ag Society received 150 year Heritage Farm Award application from the Dietz family.
- Bob Eutz wife Mitchell family eligible, actually 151 years this year, Chris Scow from Extension board to help them to apply.
- Chris Scow introduced himself had daughters involved in horses, sheep, food booth, 4-H Council 5 years and now Extension Board though daughters aged out of 4-H.
- Pedley mentioned to make sure we get Hold the Date out to State Senators for VIP Luncheon and personally call to invite. Wobig mentioned nine Lancaster County Senators. Wobig mentioned to have Extension Board help call the State Senators. Scow mentioned to schedule them to present trophies if can't make VIP luncheon.
- Dickerson shared NAFM District 1 Spring Meeting to be held 3:00 p.m., April 28th at the Saline County Fairgrounds, Crete, NE. Messick said he would try to attend.

**Other business:** None

### **Communication from the public (5 minute limit per person):**

Wobig mentioned that UNL asked Extension to lead flood relief efforts and are offering 50 service summer paid internships for University students. Nine Lancaster Co students applied although no

work right here, looking for ideas what they can do to help.

It was moved by Rawlinson and seconded by Cooper to go into executive session at 9:27 pm to discuss contract issues. Motion passed 6-0. It was moved by Suing and seconded by Rutt to come out of the executive session at 10:15pm. Motion passes 6-0.

Moved by Cooper and seconded by to adjourn at 10:30pm. The motion was approved 6-0.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Kendra Ronnau- LCAS Vice President (acting Secretary)

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Vice President Kendra Ronnau

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Treasurer Karen Rutt

Next Meeting: May 16th, 2019, 7:30pm