



Lancaster County Agricultural Society, Inc.  
4100 N. 84th St, Lincoln, NE 68507  
Board of Directors Monthly Meeting  
MINUTES  
Thursday, August 22, 2019 at 7:30pm  
Board Room--Lancaster Event Center Board Room

President Dowding called the meeting of the Lancaster County Agriculture Society to order at 7:32 pm. Proof of due notice was given with the Nebraska Open Meeting Act posted in the room.

Board members present were Bauman, Cooper, Dowding, Messick (on phone), Rawlinson, Ronnau, Rutt, Swanson and Suing. Others present included LEC staff Amy Dickerson, Greg Rook, Hoyt Kraeger, Susan Bulling; Extension Staff Karen Wobig and Tracy Anderson; and LEC's auditing firm representative, Tim Lens with Bergen KDV.

It was moved by Rawlinson and seconded by Ronnau to approve the July minutes. Motion passed 9-0.

Tim Lens with BerganKDV presented the FY18 Audit. Several important notes for the audit:

- Change in net position was approximately \$600,000 to the positive with a majority of that being derived from grant funds.
- The Lancaster Event Center followed their annual budget as provided to the State of Nebraska for 2018.
- When reviewing the audit, pages 19 and 20 can be help navigate questions for those having a hard time interpreting the different sets of numbers and varying types of reports that have to be used in governmental accounting audits.
- The only material weakness noted in the audit was the same on internal controls at the Lancaster Event Center as noted in last year's audit. Lens noted this is not uncommon in small organizations like LEC and that the team continues to make improvements. Dickerson commented that she believed the issue has now been addressed by having different team members do the cash and deposit counting.

August financials were not presented as they were still being compiled from the Lancaster County Super Fair. It was moved by Rawlinson and seconded by Ronnau to approve the paying of the checks in the amount of \$249,525.75. Motion passed 9-0.

**Officer and Committee reports**

- President (Dowding)-- Thanked everyone for all their hard work during the fair.
- Vice President (Ronnau)--Update on injured 4-H Equine competitor from fair horse show, she is doing better and continuing to improve.
- Secretary (Bauman)--no report
- Treasurer (Rutt)--no report
- Personnel Committee (Ronnau)--The committee will meet after the board meeting to schedule the next open forum.
- Grievance (Cooper) -- no report
- NHSFR (Ronnau)--no report
- Phase 3/Ad hoc (Rawlinson) - There will be updates in a meeting or two once they have had time to get situated after the Super Fair.

### **2019 Fair Debrief**

Ronnau mentioned that due to the accident to one of the 4-H equestrian competitors at the Super Fair the LCAS would like to encourage 4-H to consider rule of requiring helmets during high risk events (games, walk/trot, etc). Tracy Anderson leader of county's 4-H program is visiting with staff/others about this rule currently and Anderson and Wobig will report back to Ag Society on this. No major issues known with any livestock early release nor exhibitor conduct. Everyone mentioned that the Operations staff was fantastic, from signage to parking.

Overall load out went well, there was a little bit of confusion on where horse trailers could park due to the construction and new long-term campground customers (with water now in campground) limiting space in the existing campground, however next year shouldn't be a problem because of the new parking and campground space to the east.

Several exhibitor families mentioned some issues getting cattle across the Gate 3 driveway from P1 to the tie outs during heavy traffic times. Some ideas were to have a crossing guard specifically for the cattle crossing during evening hours until around dusk (exact times will be discussed later). Putting in a temporary speed bump was also mentioned as potential idea to help during times when a crossing guard isn't present.

An exhibitor brought up the question about extending age of FFA shows from 18 to 21 or 3 years from graduating. Not sure how this would work for our shows since our 4-H and FFA are in one show. We would have to split them up.

Further discussion was had about the premium auction. We will work with Calvin and Tracy about having a meeting open to anyone sometime this fall and see what everyone wants to accomplish with the premium auction. Once we have that figured out we can determine how to improve the premium auction.

Anderson said static numbers were down some but Suing said the quality of exhibits were very good. Dickerson said early attendance numbers show increases all the way around, carnival was way up and more even across the 10 days so better experience with less lines each day. Mud drag numbers were up almost double but there was complications using the track due to the amount of rain and dirt type. Next year when construction is complete we will have that problem resolved.

It was mentioned to talk to attractions to have limited shows during the day on Friday when day cares

and children's groups are coming through.

LEC Guest and Community Relations Lead Susan Bulling discussed and sought feedback with potential changes in fair commercial vendor pricing. We are still seeing a gap in number of home-based businesses, with the main issues seeming to be pricing. She is working on a new pricing grid that should help with this issue. There was discussion on how can we get new vendors here? How do we access them? We will be shortening the vendor hours next year on Thursday/Friday day time which should be well received as well.

**Extension Update (Karen Wobig)** -- Many thanks for all the hard work and team work at the fair. Amazing to see the looks on youth faces as they saw the fruits of their hard work, lots of pride evident and memories made.

**Managing Director Update (Dickerson)**

- NHSFR construction – The new campsites are all trenched in and the egress property has been finalized. New Operations Director Rook is working on finding shower trailers vendors and finalizing WW panel contract.
- The vice president from the Family Motor Coaches Association visited the facility and visited about potential opportunities for future RV events in the new campground that many in this group are hearing about now. This was unannounced visit, just wanted to come and check out the facility.
- An updated organizational chart with Rook included will be available at the next meeting.
- Annual Budget Hearing date will be September 19, 2019 for both Ag Society and JPA.

**Communication from the public (5 minute limit per person):** Board Member Rawlinson mentioned that Mari Lane Gewecke will be coming to do training on fund development with further sessions to follow.

Moved by Ronnau and seconded by Cooper to adjourn at 10:30pm. Motion pass 9-0.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Jamie Bauman- LCAS Secretary

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Secretary Bauman

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President Dowding

Next Meeting: September 19, 2019, 7:30pm  
Budget Hearing followed by Monthly Board Meeting