

**Lancaster County Agriculture Society
4100 N 84th St
Lincoln, NE 68507
MINUTES
Board of Directors Monthly Meeting
Board Room – Lancaster Event Center
Thursday, April 20, 2017 at 7:30pm**

President Ron Dowding called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and proof of due notice of meeting and open meeting notice posted was confirmed.

Roll Call was taken by Amy Dickerson who was designated as Acting Secretary for the meeting by the Board. Present: Ron Dowding, Kendra Ronnau, Karen Rutt, Jim Swanson, Tom Messick, Jay Wilkinson, John Cooper and Ron Suing. Not Present: Jamie Bauman. Others present included Amy Dickerson and Sue Bulling with Lancaster Event Center, Karen Wobig and Tracy Anderson with Lancaster County Extension and Allen Blezek with Lancaster County Extension Board.

The board approved the minutes from the March regular board meeting on 8-0 vote.

The board reviewed the financial report for the previous month presented by Lancaster Event Center (LEC) Managing Director, Amy Dickerson, and approved the financials on 8-0 vote. The board then reviewed the checks for the month and approved checks totaling \$253,852.83 on a 8-0 vote. The board commended LEC Accounting Manager Weatherford on coming up with much more complete and easy to read financial statements with comments all on same page.

For Officer and Committee reports, President Ron Dowding mentioned that three applications were received and forwarded to the AkSarBen for the Pioneer and Heritage Farm Family Awards. There are still open applications for other awards for the Super Fair VIP Luncheon. Vice President Kendra Ronnau gave update on Hay Hauling that she was still confirming with the horse show schedule whether it could be moved back to Pavilion 4 instead of outdoors in Muhlbach complex to increase attendance. She mentioned that an Open Rabbits Supt. had been found. Treasurer Karen Rutt had no report this month.

Super Fair Manager Amy Dickerson gave a 2017 fair update starting with upcoming deadlines including Open Shows info must be posted by June 1st on the web site including Showworks and the 4-H Flyer info is due to Vicki at Extension office by May 22nd so all major events have to be set by then. She mentioned that Jamie was making good progress on all the bands on the Main Stage including adding smaller community acts to early evenings and weekend afternoons before the main acts. Dickerson said that sponsorships were on par with last year so far with Hoyt Kraeger working on final larger sponsorships and the entire LEC management team helping find sponsors including asking for discounts off invoices from regular suppliers. Open class livestock

superintendents were discussed. Jay Wilkinson will be acting as Superintendent for Open Beef, Swine and Sheep with assistance from Assistant Supt. Hoyt Kraeger to run Showworks software. The Open Class Pigeons Supt. has been found and Jay will forward the contact information. Dickerson reported that the Farm Bureau has increased its sponsorship of the Super Fair by \$1500 and is now sponsoring not only the Fun at the Farm but also the Kids Scavenger Hunt/Become a Junior Fair Tour Guide. Ag facts will be added to all the scavenger hunt cards and to some of the shirts ordered this year for sizes needed. Kids earn the shirts after completing the scavenger hunt across the fairgrounds. Dickerson mentioned that Dominators no longer wants to do the Bingo at the fair and LEC fair planning team working on considering running this as a Super Fair fundraiser instead in conjunction with the Kiwanis volunteers out of the Super Fair info booth in the MPA.

Next agenda item was decision on Out of County Exhibitor Policies. It was discussed that the policy is actually very clear already, and has been for years, in the annual Lancaster County Fair Book which is available online as soon as it is released each March. Extension 4-H Program Leader Tracy Anderson commented she didn't feel it was necessary for the Board to take any special action, that we all just needed to be consistent with exhibitors on the rules that must be complied with to receive premiums including release times. The Board concurred that no vote was needed and everyone concurred with being consistent with exhibitors to follow Lancaster County Fair policies regardless of their county of residence.

Managing Director Amy Dickerson gave an update on Lancaster Event Center operations. Dickerson reported that the tractor pull in March grew over 30% with the addition of Pavilion 1 with a concrete/connected pit area to the P4 arena and the promoter says it is now considered to be the #2 indoor tractor pull in the country. The LEC team completed the busiest trade show month of March seeing many events with good attendance due to warm spring weather.

The NHSFR contract was signed at the end of March just before the deadline after working through NHSRA Executive Board questions on out of state trailer sales and sales tax on fundraisers. The Governor and his office helped reassure on working with out of state trailer vendors being able to participate by working through in-state dealers or other adjustments could be made. There was an agreement signed with UNL as well to lease their land to the north during the 2020 and 2021 NHSFR events to be used as overflow rough camping, parking, livestock pens and/or temporary used shavings storage. UNL partnership was key to getting the NHSFR contract among many partners including the VPC grant for \$3M in grounds improvements approved by the County Board during the bid process on a contingency of getting the event contract. County Commissioners Todd Wiltgen and Roma Amundson and LCAS Board VP Kendra Ronnau all helped in the final push to get the contract signed.

Dickerson reported that the City Council approved about \$1.1M to complete the approx. \$2M needed to widen Havelock Avenue during 2019. The City Public Works Director, Miki Esposito, identified the rest of the funds from street improvement funds set aside for our part of Lincoln. Dickerson mentioned that Mayor Beutler, his Chief of Staff Rick Hoppe and City Councilwoman Cindy Lamm were also key to getting the support needed at the City Council now so this project can have time to be planned and completed before the NHSFR event arrives in July 2020.

Dickerson reported the addition of a major motorcross event to the weekend before the fair starts on Saturday, July 29th which is looking for a new location as they have outgrown Westfair. They expect 500 riders and 3000+ attendance. The promoters are active in running Abbott Motorcross practice track and have agreed to do the dirt work necessary for the other three Super Fair motorsports events at no charge in trade for no charge rental of the Muhlbach Motorsports Complex for this new event. Super Fair will include this event in its marketing.

Other Business – none.

Communication from the public (5 minute limit per person)-- Extension Leader Karen Wobig introduced Extension Board Member Allen Blezek who was the designated Extension Board visitor this month.

The board voted 8-0 to go into Executive Session to discuss LEC future plans at 8:35 pm. The board voted to come out of Executive Session at 9:20 pm and then took an 8-0 vote to adjourn at 9:25 pm.

Next meeting: May 18, 2017 at 7:30pm

President

Any other officer
as Secretary absent