

Lancaster County Agriculture Society
4100 N. 84th St
Lincoln, NE 68507
MINUTES
Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 7:00PM

President Dowding 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 Bauman, Cooper, Dowding, Ronnau, Rutt, Suing, Wilkinson, with Messick and Swanson being absent.

The minutes from the February meeting were corrected and approved.

Moved by Ronnau and seconded by Suing to approve the March financials. The motion was approved 7-0 with Messick and Swanson absent and not voting. Moved by Cooper and seconded Ronnau to approve the paying of the checks in the amount of \$178,342.99. The motion was approved 7-0 with Messick and Swanson absent and not voting. The Aging Summary was presented for information.

Officer Reports: President Dowding brought up the district meeting. Ronnau will check with Lisa about what time it starts and where it will be held. VP Ronnau let the board know that Kate Pulec has been hired as the Lancaster County Extension office to take over for Marty Cruickshank since her retirement. She also mentioned that we should look into developing a policy on how to handle premiums, etc. for families from other counties. It was decided to put on the agenda for the next board meeting. There was some situation last fall and providing the policy in the fair book could help address these issues in advance. There were no other reports.

2017 Fair Update: Most concert dates are set for main shows and the fair book is about ready to go out. There is still discussions on some superintendents for open class shows. Jay is working on the livestock classes. Confirmation is still pending from the UNL Judging Team and the Rabbit superintendent is in the works. LEC staff member Hoyt Kraeger and board member Cooper will be helping Jay as well.

Managing Director report: The Lancaster Event Center staff is continuing to find cost saving measures for the fair budget. Discussions are still in progress on how to recognize outgoing fair board members. The VIP luncheon might be a really good fit. LEC Sponsorship lead Stephanie Henion has moved on to a new position outside of LEC and Hoyt Kraeger will be taking over the large sponsorships. The Farm and Power Show has offered to provide \$30,000 in concrete. Early suggestions would be around the arena in P2 and P3. LEC staff are looking into more ways to bring them in on partnership ideas. As attendance continues to grow at shows it is important to push the new city bus service to Wal-Mart. This bus route will help make it easier to get to the LEC for employees and visitors. For fair, LEC staff is currently exploring the idea of having a shuttle to run from LEC to Wal-Mart bus stop as another way to take advantage of and promote this bus service.

NHSFR: Preliminary dates for the finals are July 19-25, 2020 and July 18-24, 2021. The carnival is willing to move a bit if necessary to help accommodate the Super Fair. There is the potential in earning \$140,000 with an additional \$180,000 in contingencies. Turnaround time for the fair has been taken into consideration during the planning process. It is important to consider the Super Fair's early needs that don't necessarily fall into the standard schedule. These challenges might lead to a good time to start discussing

the pros and cons to keeping the 10 day fair schedule or reducing it back down to 5. What makes this event different from other events is the LEC is hosting the event, and the NHSFR is running and responsible for all things dealing with the rodeo itself. Concerns were raised about cash flow for upfront cost. The CVB grant and prepaying of services will help with these commitments. Moved by Ronnau and seconded by Suing to approve Dowding signing the NHSFR contract for 2020 & 2021. The motion was approved 7-0 with Messick and Swanson absent and not voting. There was also discussion about the property to the north of LEC that will be leased for the NHSFR which is owned by UNL. This 35 acres will be used for overnight livestock pens, overflow camping and/or parking, stockpiling shavings etc. UNL will allow us to take our time cleaning up after the fair. The current bid is at \$21,000 per year and will cover the cost of the loss they will take on not using the land each year to produce a cash crop for CASNR. The LEC also has some approval from UNL to make improvements as needed such as driveway. Moved by Suing and seconded by Bauman to approve Dowding signing the UNL contract. The motion was approved 7-0 with Messick and Swanson absent and not voting.

Other Business: None

Communication from the Public: Karen Wobig opened an invitation to the Ag Society to attend extension board meetings. They are held the 2nd Friday of the month at 8:00am.

The meeting adjourned at 9:18PM

Respectfully submitted by:

Jamie Bauman- LCAS Secretary

Secretary

President

Next meeting: April 20, 2017 at 7:30PM