



Lancaster County Agricultural Society, Inc.  
4100 N. 84th St, Lincoln, NE 68507  
Board of Directors Monthly Meeting  
MINUTES  
Thursday, May 16, 2019 at 7:30pm  
Farm Bureau Meeting Room – Exhibit Hall

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, Dowding, Messick, Rawlinson, Ronnau, Rutt, Suing, and Swanson with Cooper being absent.

It was moved by Ronnau and seconded by Messick to approve the April minutes. Motion passed 7-0 with Cooper being absent and not voting, Bauman abstained as she was absent from the April meeting.

There were no financials to present at the May meeting due to the Accounting Manager being on bereavement leave.

We had a special visit from the Four on the Floor 4-H Dog Club practicing out in Exhibit Hall. Members introduced themselves and their dogs and explained to us what their 4-H club is about. They did a great job representing themselves and their club. The members and their leader were very thankful for the access to the Lancaster Event Center for their club meetings and expressed the importance of the temperature controlled environments and large space.

**Officer and Committee reports**

- President (Dowding)- There are a number of past award plaques that have been being stored at the Extension Office. It was discussed what to do with them. Extension staff will bring them over and we will find something to do with them and think of way to showcase them during the fair at a minimum.
- Vice President (Ronnau)-no report
- Secretary (Bauman)-no report
- Treasurer (Rutt)-no report
- Premium Auction (Bauman) – Due to scheduling it has been hard to find time to get everyone together. With planting season and school activities slowing down we should have time to meet before the next board meeting.

- Personnel (Rawlinson)— The expansion of office space has already helped relieve some tension in the office by spreading staff out to give everyone much needed space. It was expressed by Managing Director Dickerson how much it means to staff to have the space in the former board room as well as to have LCAS Board Members come out and just say Hi and Thanks. Board Members agreed they are always impressed by staff and will make a point to come out more frequently. Mike Wulf has taken a new position with another company. His duties will be spread out while they are seeking a replacement.
- Phase 3/Ad Hoc (Rawlinson)— The 4<sup>th</sup> meeting consensus was that there is a need for the Lancaster Event Center to expand but there is concern about how it will be paid for in current new tax-adverse environment. There was a strong message that we need to do some major fundraising to show Ag Society commitment. Important to note that for the first time there is a buzz around the LEC and people are stepping up and being willing to help. We need to start thinking about a group of people that can serve as an advisory board. It was discussed that some small fact cards be created for us to keep with us with important facts that we can share quickly with people we are talking to about LEC Phase 3. Examples would be the economic impact, amount of money coming from outside Lancaster County, and diversity of events provided.
- NHSFR Rodeo Board Committee (Ronnau) – Few updates: The water is up and going in existing camp sites, grass is being planted all over grounds and some is already coming up. There is a lot of discussion about the difference in rodeo construction budget and projected cost. A large percentage of this was due to the electrical install plan being adjusted from above ground to below ground because of requirements by FEMA and government regulations in case of flooding etc. Individual electrical & water hookups are going in in the new camp sites to the east and grass will follow back there. Working with County Board to come up with ways to cover the short fall in the budget. Managing Director Dickerson presented a flyer first used at UNL Rodeo event in April that we can use to help get people signed up for a NHSFR volunteer list. Signing up for this list doesn't mean you have to volunteer, just means you will be notified of volunteer opportunities. Secretary Rutt mentioned we should double check with groups doing electrical state inspections and make sure that we are on schedule and don't get hung up waiting for them as hearing that state campgrounds closed due to inspections behind.
- Grievance (Cooper)-no report

### **2019 Fair Update**

The fair flyer was presented and is almost completed. You can see the focus on icons instead of words for easier communication of what happens what day at the fair.

Entertainment – Entertainment is pretty much booked. There is a meeting set up next week with Wynne Productions to discuss having another Talent Contest to fill the Sunday time slot. Should be a great diverse addition.

Board Member Rawlinson suggested the idea of promoting company events/picnics etc. that can be held during the fair. We could provide discounted tickets or host a special event etc. Another idea was to contact some of the community centers in Lancaster County to invite to visit the fair and work with Extension to see what centers they might already have programming with.

VIP luncheon – Business Development Lead Kraeger discussed the brainstorm of a fall 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary “Blue Jean Ball” concept as a fair/LEC fundraiser. This could allow LEC awards/updates to

be covered in another event instead of in Super Fair VIP luncheon to help keep the lunch length more manageable. October dates have been proposed since the first fair was Oct 13, 1870. Everyone was interested in this idea. Important to think of ways to get guests to attend. It was suggested to work with the Chamber and CVB to help get critical guest list in attendance. Board Member Rawlinson, Business Development Manager Kraeger, Trudy Pedley, Paula Peterson, and Events Coordinator Bulling was recommended group to start working on the idea.

The Super Fair VIP luncheon catering sponsor has been taken care of. It was mentioned that it would be nice to host the event indoors because of heat. Do we want to evaluate the guest list so we can look at having it inside? Would it be possible to use Exhibit Hall? We will talk to Extension staff to see if we can work with fashion show to find a way to make it work. Using banners to help recognize LEC sponsors would be one way to save time during the luncheon.

It was moved by Rutt and seconded by Bauman to give executive board permission to approve Ag Society Hall of Fame nominations from March and April Board meetings. Motion passed 8-0 with Cooper absent and not voting.

**Managing Director Report (Dickerson):**

Managing Director Dickerson presented an updated organizational chart with Purchasing and Human Resources Manager Mike Wulf moving on to a new opportunity. Staff are stepping up and help filling the void. There was a reorganization of the office space to help give team members better work spaces and improve the front office environment for guests. So far things seem to working out nicely.

The UNL Rodeo Association is looking for horse boarding options at the Lancaster Event Center until they can find alternate boarding opportunities longer-term for student-owned UNL Rodeo horses.

What options do we have? Are we interested in helping? It was decided that there be some opportunities. Managing Director Dickerson will continue conversation with UNL Administration about what opportunities we might have and gather more information about length of need etc.

There is a community impact "LEC annual report" mailer going out to all households in Lancaster County (approx. 132,000 homes, 8,000 organizations) in June. Lancaster Event Center staff have found sponsors to help pay for some of postage. This flyer will help promote the LEC, the economic impact the NHSFR will have on the city and state, Lancaster Super Fair, etc.

**Other business:** None

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

Tracy Anderson – Pee Wee Showmanship will no longer be held due to State 4-H policy. We can still do our own if we wanted to but it cannot happen during the 4-H show. Clover kids will be the only ones who can show. Ages are 5-7 and they must be enrolled in Clover Kids by June 15 to be eligible to show for fair. There was a question if the air conditioner in Livestock show office was going to be fixed in time for fair? Managing Director Dickerson will see if it is fixed and if not what will it take to get it fixed and if we can. It was also discussed by the LCAS Board to move the Lancaster Extension staff onto the agenda after the minutes so they don't have to sit through our entire board meetings if they don't want to.

It was moved by Rutt and seconded by Messick to go into executive session at 9:34pm to discuss personnel topics, and cell tower contract information. Motion passed 8-0 with Cooper absent and not voting. It was moved by Rawlinson and seconded by Suing to come out of the executive session at 10:48pm. Motion passes 8-0 with Cooper absent and not voting.

It was moved by Ronnau and seconded by Rutt to give the Ag Society NHSFR board committee authority to finalize the VPC grant contract terms. Motion passed 8-0 with Cooper absent and not voting.

Moved by Dowding and seconded by Rutt saying the LCAS BOD endorses the concept of exceeding the budget limitation imposed by Neb Rev stat section 13-519 as permitted under Neb Rev stat section 13-520 in order to cover additional funds necessary to complete the capital improvements to the Lancaster County Fairgrounds relating to the upcoming NHSFR. Motion passed 8-0 with Cooper being absent and not voting.

Moved by Messick and seconded by Bauman to give permission to the personnel committee to approve contract terms for potential new operations director position.

Moved by Bauman and seconded by Ronnau to adjourn at 10:55pm. The motion was approved 8-0 with Cooper being absent and not voting.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Jamie Bauman- LCAS Secretary

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Secretary Bauman

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President Dowding

Next Meeting: June 20, 2019, 7:30pm