**Hancock County 4-H Ag Association Minutes**

**August 21, 2023**

Present: David Wildman, Rachelle Kihlstrum, Mike Elsbury, Holly Plank, Chrissy Paxton, Jesse Melton, Debbie Vansickle, Mike Manship, Wyneta Duncan, Lauren Conway, Nicole Mann

Advisory: Amber Barks, Rob Barnhart

Meeting called to order.

Meeting Minutes from July – Jesse Melton motioned to accept the meeting minutes and Mike Manship seconded – Motion Carries.

Financials – There is $411,514.00 in our accounts and we had $73,900.11 in income and $51,437.64 in expenses for the month of July. YTD -$146,383.10 in income and $247,967.47 in expenses. Holly Plank motioned to accept the financials and Jesse Melton seconded – Motion Carries.

Amber Barks – Extension Educator:

Junior leaders are moving to the first Thursday of the month to hopefully recruit new members as the current meeting day falls on EH FFA meetings and many church nights.

  There were 4 State Fair Sweepstake Winners

* Claire Bishop – Consumer clothing
* Devon Kelley – Weather
* Sean Kelley – Rabbit display
* Wyatt Kihlstrum – Lavender Herb

 There were 5 Celebration of Champion

* Alyssa Cain –Fashion Revue
* Everett and Claire Bishop – Demo
* Sean Kelley – Rabbit Ambassador
* Ainsley Martin – Fashion Revue-consumer clothing

Updates:

* The Indiana State Fair released that in 2024 any pigs born on 12/1/23 or after will be eligible to show in the 2024 IN state fair show.
* 4-H Awards will be September 24 at 2 pm.
* October 5th at 6:00 pm, Sarah Burke 4-H Exhibit Hall, will be an opportunity to take the required trainings in person.
* All returning volunteers are going to be asked to complete their required volunteer trainings by November 1 to be listed in the handbook.
* 4-H Open House will be November 2 – This will be during the week and we are asking youth to represent their projects and plan to offer food this year.
* Purdue Extension’s Community Connections event will take place November 11 from 4-7 pm and the board is invited to have a booth.

Currently looking for youth to do project spotlight videos so that they are able to share those through social media.

They had a leaders and superintendents meeting

A suggestion was made to add sports as a project in Hancock County and the board must vote on adding the new project. David Wildman motioned to add a new county project called Sports as a poster or notebook project and Rachelle Kihlstrum seconded – Motion Carries.

Handbook

All clubs and projects are asked to fill out an updated contact form that should be returned to Olivia by Sept 15th, the earlier the better.

Need superintendents for BBQ, Beekeeping, Computer, Entomology, and Sports.

Judge’s pay was brought up at the last meeting and she has pulled the numbers from other counties and would like to request increasing our pay out by $1825 – from $8,075 to $9,900.

* Building Project $65 to $80
* Building Project Mini $45 to $50
* Beef $300 to $350
* Boer Goats $250 to $300
* Dairy/Pygmy goats $250 to $300
* Dairy $200 to $250
* Cats $100 to $125
* Dog Obedience $75 to $100
* Dog obedience/agility $150 to $175
* Dog showmanship $75 to $100
* Llama costume $100 to $150
* Llama Obstacle $100 to $150
* Llama showmanship $100 to $150
* Poultry $150 to $200
* Sheep $250 to $600

Holly Plank motions to up our payment for judges to $1825 for a total of $9,900 and Rachelle Kihlstrum seconded – Motion Carries.

Awards program in September, it was brought up that the livestock kids do not get awards at the September Awards Program and they use to. It was brought up having a Herdsman Award or some other award and it will be looked at to see if that would be something to add back in to the September Awards Program in 2024.

Building and Grounds – Rob Barnhart

Huber’s Auction is having an auction coming up that will be auctioning items that would work for the commercial kitchen, ovens, refrigerators, metal working tables, shelves, and other items. He would like to have approval from the board to come up with a budget so that he could bid on and get some items for our upcoming commercial kitchen project. Mike Manship motioned to approve up to $10,000 to bid on the commercial kitchen items and Jesse Melton seconded – Motion Carries.

Jim Peters – Emergency and Disaster Response Program. Mr. Peters

introduced the program to us and presented to the board the purpose of the Emergency and Disaster Response Program and how vital it is for Hancock County. He handed out some literature and asked that we would be willing to partner with the 4H clubs as and education piece and to get the Hancock County youth involved. He said the need in Hancock County is growing and they will be having some upcoming trainings and events. He will follow up with Amber for that project and to get a memorandum of understanding before anything further can be done.

Steven Elsbury – Sheep Superintendent – he handed out a proposed sheep schedule for the 2024 fair.

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| Day | Time | Activity |
| 6/24/24 | 12 to 1 pm | Sheep committee and volunteers arrive. |
| 6/24/24 | 1 to 4 pm | Sheep arrive (No optional tack time before arrival). |
| 6/24/24 | 4 to 5 pm | Scales open, submit purebred ewe papers. |
| 6/24/24 | 6 pm | All sheep must be weighed. |
| 6/24/24 | 10 pm | Classes posted. |
| 6/25/24 | Noon | Deadline for class changes. |
| 6/25 or6/26/24 | Question of when | Mini 4-H sheep show with mini-4-H goat show. |
| 6/26/24 | 9 – 10 am | 4-H sheep show Jessica Barnhart Memorial Lead Line. |
| 6/26/24 | 6 pm | 4-H Sheep Show of Champions and Showmanship. |
| 6/26/24 | 30 min after the show | Sheep released. |
| 6/27/24 | 30 min after the Round Robin | Sheep released. |
| 6/28/24 | 10 am | All sheep must be out of the barn. |

It was decided that we need to look at the schedule for all animal projects, and building projects, so Chrissy Paxton, Rachelle Kihlstrum, Amber Barks, or a representative from the Extension Office and all the livestock superintendents and their assistants will get together in the next few weeks to get a finalized schedule made that will work for everyone involved.

2024 Fair Events – Debbie Vansickle and Holly Plank are working on some

concerts, and the rest of the Association and Board was asked to think of things we could have at the fair in 2024.

Commercial Vendors – Holly Plank brought up insurance for the vendors in

the commercial building and what we could do to help with that cost. Jesse Melton will ask our insurance agent if we could help cover those vendors or if there are any options. Vickie Ramsey was asked by Chrissy Paxton about their set up for their vendor events and asked if Extension Homemakers would be willing to take on the responsibility of getting the vendors in the commercial building at the 2024 Fair. Vickie indicated that they would be willing to take that project on.

Hall of Fame Committee – They are working on the qualifications to be on

the Wall of Fame for volunteers, and businesses. Also working on what that display will look like and how many a year would go on the wall.

Mike Elsbury has talked to Greg Morelock and they would like to meet with

us in September. He gave six dates – September 7th, 18th, 19th, 26th, 27th and the 28th. It was decided that the 18th before the next board meeting would be the best time for everyone. Mike will get in touch with Greg and relay to them the day that works for us and let us know the time at a later date.

Insurance Coverage – Jesse Melton has worked with our insurance agent

and reworked and updated our coverages and with all the changes we will incur an increase of $2,700 for a total of $47,126.00 a year annual premium. It was thought that the $14,000 event coverage we have was only for the carnival, but in reality, it is for any event taking place on the fairgrounds and is 365 days a year coverage and has nothing to do with the carnival. Holly Plank motioned to go with the updates and changes to the insurance coverage and pay the $2,700 a year increase for a total of $47,126.00 and Debbie Vansickle seconded – Motion Carries.

Carnival – Mike Manship talked to Andy from Lehur’s at 6:15 pm tonight

and we are good to go and Andy is excited to be working with us. We did receive communication from our lawyer Chris Isom who is working with us on the old carnival and he asked if they had a specific exception to give away rabbits, none of the current board felt that we had that, and nothing was in the contract. We are just waiting to see what, if any steps, need to be taken and Chris will let us know if anything else comes of it.

West Commons Building - We will need to move the shop to the

Multipurpose arena/North Lot area and the place originally planned is not ideal. Will move the Farm Bureau Building north of where it is at and put the West Commons Building beside it to the South. Rusty Locker has agreed to use his flatbed truck to help with the move of the buildings, but the time frame is still undecided. Lots of items still left to get done before building could be built. There is a possibility that this building could still be built by the end of the year. Holly Plank motioned to approve a payment of $6,230 as the initial down payment to Burns Construction to move forward with the building project, and Mike Manship seconded. Motion Carries.

Fundraising - Lauren Conway will run our online auction to help with

fundraising for the West Commons Building. It was decided that November 30, 2023 will be the day the auction will take place. Huber Auction has agreed to help us with hosting. Details still need to be worked out but we already have a few items and many ideas were given at the meeting for Lauren to follow up with.

Tourism – Holly Plank gave an update with the meeting with Tourism.

Tourism is working to partner with many in the county for the solar eclipse that is happening in April of 2024. They would like us to have a part in that event also and they have a logo they are designing especially for the event, more details are still being worked out, but it is something they are hoping we can participate in.

They also asked that for next years fair we take a look at all the events happening in Hancock County and try to coordinate around each other so that we do not have to many things happening on the same night. Their example was the Stella Luna concert at the 2023 fair was on a night that there was an event at The Depot Park and New Pal had an event also that night, so many people had to make a choice and it hurt everyone’s attendance.

They will be sending over a business plan template for us to fill out and they would like to have a consultant come out and look at what we have and what we could do. Tourism would pay for the consultant.

Campsites and Electric Upgrades – Jesse Melton stated that the campsites

on the front side are done and now we need to look at the campsites on the back side. He would also like to propose that we put in permanent electric poles for the food vendors on the east side of the commercial building and they can also be used for campsites. Also adding campsites where the old house used to be for the new carnival would be helpful. Holly Plank motioned to approve up to $42,000 for the finishing the back side of the campgrounds, putting in permanent poles on the east side of the commercial building and adding new camping poles to the old house site, and Debbie Vansickle seconded. Motion Carries.

Wash Racks and Water Supply – The water company came out and told us

what we had already suspected that the three-quarter inch line is not big enough. The solution was to replace the three-quarter inch line to a one-inch line. That would solve the water pressure at the cattle wash racks. Then the suggestion is to put a two-inch line from the cattle wash racks and trench it over to the swine wash racks. That should solve our water pressure issues.

Bylaws Committee – Presented was the first reading of the 5th amended

bylaws.

Lilly Endowment – Debbie Vansickle told us that she had received a letter

from Casey Mull that they will not be funding any capital improvements projects with the Lilly Endowment grant. So, we will not qualify for any of the money. She is looking into other avenues for funding.

New Business

Heather Hill spoke in regards to the matter that took place at the area 4-H tractor maintenance contest that was hosted by Hancock County on July 24, 2023. The area superintendent made a call before the event that impacted the final results in a negative way. After the event was over, it was brought to the attention of Amber Barks. Amber immediately worked with Tony Carrell at Purdue to find a solution for those impacted by the decision made by the area superintendent. Amber’s solution with Tony’s support, allowed for those negatively impacted by the results to compete at the state fair contest.

Old Business

None.

Board Resignation – Nicole Mann has sent a letter to Mike Elsbury and

Holly Plank, formally resigning from the board effective this evening.

Mike Manship motioned to adjourn the meeting and Rachelle Kihlstrum

seconded – Meeting Adjourned.

Next working meeting is September 6th, at 7:00 pm and the next regular

meeting is September 18th at 6:30 pm in the exhibit hall.