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

**July 17, 2023**

Present: David Wildman, Barb Pescitelli, Rachelle Kihlstrum, Mike Elsbury, Holly Plank, Chrissy Paxton, Jesse Melton, Debbie Vansickle, Mike Manship, Wyneta Duncan

Absent: Nicole Mann, Lauren Conway

Advisory: Amber Barks, Rob Barnhart

Meeting called to order.

Meeting Minutes from June – Mike Manship motioned to accept the meeting minutes and Chrissy Paxton seconded – Motion Carries.

Financials – There is $408.236.00 in our accounts and we had $72,466.34 in income and $93,512.78 in expenses for the month of June. YTD -$144,290.63 in income and $190,904.83 in expenses. Chrissy Paxton motioned to accept the financials and Rachelle Kihlstrum seconded – Motion Carries.

Amber Barks – Extension Educator:

Fair went well.

Would like to request all BBQ contests take place at the fairgrounds moving forward.

Increased enrollment this year.

Office is currently still under construction and closed at this time.

Would like to send out award sponsorships prior to the end of the year and will work with Debbie Vansickle on any increases in price.

Handbook changes are due September 1st.

Junior Leader sales were down, but that was probably because of the weather.

Thanked everyone for their hard work.

Building and Grounds – Rob Barnhart

He felt that the fair went well, and was a good first fair for him. There are a few changes he would like to implement for next year.

Commercial Kitchen in the Exhibit Hall – He is hoping to get to that this week.

Have utilized the Commercial Building to store everything.

Cleaning service – Debbie Vansickle motioned to pay $4,500 for the cleaning of the bathrooms during the fair and Mike Manship seconded – Motion Carries.

Ideas about the fair for next year –

Jesse Melton – Finish up the campgrounds and put in permanent power poles.

Wyneta Duncan and Barb Pescitelli – Need to get the bleachers fixed, preferably before August 22, 2023, but if not, they will just block off the section that is rotted.

Debbie Vansickle – Would like to see more entertainment during fair week to bring people to the fair.

Holly Plank – From the sheet that was in the fair office during the fair with suggestions: TV’s with next classes for the livestock order; mechanical bull; dunk tank; radar pitch; horse pulls, tractor pulls and rodeo for multipurpose arena, one time for beef arrival; permanent schedule place for Possibilities show; sheep arrive on Monday; put in the schedule when Sullivan’s will be here; get clubs and groups to help with clean up day and trash cans.

Chrissy Paxton – Monday could be a good day for the Possibilities show; have the Commercial Building Vendors pay a daily fee and can decide what days they want to come, can be here just a few days or every day; with pricing being between $50 and $75 a day.

Steven Elsbury – Sheep Superintendent

Thanked everyone for their hard work.

Would like to change the schedule for sheep but would like to get on the schedule for the August board meeting to present us with what they would like their schedule changes to be.

There is no room for a sheep open show.

Would like to bring lamb burgers back.

Asked about judging compensation and who decides that. The sheep judge got paid $250.00, but they have heard other livestock judges get higher. The Sheep Producers paid the judge an extra $250. It was decided that the committees are the ones who have historically submitted their judges compensation requests to the extension educator that forwards that on to the board. That will be looked at in the future to come up with equal compensation for all judges in all the animal projects as well as the exhibit hall projects. Holly Plank motions to reimburse the Sheep Producers $250.00 for payment to their judge and Chrissy Paxton seconded. Motion Carries.

Steve Wilson – Beef Superintendent

Thanked everyone for the extra effort getting more water pressure to the wash racks.

Feeder calves – new project for them – had 14 entered and thought they had 8 show up and it was well received.

60 – 70 head total.

2023 Carnival – Current contract is for the next 2 years but we do not want to continue with Carnival Company. The contract was sent to attorney Chris Isom at Brand & Morelock, who stated the contract was a mess, but we would need to have a letter sent to them dissolving the contract. Mike Manship motioned to have Chris Isom draw up and send a letter to Carnival Company dissolving our contract with them, Chrissy Paxton seconded – Motion Carries.

2024 Carnival – 4 board members traveled to Decatur County fair on July 13, 2023 to see the Luehr’s Ideal Rides, Inc, carnival company. It was a very good, clean and well put together carnival company. The dates they have available are June 18, to June 23, 2024. Those dates will not line up with our 2024 fair exactly but would overlap 3 days, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. They gave us a contract that they would like signed and returned to them by July 27, 2023. Mike Manship sent that contract to Chris Isom, he said it is better than the other one but could be better and if we decide we want a better one that he would be happy to help with that. Concerns that were noted were about the food vendor food restrictions, selling tickets and manning the ticket booths ourselves, and how to work some scheduling issues that will arise. Chrissy Paxton motioned to proceed with signing with Luehr’s Ideal Rides, Inc, for the 2024 and 2025 fair years, once the dissolvement with the Carnival Company letter is sent out, Mike Manship seconded – Motion Carries.

Insurance – Jesse Melton – he will follow up with the insurance company he has been working with and get back to us.

Golf Outing Fundraiser – Was a good day and had 12 teams with an overall income of $4,277.20. Would like to schedule the 2nd Annual Golf Outing for September 7, 2024. Would also like to look at other fundraising opportunities in the future. Chrissy Paxton motioned to set the date of September 7, 2024 for the next golf fund raiser and Wyneta Duncan seconded – Motion Carries.

Priority List –

Multipurpose Arena – need to fix the bleachers – Jesse Melton, Rob Barnhart and Mike Manship has some contacts and leads they will be looking at for options and will get back to us with what they find out.

Campground and permanent poles on the east side of the commercial building – Jesse Melton and Rob Barhnart will be working with Rodebeck to get a better idea of pricing. A motion was put forth by Debbie Vansickle and seconded by David Wildman for $5,000 for this project, but it was withdrawn when it was decided that we needed a better idea on the pricing before making a motion for a set price.

Swine Wash Racks – they are only half done and will need to have a better source for the water supply. Mike Elsbury, Jesse Melton and Rob Barnhart will be working on this project.

Painting the Swine and Cattle Barns – Jesse Melton has a contact that he will get a hold of that power washes and he will contact them to see what pricing would be on that. Rob Barnhart and Jesse Melton have been in contact with a company that paints water towers and have made contact with them and will get back to us when they know more. Another option is to look into getting a new roof put on both buildings. It was thought that the coating of the roofs would not be a great option due to the price.

Swine Committee – Mike Lewis let us know the swine committee are meeting in the next few days and there is a possibility from that meeting that they would like to offer the current swine show ring gates for the new swine wash racks for purchase and then they would take that money and buy new swine show ring gates for the show arena. He said he will let us know what the committee decides and gets back to us.

Hall of Fame Committee – Will be meeting in the future, but nothing currently to report.

Lift Station – Not other correspondence has been received, but it looks as there is no choice and a lift station will be put on our property in the future.

Barb Pescitelli Board Seat – Mike Elsbury received her letter of resignation effective 7/17/2023, due to her moving out of her district she was elected in. David Wildman moved that we accept the resignation and Jesse Melton seconded – Motion Carries. Chrissy Paxton motioned to leave the seat unfilled, and to be filled at the November Annual Meeting, and David Wildman seconded. Motion Carries.

New Members – Kevin Cheshier, Jacob Steinmetz, Kaylin Joyce and Megan Woods. Debbie Vansickle motioned that we accept the new members and Holly Plank seconded. Motion Carries.

Daily Reporter – There was concern about the errors the Daily Reporter made this year. A $1,260 error was made that we and the carnival company absorbed for the carnival bracelets that were put in the paper for $20 a day when it was supposed to be $25 a day. There were numerous errors this year and it was decided going forward that we need to review everything the Daily Reporter has before it is sent out. It was also decided that a conversation needs to be had with the Daily Reporter about possibly getting compensated for the mess up this year and Chrissy Paxton and Mike Manship will get in contact with them.

By-laws – They need to be revisited and a committee has been set to look at them. The committee will consist of Debbie Vansickle (chair), Wyneta Duncan, Holly Plank, Delaney Melton, Nicole Mann, John Apple and Penny Hunt.

New Business

None.

Old Business

None.

Jesse Melton motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mike Manship seconded – Meeting Adjourned

Next working meeting is August 7th, at 7:30 pm and the next regular meeting is August 21st at 6:30 pm in the exhibit hall.