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

**September 18, 2023**

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

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 $314,858.99 in our accounts and we had -$82,339.74 in

income and $96,944.10 in expenses for the month of August. YTD $64,043.36 in income and $344,961.57 in expenses. Holly Plank motioned to accept the financials and Jesse Melton seconded – Motion Carries.

Amber Barks – Extension Educator:

The Jr. Leaders are planning a 4-H bonfire to recruit new members Oct. 4.

Superintendents have been asked to have any changes in rules to Olivia by October 1.

Amber has the Youth Staff Update meetings for the next 2 days. This is typically when she learns what changes are coming from Purdue regarding 4-H policies.

Enrollment incentive - STEM and Pie Day- 75 enrollments for one pie to the face, anyone who is willing to sign up to get a pie to the face is welcomed.

Currently awaiting a finalized fair schedule so they can begin scheduling judges and sending out contracts.

Sugar Creek 4-H club has agreed to promote 4-H at the Sugar Creek safety day September 23rd.

4-H Camp is scheduled for May 30-June 1, 2024.

There will be an in person 4-H volunteer training meeting on October 5 at 6 pm in the Exhibit Hall Building.

Volunteer Training can currently be taken on the 4H Online portal –

[Sign In (4honline.com)](https://www.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in).

September 24th at 2pm is the 4-H awards program.

Nov 2nd is the 4-H Kickoff from 5-7 pm in the Exhibit Hall Building.

Nov 11th from 4-7 pm is the Community Connections event – the Ag Association is welcomed to set up a booth if they would like.

Mike Elsbury requested Amber teach the in-person volunteer training at the annual meeting.  Amber is willing to offer this at 5 pm prior to the meeting with the understanding that this training **does not** make those individuals 4-H volunteers.  This will get the process started.  New volunteers completing the process that night **would not** be eligible to run for a seat on the board.  The Purdue vetting process states: Nominees to fill 4-H volunteer roles on appointed or elected boards/committees will be screened and approved prior to the time the appointment or election process is held.

Building and Grounds – Rob Barnhart

GC FFA is putting on a Farm Safety Night on Wednesday September 20th

from 4 to 8 pm, to educate the public about safety as the farmers start to get into the fields.

The Huber Auction went well and all the auction items have been picked up and are in the Commercial Building. It did go over budget of a cost of $3,500. Jesse Melton motions to add an additional $3,500 to cover the auction bill at Huber Auction and Lauren Conway seconded – Motion Carries.

Jesse Melton motions to purchase a lift for the grounds that is 6 years old,

with a warranty and 213 hours for $9,125.29 and Holly Plank seconded – Motion Carries.

Rob will get with Rodebeck this week about removing the electric from

the shop and start the process of the next phase of the campgrounds and

the permanent electric on the east side of the commercial building.

Rob’s brother is sending prices for 2x10 boards to replace the bleachers in

the multipurpose arena.

Gleaners will no longer be coming to the fairgrounds to pass out food.

Rob received a phone call from a nonprofit looking for a place to hold a 5-

day bicycle training for kids who have special needs and Rob was thinking the Pioneer Building would be a great place. However, we do not have any pricing on that building yet and he is wanting to know how much the board thinks we should charge. David Wildman motions to charge $500, with proof of insurance, and proof of nonprofit status and Holly Plank seconded – Motion Carries.

Livestock building roofs - Jesse Melton

Jesse got quotes for fixing the livestock building roofs and the price would

be $55,000 each and that would include pressure washing top and bottom and whatever paint did not come off to scrape it off, then paint. This is cheaper than the other quotes we have received. It was decided that we would wait until after the West Commons Building is done before working on the livestock building roofs.

Lift station – Mike Elsbury

The board had a meeting before the board meeting with the city, and the engineers and they presented us with drawings of what they plan to do. Estimated start date is projected to be July 1st 2025. Greg Morelock, the city attorney, will be sending us a follow up email of what we discussed in the next few days.

2024 Fair Schedule – Chrissy Paxton and Rachelle Kihlstrum

They have been working to get the schedule ready for approval so that judges can be acquired. All animal, exhibit hall, carnival dates and times has been confirmed with the animal superintendents, extension educator and carnival. They are asking that we go ahead and approve the schedule, as is, knowing that more will be added to it for events, but it is 90% complete for the 2024 fair. David Wildman motions to accept the 2024 fair schedule as written on September 18th, 2023 at 7:20 pm, with the knowledge that events will be added in the future and Wyneta Duncan seconded – Motion Carries.

Tourism – Holly Plank

The meeting was canceled last month but there is a meeting scheduled for next week.

Fundraising – Lauren Conway

She has gotten a few more items and has reached out to the suggestions

that she has gotten. The date of the silent auction will be 11/30 through 12/7 and she will be working with Huber Auctions to get all of that set up.

Hall of Fame – Wyneta Duncan

No updates at this time.

Insurance – Jesse Melton

The contract is done and is in the hands of billing and we should be good

with the updated pricing. There was a question if we need to have

vendors carry insurance and Jesse said the insurance company strongly

recommends that we do ask them to carry insurance to protect them, but

we technically do not have to require it. Chrissy Paxton is going to meet

with Vickie Ramsey and Margie Clark to figure out what we can do to help bring different vendors to the Commercial Building during the fair, especially if they do not have to have insurance, that meeting will be schedule in the next few weeks with an update at the next board meeting.

West Commons Building – Jesse Melton

Things are progressing. The shop is cleaned out now, and Rodenbeck will

be out soon to kill the power for the move. We will need a permit to move the building across the road and Jesse Melton is working with the city to get that accomplished.

Luehrs’ Carnival – Rachelle Kihlstrum

Rachelle has talked to Lorelei Schoendienst from Luehrs’ about the times

for the carnival for 2024 to get them into the schedule. They do not meet until January to set pricing so we will not have any of that until then. They will stop around February to lay out what they can bring. They will work with us to set up the carnival ride specials around the first part of 2024.

Bylaws – Debbie Vansickle

They committee have had to be put the bylaws on hold for now. So, we will be operating under the 4th bylaws for the November meeting.

There will be the following five spots open as either a vacancy or

reelection opportunity.

District 1 – one – three-year term.

District 2 – one – three-year term – there are already 2 from Center

Township so it cannot be a Center Township representative.

District 3 – one – three-year term.

one – two-year term to fill the spot Nicole Mann vacated.

\*If Mike Manship chooses to run again in District 3, and is elected, then the two-year term cannot be from Jackson Township as we will have 2 already from that township.

Adult Leader – one – three-year term.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Mike Manship motioned to adjourn the meeting and Holly Plank seconded –

Meeting Adjourned.

Next working meeting is October 2nd, at 7:15 pm and the next regular

meeting is October 16th at 6:30 pm in the exhibit hall.