

Calhoun County Agricultural & Industrial Society  
Minutes of Board Meeting  
March 20, 2019 – Marshall Middle School - 7:00 PM

**Call to Order**

The March 20, 2019, Board meeting was called to order by CCAIS Board President, Vic Potter at 7:00 pm at Marshall Middle School.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Erik Myers.

Attendance with Roll Call was conducted by Susan Baldwin.

Present: Vic Potter, Jim Olds, Susan Baldwin, Steven Benham, Hope Horton, Erik Myers, Bruce Rapp, Doug Wildt, Steve Swafford. Excused: Chip Riddle (available via phone).

Approval of Agenda – Motion by Susan Baldwin, seconded by Erik Myers, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed by voice vote.

Secretary's report of the February 20, 2019, minutes was given by Susan Baldwin.

Motion was made by Susan, seconded by Bruce Rapp, to file the minutes. Motion passed by voice vote.

Treasurer and Finance Committee Reports – Bill DeSmet presented the finance report. Bill discussed the new report layout and P&L budget performance. Over budget YTD due to timing of certain expenses, but the finance committee is not concerned. Bill has been sorting financials by species and checking with superintendents, moving forward he will communicate fund balances to superintendents on a monthly basis.

Bill DeSmet recommended opening a credit line of \$45,000 to help with cash flow around the MDARD grant. The credit line would require two signors and board approval to draw down the line. Bruce Rapp asked about the interest percentage, Bill DeSmet stated it is 1% + prime.

Fair Manager Report – Jen Rice provided the Fair Manager report.

Winter Storage Take-out – Saturday, March 30

Spring clean-up – Saturday, April 20

Vintage Market & Camper Show – Saturday, April 27

- Partnered with Farmers Market (will be in Belcher Building)
- Merchants Building nearly at capacity with vendors

Car Shows – May 3-4 and July 5-6

- Still on track

Watson Diesel Michigan Nationals – June 21-22

- Sent contract revisions, should have finalized next week

Sponsorships

- Hemmingsens – Platinum Sponsor
- FireKeepers – maintaining previous sponsorship amount, replacing fireworks sponsorship with volunteer sponsorship (shirts and hospitality tent)
- Southern Michigan Bank & Trust – Silver Sponsor

Golf Outing – July

- Registration forms created and sent out to all previous teams from the past two years
- Already have four teams registered

New Point of Sale System – should be back in business early next week

New domain name calhouncountyfairgrounds.com

- Working to reclaim the old one calhouncountyfair.org, to set up as a redirect to the new address

Comfort Center Renovation

- All new faucets and shower heads
- Ceilings and walls complete
- Floors should be complete by the end of this week

Fair week camping information and invoices sent – deadline for full payment is July 1

- We have a waiting list of over 50 campers for fair week

Fair vendor contracts and deposits coming in – deadline April 1

**Public Comment** - requested for any agenda items.

Kathy Fisher emailed a statement to the office, Jen Rice read the statement:

I wanted to bring some concerns regarding the livestock policies as listed in the fair book.

Regarding Youth needing to reside in Calhoun County: From what I can find this was added in 2017 yet has not been enforced. We have many youth who have been showing in Calhoun County for many years, but live in Union City, Bellevue, or Olivet. Now you want to tell them they can't show here. This is not a good technique for growing our numbers or increasing participation at the fair.

If you add wording allowing those who have never shown at a county fair to show in the current year, what happens next year and those after. Will they be required to petition the livestock committee for permission to show every year?

Why does it really matter where they live? Don't we want to bring more kids to the Calhoun County Fair not drive them away. As long as they are not showing from fair to fair all summer, if they choose to come to Calhoun I would take that as a complement to our fair and our clubs.

Thank you,

Kathy Fischer

### **Discussion Items**

Livestock Committee Recommendations – Hope Horton stated the eligibility requirements have been inconsistent, and stated the livestock committee has proposed the following rule changes:

5. Only youth residing in Calhoun County are eligible to exhibit in the youth section. Youth age 6-21 whom reside outside of Calhoun County and wish to exhibit at the Calhoun County Fair in the youth department may petition the Livestock Committee by filling out the appropriate form and turn it into the fair office at least two weeks before the project start date or by May 1st, whichever is earlier. All decisions are made by the livestock committee/CC AIS board are final. Youth only need to petition once.
6. Youth exhibitors will not be allowed to exhibit the same project or livestock species which has been exhibited at another county fair during the current year.
7. Youth exhibitors who show or have shown at another county fair coming to show at Calhoun County will not be able to participate in the youth livestock auction, as well as, champion market classes for two years. Exhibitors who have aged out of their county fair are not eligible to participate at Calhoun County Fair.
8. Youth members who reside in another county whom have never participated at another county fair are allowed to participate at the Calhoun County for the current fair season. Youth members who reside in another county whom have shown at Calhoun County the previous year may continue to show.
9. Youth clubs must submit a member roster with the species shown to the livestock committee prior to their weigh in/entry date. With new members indicated, proof of birthdate and residency may be requested.

Board members discussed the rule changes. Motion by Hope Horton, seconded by Doug Wildt, to approve the rule changes. Motion passed by voice vote.

Bennett Property – Vic Potter gave background on our use of the property and the recent sale offer from Bill Bennett. Doug Wildt discussed the property in question and described the proposal to extend the fairgrounds property line to the east.

Gate Fees and Parking Fees – Jen Rice explained the office's research into our pricing structure as compared to other surrounding fairs.

Board member discussion. Jim Olds sees our gate fees as similar to others but would like to consider a parking fee. Hope Horton mentioned that if we charge for parking, some people may decide to carpool which will help our current parking challenges. Bill DeSmet was concerned about controls and additional volunteers needed to collect parking fees. Vic Potter stated that he would prefer to raise the gate fee and retain free parking. Board discussed other issues and options for raising revenue. Doug Wildt noted that it is expensive to operate the fairgrounds on a yearly basis.

The board decided to hold a workshop before the next board meeting to discuss this and other items, and will bring recommendations on April 17, 2019.

**Action Items:**

- A. **Bennett Property** – Bill DeSmet made a motion to authorize Vic Potter and Doug Wildt to extend an offer on the specified portion of the Bennett property not to exceed \$35,000. If the offer is accepted, Bill DeSmet moved that Vic Potter and Doug Wildt be authorized to execute any documents required by a bank, title company, government authority, etc, to complete the transaction. Motion seconded by Steve Swafford. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.
- B. **Open Credit Line** – Bill DeSmet made a motion that CCAIS opens a credit line with one of our local banks for \$45,000. The line is to be secured by CCAIS real estate. The authorized signors would be Vic Potter, Doug Wildt, Jim Olds, and Bill DeSmet. A draw on the credit line must be requested through a board resolution and requires the signatures of two of the four authorized signors. Motion seconded by Doug Wildt. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**Committee Reports**

- A. **Operations Committee** – Erik Myers discussed getting rid of unused items in the racehorse barns. Jim Olds would like to review the items to be sure we keep anything that we may eventually use. Erik Myers stated the need for parking and the future of the arena, and suggested getting rid of the east/west racehorse barn and the north half of the north/south racehorse barn. Jim Olds suggested to inventory items/equipment soon to catch the upcoming auction. Board agreed to discuss these items at the workshop and

bring recommendations for action to the next board meeting. Erik Myers also discussed some dead tree branches that need to be removed/trimmed.

- B. Animal Auction Committee** – Hope Horton stated that they have not met yet
- C. Livestock Committee** – Hope Horton stated that the committee meets the second Wednesday of each month and has a Facebook page that anyone can join. Hope Horton provided updates from the last livestock committee meeting: entry deadlines finalized, slip to pull from auction needs three signatures, clarification of exhibitor rule, early release form is available at the fair office, death of an animal prior to fair may not sell, death of an animal at fair ability to sell will be determined by livestock committee. Hope Horton stated with regards to the exhibitor rule: local businesses support our auction and the integrity of that becomes an issue, I also believe we owe it to the youth of our county to prohibit youth from other counties from selling for two years, in high school sports if you transfer you must sit out, this is no different.
- D. Non-Livestock Committee** – Jen Rice stated the committee meets the second Thursday of each month and has a Facebook group that anyone can join. Committee structure has been approved and officers were established: Jen Rice (chair), LeeAnn Fischhaber (vice chair), Andrea Boughton (secretary). Board representatives will be Hope Horton and Steve Benham. Suzette Little has agreed to fill the open superintendent positions for Open Horticulture and Youth Natural Resources & Entomology. Remaining open superintendent positions are: Youth Ceramics, Pee Wee Youth, and Open Fine Arts & Folk Arts. Kathy Philo has stepped down as the Nonlivestock auction chair. The fair office will be accepting letters of interest for the available superintendent/chair positions until April 1, 2019, after which the Nonlivestock committee will review applicants and fill the positions. Jen Rice stated that we will be adding a Robotics Department to the fairbook this year, and will have a potential superintendent, judges, and class structure to review at the next Nonlivestock meeting. Also discussed at the last Nonlivestock meeting was the possibility of simplifying some of the Youth Horticulture classes to encourage more entries.

#### **Events and Community Reports:**

- A. 4H Council – Marilyn Letts stated they have delayed recruitment until summer and relayed the scholarships that have been awarded
- B. FFA Report – Hope Horton shared the report: 2019-2020 FFA Officers are Sara Horton (president), James Ruedisueli (treasurer), Mara Tiernan (reporter), Harrison Hautau (youth advisor), Emma Ruedisueli (secretary), Austin Burkwalt (sentinel), Sam Kiessling & Lucas Settineri (co vice presidents), Abby Fast & Audree Richardson (co historians). It's been a busy month, FFA had 30 members at predistricts. State convention was held at MSU. Freshman Mara Tiernan received silver in the green hand public speaking. The demonstration team of Harrison Hautau, James Ruediselli, Sara Horton, and Emma Ruedisueli placed first and had the opportunity to present on the Wharton Center stage. Marshall FFA also received six outstanding juniors, five state academic excellence awards, and one state degree. Three members will be going to Washington DC. The annual plant sale will be May 10-11 at the fairgrounds. Look for more information to come.
- C. Floral Hall Building – No report.
- D. Houston School – Bruce Rapp reported that there was an auction last week which earned approximately \$1000 for the three buildings.
- E. Maple Grove Church –
- F. Fair Museum –

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – three minute time limit and one opportunity to speak.

None.

**BOARD COMMENTS –**

Hope Horton extended thanks to Bill DeSmet for his work on the financials and to Jen Rice for the work on the fairbook

Vic Potter also expressed thanks to Jen Rice for her work on issues and the fairbook

Hope Horton stated there was an offer made for the scales and gates but it was turned down, they are following up on other option. She stated that she would like CCAIS to own one set of scales to be used for all animals.

**Adjournment** – Meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm by Vic Potter.

Notes taken by Susan Baldwin, Secretary. Notes submitted by Jen Rice, Fairgrounds Manager