

**RICHLAND COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AUGUST 27, 2024**

President James Schaub II called the meeting to order at 7:00 P. M.

The Pledge of Allegiance to our flag was said.

Roll call was taken.

Guests present: Deb Boyce, Bill Rieman, Karen Rieman, Ken Niese, Philip Metzger, Bry Francis, Aurelien Von Ehrenkrook, Judy Villard-Overocker, and Pam Young

Staff present: Shirley Swihart and Rebecca Gregg

Secretaries Reports: **Bill McFarland made the motion to accept the minutes as presented. Zac Tuttle seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Treasures Report: Shirley Swihart stated that she sent out the treasures report and has nothing to add. **David Dick made the motion to accept treasures report as emailed to board members. Remington Blevins seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Event Coordinators Report: Rebecca Gregg printed an up-to-date calendar of events. She may need help on September 22, 2024 with the Big Top.

**T-Shirt** – nothing to report

**Budget** – Dave Dick reported that he only has rough numbers from the fair but will have more accurate numbers next meeting. He did report that the livestock sales had a record year with over \$1.1 million dollars and more to come in.

**By-Laws** – Dave Dick will be working on tweaking the rules and by-laws so that all fair categories have the same wording.

**David Dick made a motion to have Christy Keith chair the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Opening Ceremonies. Luke Grauer seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**Nature Park** – Gene Esbenshade reported all of the bands that performed during the fair were very good.

**Auxiliary** – Gene Esbenshade thanked everyone who helped out over the past few weeks. Next year (2025) the cafeteria will only be open for breakfast during the fair (7 a.m. – 11 a.m.). The amount of sales for lunch does not warrant being open for that timeframe. We have several things upcoming starting in October. He reported that Carol Toms is working on putting a master list together of all cafeteria volunteers. The list will have contact names and phone numbers.

**Concessions** – the layout was better this year for the fair, especially the kids' zone having it by the entrance. A number of positive comments on its location. We will tweak a few things for next year.

Kathi Mills reported that everything went good with Fairhaven Hall. She will make some small minor adjustments with some vendors next year. They are currently working on a list of additional vendors for 2025 Fair.

**Campgrounds** – the question was asked as to when the last rental for the campgrounds is. The campgrounds are usually winterized by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Racetrack** – Dale Bemiller reported that yes, there are horses roaming loose in the infield. The owner is letting them out of the barn to roam because the barns are too hot at the current time.

**Fair Book** – Pam Young reported that she will take changes anytime now. The sooner the better. She has set February 1, 2025, as the deadline for changes.

**JFB** – Judy Villard-Overocker shared this was a good year. She has good feedback on all the judges except on those who judged the poultry. The Board will work on getting judges next year for the poultry. Judy asked if the time could be earlier for the tearing down and removal of booth items in the Youth Hall on Saturday night of Fair. **Dave Dick made the motion that on Saturday night tear down for booths**

**in the Youth Hall can start at 9:00 P.M. Christy Keith seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**Sponsorships** – Christy Keith reported that the sponsorship packet will be revised and asked that all fair board members seek out sponsors for the fair.

**Admissions** – We need to establish the membership and passes for the 2025 fair. **Dave Dick made the motion that we leave prices the same as this year. (\$40.00 for the membership, \$40.00 for a season pass, and \$10.00 for a day pass). Tom Craft seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**David Dick made the motion that all season passes be bought no later than 4:00 P.M. on the Friday before the fair. Sam McKown seconded the motion. Motion carried.** Vendors will need to call in ahead of time and request additional passes.

**Election** – nothing to report

**Grandstands** – Tom Craft is shutting down the restrooms as of Labor Day

**Parking** – nothing to report      **Antiques** – nothing to report

**Equine** – They have a show planned for September 5, 2024. They will be meeting in September

**Raffles** – Christy Keith announced that October 19, 2024, is the Reverse Raffle. She has tickets available tonight. She has them in packages of 10.

**Safety** – Kathi Mills reported that she is working on the emergency procedures for the fairgrounds. Former Richland County Emergency Management Agency Rick Evans started working on adapting the same outline as another county, but never completed it. She is also looking into purchasing 2 Weather Radios for the office and fairgrounds.

**Infield** – Luke Grauer wants to put on another event before the fair, like another moto cross, and give all of the money to the Agricultural Society. He would like to

see at least 3 major events a year on the infield. He feels getting the grandstands up in the infield should be a priority. They have just been sitting there.

**Winter Storage** – Kathi Mills reported that Carol Toms and she will have scheduled 3 dates when they will be in the office to take storage registrations and money. They are: Thursdays, September 5<sup>th</sup> from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. She reminded everyone that drop-off days are Saturdays, October 26<sup>th</sup> and November 9<sup>th</sup>, with hours from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Kathi will be emailing everyone that we have emails for and Carol and she will follow up with reminder phone calls.

**Show Arena** – Dave Dick reported that he sent in the final report to the state.

**Grounds** – Dave Grauer stated that we need to come up with a priority list, i.e. doors, grandstands. He has asked that each of the board members come to the September meeting with projects and prices for those projects. He wants to level off everything on the west side of the show arena and put in gravel. There are some buildings that have leaks by them. Paint the inside of the Youth Hall. We have several lights on the string lights that need replaced. We could do the entire fairgrounds, wires only, for about \$6,000.00. He talked to several people from outside of the county during the fair and they were very impressed with how clean the grounds were and how nice they looked. All of the lights in the nature park building have been changed to LEDs and the gutter guards are up. Judy Villard-Overocker asked what was above the ceiling in the John Hartz building. She wanted to know if those wood tresses could be exposed, but if that was done there would be no insulation in the building. The ramp that goes up to the stage needs replaced. She asked if the area around the building where the dairy bar window could be finished, windows replaced and gravel put down. The 4-H will pay for the windows and gravel.

### **Old Business:**

**Rental Prices:** Becca Gregg is working on a revised rental price list. She will meet with Tom Craft so rentals will include the cost of air conditioning if it is used.

OFMA: Christy Keith brought up that we need to elect a delegate and an alternate delegate for the conference in January. **Christy Keith made the motion to have Gene Esbenshade as the delegate and Christy would serve as the alternate delegate. Dale Bemiller seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

### **Fair Wrap-Up:**

#### **Positives:**

Ground Acts

Grounds were clean, people from other fairs commented on this

Ice Delivery was good

Grandstands & Pits both had good turnouts

Change in mind-set for grandstand, not to make money

Meals were good

Good variety of food vendors

Fireworks were donated

#### **For 2025 Fair:**

Christy Keith reported that Tall Timber will be here

Christy also stated that everyone needs to find sponsors

Kenney Niese shared that we need to work on sound system for infield since little critters chewed through them

David Dick said that we need to change Advertising to 2 weeks before fair

Jim Schaub shared that everyone likes the fireworks and we have a good turnout for them, but parking is a challenge. He was parking cars along the road

Need to find something for Tuesday night. Kathi Mills suggested a Christian music night. At the OFMA conference while networking some from other fairs stated that they always have good turnouts and are usually their best nights. It was suggested to her that we contact RISE radio station and some of the larger churches. Dale Hulit suggested having a young Christian group. Jim asked Dale to chair the committee. Tom Craft, Gene Esbenshade and Kathi volunteered to serve on the committee with him.

**Hair Braiding fundraiser:** Started off as a joke and had a goal of \$2,000.00. Then goal went to \$10,000.00 final amount raised was more than doubled. Dave Grauer reported that it brought in \$22,000.00. Dave stated that this would go to the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the new show arena.

**Special Exec. Board meeting during the fair:** This pertained to a parent confronting a judge during judging. We did not have any response from Mrs. Paxton.

**Trash Removal:** Rumpke is our current trash company.

**Work on poles:** Phil Metzger and Kenny Niese stated that after Labor Day, they will work on getting the 4 electric poles changed out, 1 by Fairhaven Hall. The 3 transformers need to be replaced and lines need to be re-routed. Also, there is an additional load from the Air Conditioning so we need more power. Phil was asked to get costs from Cody and have for the September Board Meeting.

**Projects:** Some projects that need completed or looked into include:

- Waterline leak behind the poultry barn
- Lights around the track and the East parking lot, the guy will keep the lights at the same price as we paid for them this year.
- Grandstands/bleachers
- Campground needs some fixing
- Finish the electric upgrade

**New Business:**

Commissioner Darryl Banks shared that he thought the fair was a success. He was very impressed with the new Show Arena and had no real idea that it would be as grand as it is.

**Fair Funds Request:** Carol Toms made the motion to apply for the 2025 Fair Funds. Gene Esbshade seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Fair Date:** Remington Blevins made the motion to hold the 2025 Fair from August 3<sup>rd</sup> through August 9<sup>th</sup>. Zac Tuttle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Remington Blevins made the motion to hold the opening ceremonies on Sunday, August 3, 2025 at 3 p.m. Zac Tuttle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Outstanding Fair Supporter:**

We have the opportunity to nominate someone for the Outstanding Fair Supporter. We need to nominate someone this year. Shirley has the applications. We need to do this by November.

**Other:**

Luke Grauer talked to Mamie. We are going to white paper towels in the restrooms.

Kenny Niese installed 2 wires to help with the WIFI. He has a new quote for phase II for the fiber optics.

Kathi Mills reported that she, her family and friends will be hosting a Car Show at the Fairgrounds on Saturday, September 21, 2024, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. This is a fundraiser for her grandson's business partner who received debilitating injuries when he totaled his car in May. She asked the board members if they have bulletin boards at their places of employment to please take some fliers.

Luke Grauer made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. Remington Blevins seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathryn G. Cutlip-Mills, Secretary