

Richland County Agricultural Society
Board of Directors Meeting
January 28, 2025

Meeting was called to order by President Christy Keith at 7 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag was said by all present.

Roll call was taken.

Staff present: Shirley Swihart and Becca Gregg

Normal agenda procedures were suspended so Dale Bemiller could be sworn in. He was unable to attend the Annual meeting nor the January meeting.

Guests present: Deb Boyce, Judy Villard-Overocker, Jim Overocker, Sarah Miller, and Philip Metzger

Secretary's Reports: Minutes from the November 26, 2024 meeting and special meeting on December 30, 2024 were presented. **Bill McFarland made the motion to accept both minutes as presented. Scott Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report: Shirley said there was nothing to add to the report. She did share that we needed to vote on the annual report again as there were some glitches found after the fact.

David Dick made the motion to accept the Annual Report. Dale Bemiller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Shirley shared that we received a check from the Home Talent Colt Stakes Association in the amount of \$1,000.00. **David Dick made the motion that this money would go to the Harness Racing. Bill McFarland seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Bill McFarland made the motion that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as submitted. Gene Esbenshade seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Events Coordinator: Becca Gregg reported the following:

- Gun Show has signed the contract for 2026
- The Toy Show will be expanding in September
- The Civil War has 1 year left on their contract but signed another contract for 5 years.
- The Monster Truck Show is scheduled for June 28th
- The Chamber of Commerce Business Afterhours will be on March 19, 2025 and their Expo will be on March 20, 2025. Becca asked for \$500.00 to purchase promotion items announcing our 175th Anniversary this year. These items would be handed out at this event. **David Dick made the motion that Becca could spend up to \$750.00 for these promotion items. Matt Janisch seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Committee Reports:

T-Shirts – Nothing to report

Budget – Nothing to report

Livestock - David Dick presented the list of proposed Barn Superintendents to the Board. They are: Feeder Calf/Open – Owen Wallace; Hogs – Mike Cook; Rabbits – Jake Hoffman; Steers – David Dick; Goats – Eileen Eisenhauerr; Poultry – Mindy Rowlands; and Sheep – Mark Cook.

Bill McFarland made the motion to approve the Barn Superintendents as presented.

Remington Blevins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

David Dick shared that there were changes that needed to be done in the Livestock Committee's By-Laws. They are as follows:

- ARTICLE II FORMATION OF THE LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE
 - A. ... Not more than twenty-five (25) members shall have the ability to vote. Livestock Committee members may fill more than one role on said committee. All Livestock Committee members must purchase Agriculture Society memberships, with the exception of Junior Fair Board members.
 - 1. ... (up to two (2) will have the ability to vote);
 - 2. ... (up to two (2) will have the ability to vote);
 - 4. ... (up to two (2) will have the ability to vote);
 - 7. ... (up to eight (8) will have the ability to vote);
- ARTICLE III MEETINGS
 - D. A quorum shall be defined as one (1) more than half the voting members.
 - E. In the event dual positions are filled on the Livestock Committee, you may have under twenty-five (25) voting members, however the voting members must be an odd number.
 - J. The Livestock Committee will determine who the voting members will be no later than the January meeting.

Bill McFarland made the motion to accept the changes to the Livestock Committee's By-laws as submitted. Zac Tuttle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

David then shared the changes the Livestock Committee Rules and the Open Class Rules needed updated. They are as follows:

Livestock Rules

- **2. Identification:** You may tag and/or tattoo up to double the number of animals that can be exhibited in a species.
- **7. Obligation to sell:**
 - B. Remaining Champions: Champion animals placing three (3) through (8) are required to sell through the auction. However, the buyer of said animal at the auction may designate the animal as a "keeper." As such champions three (3) through (8) may be nonterminal.
- **21. Proceed Designation:** Exhibitors will not designate where auction proceeds are going during the auction, unless approved by the Livestock Committee. This includes signs and/or an announcement during the auction. Only on rare

circumstances may the Livestock Committee announce during the sale where the proceeds are going. In the event an exhibitor wishes to donate his/her proceeds and/or a partial amount of his/her proceeds to a specific cause, he or she must notify the one (1) Livestock Committee chair, no later than Wednesday by 5:00 PM, the week of fair. The livestock Committee will have sole authority to determine whether or not the exhibitor may announce where proceeds will be going.

Open Class Rules

... Further, I agree not to have any contact with judges. I acknowledge that any other behavior and/or actions that is deemed inappropriate by the Richland County Board of Directors may result in disqualification, loss of premiums, expulsion from the fairgrounds, and/or being barred from future open class shows.

Remington Blevins made the motion to accept these changes to the rules. Gene Esbenschade seconded the motion. Motion carried.

David Dick will send out reminders that all names of judges must be to Jim Schaub II within 10 days from today.

David said that we need to select a color for the bleachers that are going in the new Show Arena. They need to be ordered and will take a little while to get in. He passed out a color chart from Husseyseating. A Discussion was held. **Zac Tuttle made the motion to order the blue ones. Dale Bemiller seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Campgrounds: nothing to report

Racetrack: Dale Bemiller reported that we must post signs on the race track side of the grounds that there can be "NO ALCOHOL OR DRUGS IN THE RACETRACK Area". The Ohio Harness Association will be doing random testing of the harness drivers. They will pick which fairgrounds they will administer the breathalyzers. Signs will need to be posted at the entrance gate(s). We need to limit entry into the racetrack area. All trailers and individuals will need to enter at the West Gate and leave by the East Gate. Dale said there are a lot of people coming into that area who are not paying admission. Nick Fairchild said that he will need the times for those gates to be open. He will collect the money.

Dale also announced that we will be having a new "race" this year on Monday night after the harness races. We will be having a "Weiner Dog Race." This is becoming a huge event. We are one of 7 in our division for these races. There is no cost for the dogs. The owners will pay \$10.00 entry fee. They must be a full-blooded Weiner dog. There will be NO BETTING on the Dogs. The winning purse is \$500.00. There will be 8 races. The top winner of each race will participate in the final race to determine the winner. The reginal for winners from each area will be in Findley.

Dale is working with a Coca Cola representative to get them on board as a sponsor.

He shared that we have a tenant that owes for \$1,000.00 for November and another \$1,000.00 for December. We have a signed lease with him. It was agreed that the Board of Directors President, V. President and Dale go after him for the money. If he does not come up with the money. We will need to file a judgement against him. **David Dick made the motion to go after him for restitution or let him know that legal action will take place. Sam McKown seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

He reported that we currently have 1 horse in the barn and we are scheduled to have 3 more coming in February.

Fair book: Pam is still waiting on some departments to get their information and changes into her. She needs these ASAP!!

Golf Carts: We are still contracted through Willowdale.

JFB: The rules with changes have been passed out. #7 has already been approved by the Senior Fair Board. Dave Dick questioned letter e. Letter e clarifies what family members are. Horses are not included in these rules. **Remington Blevins made a motion to approve the rule adjustments. Amy Messersmith seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Judy Villard-Overocker shared that the Junior Fair Board will resume meetings in March. Judy will be handling the judges. She needs 3 judges that are accessible and she will pick the judges out of those submitted.

By-Laws: nothing to report

Sponsorships: Working on updating sponsorship packet.

Admissions: Nothing to report

Elections: We did receive a letter of resignation from Dave Fackler. Christy read the letter. We will need to post the open position. Deadline for submitting applications into the office will be Friday, February 14, 2025.

Grandstands: Nothing to report

Parking: Nothing to report

Antiques: Nothing to report

Concessions: Kathi Cutlip-Mills reported that the contracts for the Food Concessions and the Straight Sales will be mailed before February 1, 2025. The vendors in Fairhaven Hall will go out later in February. The goal is to fill or overfill Fairhaven with Merchants this year.

Equine: Nothing to report

Raffles: Christy Keith announced that the committee will meet sometime maybe next week. Yes, the mouse game will be coming back and there are going to be a number of new and different games this year.

Social Media: Nothing to report

Safety: Kathi Cutlip-Mills reported that we have a couple different emergency action Plans from other fairgrounds. We will have a comprehensive plan with different sections. One for the fair and other procedures for Becca to give to anyone who rents The buildings/grounds.

Infield: Luke Grauer stated that this committee will need to meet next month. The Demo Derby left the infield a mess, tires, car parts, etc. were left behind. We can't have This junk left behind.

The Rodeo that we have had needs to be changed. It leaves a lot to be desired. Christy Reported that she and Gene talked to several Rodeo groups at OFMA. The going rate For most of them starts at \$19,000.00 to get what we might want. "Rough E Rodeo" Starts at \$11,000.00 the more we add the higher the cost. They are more of a Production group. They do have mutton busting. The Rodeo is one of our biggest Nights, but we need to do something different this year.

Grandstand/Entertainment: Gene Esbenshade reported that the committee has been working With Mark Boyer from "The River" for the Tuesday night Christian Concert. There will Be a charge for this event. It will include admission to the fair. We have designated 5 Different sponsorship levels for the concert. Gene shared the sponsorship levels and The ticket prices with the Board. **Remington Blevins made the motion to accept the Price proposal that Gene propose. Dale Bemiller seconded the motion.** Discussion Was held. The Question was called. There were 19 who voted in favor and 4 were Opposed. The concert will be from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. There will be a meet and greet Prior to the concert.

Entertainment: The Rodeo work on sponsorships. If we have mutton busting, the cost of this "Rough E Rodeo" will be \$13,000.00. **David Dick made the motion to have this group For our rodeo. Remington Blevins seconded the motion.** A discussion was held. Phil Metzger said that he will donate \$2,000.00 from his company if we include the Mutton busting. **The question was called. 21 were in favor of having this group for the Rodeo. 1 was opposed.**

Christy Keith asked for someone to check the bleachers in front of the grandstand To see if any of them need repaired and if so, to schedule a time to do them.

Winter Storage: Bill McFarland reported that we are still in need of copies of insurance Coverage. Kathi will be emailing and/or calling everyone who has not provided the Documentation. There are some board members who still need to get theirs in.

Grounds: Dave Grauer reported that we need help on snow removal and salt spreading.

He also asked Board members if they are at the fairgrounds for something or in The area to please stop in and check all of the buildings to make sure that the heat Is on. Especially in the restrooms. When a group message goes out for help, please Come in and help. Also please plow by the horse barns.

Bill from Hock & Berry for stone. It is almost \$12,000.00. They donated \$3,500.00 Dave asked that we pay this from the general account. **Nick Fairchild made the motion to Pay the bill from the general account. Zac Tuttle seconded the motion. Motion Carried.**

Old Business:

Coolers: We need more coolers. There was an auction that had 2 double wide coolers. We did

Not get the bid. Allied has two coolers now. They are double door. They are \$2,000.00 Each. Wheel kits would be an additional \$100.00 each. We want to stay with "Tru" Company coolers as they are the best ones to work with. **Tom Craft made the motion to purchase the two coolers and if they get a 3ed one in, purchase it as well. Carol Toms seconded the motion.**

Discussion was held. The money to purchase them would come out of the rental fund. **Motion carried.**

Bleachers: We have the old bleachers to put in, but if we put them in prior to INC., they will Take up several of their spots. If we hold off this year, we can inform INC that they will Be in next year and they will have to plan not to use that area for camp sites. **Sam McKown made the motion to wait until after fair this year to put the bleachers in. Dave Grauer seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

CPR/AED Training: Kathi Cutlip-Mills reminded the board that the agreement with Richland Public Health was that some of our board members and/or volunteers would take The FREE CPR and AED training. We are still in line to receive more AEDs free when They come in. Kathi will check with Shane from the Health Department to see how Long the training is and how we can set it up.

Committee Assignments: Christy Keith sent lists around for the Board members to sign up on Committees that they would like to serve on. She reminded them that they must sign Up for at least 3 committees. If you don't sign up for 3, you may be volunteered for Some. The lists will be shared at the February meeting.

Skywarn Spotter Training: Kathi Cutlip-Mills announced upcoming Spotter Training on April 9, 2025. She encouraged board members and volunteers to attend the Training since we have so many events taking place at the fairgrounds.

Other: Phil Metzger shared information for "Bright Speed", an internet service. He can Get us internet service that is 3 to 4 times the speed we currently have, which would be Helpful for all of our renters, concessions and vendors. For a 2-year agreement, it would Be \$169.00 per line per month. We are currently spending \$1100.00 per month with Spectrum. We will have to check and see when our contract with Spectrum expires.

Adjourned at 8:57 P.M. **Bill McFarland made the motion to adjourn. Gene Esbshade seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted

Kathi Cutlip-Mills Secretary