

Richland County Agricultural Society
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2025

Members present: President Christy Keith, V. President Tom Craft, Past President James Schaub II, David Dick, Dave Grauer, Gene Esbenshade, Dale Bemiller, Bill McFarland and Kathi Cutlip-Mills

Staff present: Shirley Swihart

Guests: Carol Toms, Remington Blevins and Zac Tuttle

President Christy Keith called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Tom Craft shared that the grandstand will be torn down on Saturday, October 25, 2025, the first day of Winter Storage move-in.

Dave Grauer reported that the red fire truck needs a valve re-done.

- He and Colton Dull sprayed around the buildings.
- Mark Cook and he set up for the sheep show the night before that event.
- He suggested building in a fee for shows in the Show Area. He recommended that the Executive Board look at each rental to see what costs are affiliated with the different events, i.e. animal sales, jack-pot shows, etc.
- Flenner is going to swap out the dumpsters
- Crowd control gates worked well in the show arena.
- Old doors off Fairhaven hall are under the grandstand. He took off all the closers and put them in the maintenance building. Kept them for use on other doors. Also kept the panic bars because they are good.
- Called Coles. Fuel is filled up and ready.
- We will need to move everything out that is left in the poultry barn and old show arena prior to winter storage move-in.
- Mulch needs to be moved out.
- His neighbor is working on the Dump Truck. We should have it back this week. He thinks it will be \$1,000.00 for the repairs.
- One of our old trucks needs repaired. He had a gentleman (Bubba) offer to fix it free of charge as long as he can have it for the Ashland Truck Show. It was agreed to have him fix it. Bill McFarland will work with him on this project.
- He also brought up about the aluminum podium that is in the new show arena. Is the woman who owns it going to pick it up? Does she want to leave it there? Christy will contact her about it.

Jim Schaub is going on line to see about a skid loader. We need one for the fairgrounds instead of using board members personal ones. We need to have a plan to purchase one. David Dick said we need to look into purchasing one.

- We need to come up with a job description for the Junior Fair Coordinator and talk with Judy Villard-Overocker.

Dale Bemiller was asked to speak with the race horse people and remind them not to jump on other people that are out there.

- He shared that there will be no advertising in the horse racing magazine until January.

Shirley Swihart reported that BHM CPA Group will help with the audit. It will cost between \$3500.00 and \$4000.00. **Tom Craft made the motion to have this CPA group help with the audit. Gene Esbshade seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

- Remington Blevins asked about our using P.O.s for purchases. A discussion followed. It was decided that we will try using P.O.s for things that are voted on in the Board meetings. But other minor purchases will not need them.
- Christy Keith will check with Menards about using our tax exempt information for purchases there and not getting a credit card.

Bill McFarland reported there is a wedding and an auction on October 25th, the first day of our winter storage move-in, so it might be congested.

- The "Truck Event" was good. Dakota wants to come back and talk to the Board. Friday food and beer sales were very low. Saturday's sales were much better. Food brought in \$1,676.00 and beer sales was a little under that figure. Dakota is supposed to get with Lisa this week to settle up.

The question was asked by Christy Keith if we can require all rentals who have security to use the Richland County Sherriff's Department.

Kathi Cutlip-Mills reported that the little "emergency contact" cards that were given out to all vendors, posted in the buildings and given to all campers were appreciated.

- She asked if there is any way that we could use the annex, or at least part of it for additional vendor spaces. There were 3 vendors that would like double spaces in 2026. If we have vendors set up in the Youth Hall, she is afraid that they will not have the traffic that they deserve.

Tom Craft suggested that we look very closely at our contracts for fair vendors because of what happened at the Ashland County Fair. David Dick will look at the contracts and see what is there and what needs to be added.

Remington Blevins reported that he spoke with Dan from INC about the roadway paving in the lot across the street from the fairgrounds. They are willing to do this. It will run \$19,600.00-\$23,500.00. He wants to meet with the committee in the next 2 weeks. They are also looking at doing some drainage.

Bill McFarland made the motion at 6:50 p.m. to adjourn. Jim Schaub seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathryn G. Cutlip-Mills