

**RICHLAND COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
ANNUAL MEETING
October 28, 2025**

President Christy Keith called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

The pledge to our flag was repeated by all present.

Roll call of members was taken.

Staff present: Shirley Swihart and Lisa Roberts

Guests present: Pam Young, Deb Boyce, Judy Villard Overocker, Joni Esbenshade, Jackie Wasilewski, Seth Wasilewski, David Morgenstern, and Jamie Livesay

Secretary's report: Remington Blevins made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Dale Bemiller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Gene Esbenshade made a motion to accept the treasurer's report for future audit. Zac Tuttle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Event Coordinator's report: Lisa Roberts reported that we have a "Cat Show" this weekend. Buckeye Bash will be on Monday, November 17, 2025, and we will be selling the beverages. Yes, we do have a permit to do so. There will be a "Toy Show" the weekend of November 22, 2025.

Committee Reports:

T-shirt: nothing to report

Budget: later in the meeting

Livestock: Dave Dick reported that the Livestock Committee will meet on November 13, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. in the board room. The meetings are always the 2nd Thursday of the month.

Nature Park: Gene Esbenshade reported that the men's garden club are doing a full clean-up of the park. He has also been getting calls from local artists who are interested in performing during the 2026 Fair.

Campground: Remington Blevins will turn off the water in the campgrounds

Racetrack: Dale Bemiller reported that he attended the "hometown" annual meeting. The group is currently assessing each track. We will have an increase by probably 20% in 2026. This means we will have 8 horses at the starting line.

- The “Weiner Dog” race was a huge success this year and he is planning to offer this race again in 2026.
- He will meet with a couple from Wooster on November 20, 2025, who is interested in renting 10 to 20 stalls starting in April.

Fair book: Pam needs changes as soon as you have them. The deadline is March 27, 2026.

Golf carts: Scott Smith asked if at all possible to PLEASE let him know prior to OFMA in January. Prices will probably go up. Those going to OFMA will check with all golf cart companies to see who can handle our needs and what the cost will be.

JFB: Judy Villard Overocker shared that they had a fewer number of youth apply to be on the Junior Fair Board, so they extended the application deadline.

By-Laws: nothing at this time **Sponsorships:** nothing at this time.

Admission: nothing at this time

Elections: Christy Keith reported that election of officers will take place at the November 25, 2025, meeting. If you are interested in running or wish to nominate an individual (as long as you have asked them in advance and they are willing to run) for an office, please let Christy know. You can nominate via group chat and nominations can be made from the floor at the meeting.

Grandstands: Tom Craft reported that he and Jim Schaub II winterized the Grandstands on October 25, 2025.

- Tom did have one request: if you are using a building, please do a walk-through before you leave and lockup to make sure that all lights are turned off, no water is left running, and all doors are secured.

Parking: We will need someone new to take this chair.

Antiques: We will also need someone new to take over this barn during fair.

Concessions: Kathi Cutlip-Mills reported that contracts to all out-door and in-door concessions will be mailed no later than February 1, 2026. David Dick is working on the contracts, especially the one for merchants in Fairhaven Hall to ensure that we do not have any issues like other fairs have experienced. She has emailed all Fairhaven Vendors thanking them for participating in our 2025 Fair and asking how many spaces they would like to have as some indicated that they wanted more than 1 space.

Equine: Marla Reynolds shared the Equine Council’s revised by-laws. Basic changes include: dropped the council’s number to 21 people, during Fair they will

hold 1 meeting daily, changed the term “recorder” to “secretary” and their year will run from November through October. **Matt Janisch made a motion to accept their revised By-Laws as written. Sadie Hoyt seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

- The following individuals agreed to be Barn Superintendents for 2025-2026:
Pony Superintendent: Jenn Gulley
Open Horse Superintendent: Amy Messersmith
Junior Fair Horse Superintendent: Marcie Leedy
Steer Barn Superintendent: David Dick
Breeding/Feeder Calf Barn Superintendent: Sadie Hoyt
Lamb Barn Superintendent: Mark Cook
Hog Barn Superintendent: Mike Cook
Poultry Barn Superintendent: Mindy Rowlands
Goat Barn and Rabbit Barn Superintendents yet to be announced.
Dave Grauer made a motion to accept the Barn Superintendents as submitted. Dale Bemiller seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Marla announced the following Senior Fair Board members appointed to the Equine Council are: Amy Messersmith, Matt Janisch, and Mark Cook.

Raffles: Christy Keith announced that she will be calling a meeting of the Sportsman Den’s Raffle in the near future. The Raffle is scheduled for Saturday, March 7, 2026.

Social Media: nothing at this time

Safety: nothing at this time

Infield: nothing at this time

Grandstand/Grounds: nothing at this time

Winter storage: Kathi Cutlip-Mills reported that we have about ½ of all units in. Move-in went smooth. Out next move-in date is Saturday, November 8, 2025.

According to our registrations, most of the buildings are full. Bill McFarland asked her to share that board members who are planning to store something not to put their own things in any barn and to plan on their units going in after 1:00 on November 8, 2025. He also wanted to remind board members that they do have to sign a contract and get registration tags.

Show Arena: nothing at this time

LS Judges: nothing at this time

Kitchen Auxiliary: Gene Esbenshade reported that the auxiliary voted to hire a company to do a deep cleaning of the kitchen floors and then put a sealer on them. He did say that we could use some help with some upcoming events and please touch base with Carol as to when you can help. The Auxiliary will give

\$23,016.70 to the Senior Fair Board as per agreement, which is half of the profit after all of the expenses are paid from INK.

Grounds: Dave Grauer thanked Scott Smith for bush-whacking around the grounds.

- He announced that the leaves have started to fall. Thought maybe we could get Ontario to come in the week of Thanksgiving and use their equipment to suck up the leaves.
- He would like to get the benches stored on Saturday, November 8, 2025, when we have the last move-in for storage.
- There are a couple of hydrants that need worked on.
- He took care of one bad leak
- Electric is coming along
- We still have not received an invoice from J&B for the doors and work they did on Fairhaven Hall. Shirley will reach out to them again.

Landscaping: nothing at this time.

Old Business:

1. The skid steer has already been taken care of so need to address it.
2. David Dick brought up the issue of the bleachers. Ink would prefer that we did not put them up as they would take away about 50 of their campsites. **David Dick made a motion to rescind the previous motion to put the bleachers up on the infield. Remington Blevins seconded the motion. Motion carried by roll call vote.**
3. David Dick shared that representatives from INK will be here for a meeting on Friday, November 14, 2025. They would like to have another multi-year contract. **David Dick made a motion that the Executive Committee plus Lisa Roberts and Remington Blevins have the ability to negotiate with the INK representatives things that we would like to have in a contract. With the contract being subject to Board approval. Dale Bemiller seconded the motion. Motion carried.** The executive board will meet prior to the meeting with INK representatives.
4. Seth Wasilewski had requested to make a statement and ask the Board of Directors a question. Seth shared that he has judged shows both locally and around the country. He wanted to know what gives the Board of Directors the authority to do what we did and over rule a judge's decision

regarding the goat situation at the 2025 Fair. This judge had been paid to do a job. Seth requested that the minutes reflect that there was silence after his comments and question. After the stunned silence, Amy Messersmith explained it was **NOT** the judge's decision but the process that she used. Seth feels that the Board needs to answer to the ODA for our actions when the regulations state that the judge's ruling is final. Seth does not feel that the Board had the right nor authority to take any action.

New Business:

- 1.** David Dick reported that the Budget Committee met and the committee felt that they came up with a realistic budget for the 2025/2026 year. He stated that they hope to be able to rollover some money. **David Dick made a motion to accept the proposed 2025/2026 budget. Zac Tuttle seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- 2.** David Dick also brought up the need to purchase our own skid steer instead of using ones belonging to board members. We need one regularly and we have had to rely on the generosity of our board members bringing their personal ones. **David Dick made a motion that we earmark \$30,000.00 to be available to purchase a skid steer. Dustin Moysi seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- 3.** Zac Tuttle asked if we are going to continue to rollover our lawn mowers as they age. He thinks the 920 is due to be rolled over. We will need amounts at our November meeting.
- 4.** Christy Keith recognized Carol Toms for her years of service on the Board of Directors.
- 5.** New Board Members were sworn in by V. President Tom Craft.

Dale Bemiller made a motion to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. Remington Blevins seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Cutlip-Mills, Secretary

