

**Richland County Agricultural Society**  
**Executive Board Meeting**  
**October 28, 2025**

**Members Present:** Tom Craft, V. President; James E. Schaub II, Immediate Past President; David Dick; Dave Grauer; Gene Esbenshade; Dale Bemiller; Christy Keith; and Kathi Cutlip-Mills.

**Staff Present:** Shirley Swihart

**Guests Present:** Remington Blevins, Marla Reynolds and Zac Tuttle

V. President Tom Craft called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. He announced that President Christy Keith would be there, but would be arriving later in the meeting.

Dave Grauer shared that we will have to have leaf clean-up.

- There is also some work to be done on a couple of the hydrants.

Jim Schaub shared that the Grandstand has been winterized.

Gene Esbenshade informed the executive board that the Kitchen Auxiliary voted to have the kitchen floors cleaned and sealed.

- He also shared that he has had a couple of entertainers contact him regarding performing in the Nature Park during the 2026 Fair.

David Dick reported that the livestock committee will meet in November. They have had some new people apply.

- Some of the barn superintendents have been appointed.
- There will be a meeting with the INK representatives on Friday, November 14, 2025. They are looking to enter into a long-term contract with us. Possibly doing two weekends, back-to-back.
- The budget committee met and have a budget for 2026 to present to the Board tonight for approval. He stated that we are in good financial shape right now and would like to earmark \$30,000.00 from the 2026 budget to purchase a skid steer so we do not have to borrow them when we need one.
- Officers will be elected at our November Board meeting. Christy Keith reported that she has not heard from anyone other than Tom Craft, Kathi Cutlip-Mills and herself. Nominations can be made from the floor.
- He shared that minutes of the Equine Council are required. The public is permitted to record the meetings.
- He asked when the contracts for the 2026 Fair will be going out. Kathi Cutlip-Mills said that she intends to have all contracts, especially outside vendors out no later than February 1, 2026. Preferably sooner. He will need to review the contracts and letters to make certain that we do not have any issues like other fairgrounds have experienced.

Shirley Swihart stated that the skid steer item on the agenda be removed as it has already been paid for.

- There is training that all elected officials (township trustees, etc.) are required to take by law. The training is a 4-hour training on ethics and the sunshine law. The auditor is requesting documentation from all board members who are also elected officials. They are especially looking at 2023-2024. Tom Craft stated that he just took it. Shirley will reach out to Dale Hulit to see if he has had it. The Auditor wants the documentation once elected officials have completed this training.

Dale Bemiller recommended that the judge committee pick judges for the goats.

- He attended the hometown meeting. We will probably have up to 20% more horses in 2026. They will run 8 at post time.
- He has a meeting on November 20<sup>th</sup> with a couple who are looking to rent 10-20 stalls in April.
- The “Weiner Dog” race was a huge success at the fair this year and he is planning to have it again in 2026. He is hoping Remington Blevins will be able to help in getting a sponsor for this event.

Kathi Cutlip-Mills reported on be-half of Bill McFarland that the first move-in date went well. The buildings are about ½ full at this time.

- She also shared that a couple of the Fairhaven vendors last year would like to expand and have 2 booth spaces. She would like to expand into the Annex if possible. She is concerned that if we put merchants in the Youth Hall people may not go there. That is the only building that has any room in it. She will closely monitor the number of spaces requested by merchants. She has sent out emails to all the vendors who were in Fairhaven asking if they plan to come back and if so, how many spaces they want.

Marla Reynolds shared that there is an individual who is requesting a copy of the recording of the Equine minutes. Since they were recorded, we have to give him a copy only after they have been approved.

- She also has their revised by-laws ready to present to the Board for approval tonight.
- She is also going to ask for approval for those individuals who have been appointed to their board.

The question was asked as to who our contact is for all public records. Christy Keith stated that Shirley Swihart was our public records contact person.

Remington Blevins has been having conversations with Dan Jenson from INK. They would like to pay Brown for the lot across the street to use for parking and are willing to put gravel down so people won't get stuck should we have rain. Campers cannot be put in that lot.

He asked if we are going to put the bleachers up because if we do, they will lose 50 campsites. They would like to have the 30 amp hook-ups upgraded to 50 amps. He talked to Phil Metzger and Phil said it would cost about \$20,000.00 to do this upgrade. They would like a 5-year contract with us. They also want to know what we would like. They want to stay here at the fairgrounds. They have already signed 5-year contracts with all of the other venues.

It was determined that we need to have an executive board meeting prior to the meeting with INK to discuss what we would like on our next contract.

Dale Bemiller moved at 6:53 P.M. for the meeting to be adjourned. Jim Schaub II seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathryn G. Cutlip-Mills, Secretary