

**RICHLAND COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 25, 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, Walt Stevens, Philip Metzger, John Gray, Careen Fleck (Vets with Pets), Laurie Cardorya (Vets with Pets), Stacy Karsmizki (Vets with Pets), Ken Spencer (Ontario Community Events) and Bill Gardner (Buckeye Iron Will).

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

Treasurer's report: Shirley Swihart shared that there was one change from the treasurer's report that was sent out. The change is under Hog Barn. Gene Esbenshade made a motion to accept the treasurer's report for future audit. Bill McFarland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Event Coordinator's report: Lisa Roberts reported that next weekend (November 6, 2025) will be the annual Ontario Craft Show. It will be held in the Arts and Crafts Building and the Youth Hall. The Youth Hall Cafeteria will be open for food.

- Several Christmas Parties are coming in.
- Ken Spencer from the Ontario Community Events group asked to use 1 building that has not been renovated, he mentioned the Youth Hall. They would like to use it during the week (Mondays-Thursdays) and occasionally on a Saturday. They would not be using it every day. They would work up a quarterly schedule. They asked for a 1-year contract with a monthly fee that would be between \$6,000.00 and \$7,000.00. It would be used for little kids training and Youth Sports Coaches training for 2-3 year olds. They would do "smart start" education for parents. They would use the building at the most, 3 to 4 nights per week 5p.m. - 8 p.m. Their activities would

cover all sports, not just one. There would be 20-30 cars in the lot. They are doing this for profit. **This will need to be on the December agenda.**

- The Vets with Pets representatives asked to have a building and a barn for an event they want to hold on October 17 & 18, 2026. They are hoping to raise money to purchase pets for veterans. They are looking to have a big event with a Pet Parade, Cake Walk and other activities. They had one in Shelby but have outgrown the location there and raised \$2300.00. They would like to have the building and barn free or at least at a discounted price.
- Bill Gardner from the Buckeye Iron Will Club announced that he will do 1 more year in the Antique Tractor Barn during the fair. He's hoping that we can find someone prior to the fair to take over for him and work with him at the 2026 fair. He wants to have someone take over the "peddle pull" this year. Bill was thanked for his many years of service.

Committee Reports:

T-shirt: nothing to report

Budget: nothing to report

Livestock: David Dick reported that they will announce all of the Building Superintendents at our next meeting.

Nature Park: nothing to report

Campground: Remington Blevins reported that I is closed for the winter.

Racetrack: Nothing at this time

Fair Book: Pam Young reminded everyone that they need to get any changes into her as soon as they can.

Golf Carts: nothing to report

JFB: Judy Villard Overocker shared that they had their first meeting last night, November 24, 2025. They will finish interviews on Monday.

By-Laws: nothing to report

Sponsorships: Nothing to report

Admissions: nothing to report

Elections: later in the meeting

Grandstands: nothing to report

Parking: nothing to report

Antiques: nothing to report

Concessions: Kathi Cutlip-Mills reported that we have started getting vendor interest forms in. She will call them to make certain that they are interested in being at our fair since at least 1 of them are from out-of-state. She would like to have all vendor contracts out the last week of January 2026. We may have more

merchants than will fit in Fairhaven Hall. The committee will evaluate this as the contracts are returned.

Equine: Amy Messersmith reported for Marla Reynolds. They need to appoint 2 Richland Agricultural Society Board members to the Equine Council. They have asked Remington Blevins and Heath Hershner. They accepted. The Council meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Board room.

Raffles: Christy Keith reported that they are in the works and will let us know where and when we can pick them up.

Social Media: nothing to report

Safety: nothing to report

Infield: nothing to report

Grandstand/Grounds: nothing to report

Entertainment: nothing to report

Winter Storage: Bill McFarland shared that we are basically full in all of the buildings, except the Antique Tractor Barn and could possibly get 2 to 3 cars in there.

Show Arena: nothing to report

LS Judges Selection: nothing to report

Kitchen Auxiliary: Gene Esbenshade shared that we have a few events coming up that we may need help with. The kitchen floors in Fairhaven Hall and Youth Hall will be thoroughly scrubbed with equipment being moved out. Mamie will do some of the work.

Grounds: Dave Grauer shared that the horse stalls have been pushed back. He can build a salt box and will order salt.

- The snow plow needs some work and the plow needs to be put back on it.
- Dave is looking at skid loaders. There is an auction this Saturday and Zac, Remington and Dave Grauer are going to look at it. **David Dick made a motion that they could spend up to \$30,000.00 for the loader. Sadie Hoyt seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- Zac Tuttle brought up that it is time to trade in the one mower. It is the B930. It is the same as we got last time. If we just get the mower, it would be \$5,700.00 with trading in our old mower. If we were to get a leaf bagger it would be \$10,300.00. Discussion followed. **David Dick made a motion to spend \$5,700.00 on a mower with a trade-in. Gene Esbenshade seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

OLD Business:

INK Contract: David Dick shared that our current contract with INK is locked in for a couple more years. The new contract would be for \$50,000.00 for the weekend and if they do 2 weekends (back-to-back) they would give us \$100,000.00. They would pay all utilities. We would pay for the dumpsters and all cleaning. They would like a 10 year contract. INK has a foundation and would like to give us some funds for some improvements here. **Chris Campbell made a motion to enter into a 10-year contract with INK. Zac Tuttle seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

New Business:

Demolition Derby: John Gray, who has run the derby would be willing to do so again. **Dale Hulit made a motion to have John Gray run the Demolition Derby at our 2026 Fair. David Dick seconded the motion. Motion carried.** John said that he will contact some promoters and get some proposals, hopefully to bring back to the Board in January. He shared that the figure 8 race is a growing thing right now. He would like to keep the payout like the surrounding areas. They will need barriers, 2x2 or 2x4. Dave Grauer asked if blocks would work. He asked for a price range. **Bill McFarland made a motion to spend up to \$12,000.00 for the barriers. Colton Dull seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Tractor/Truck Pull: Bill McFarland reported that we will need to look for a different promotor for the 2026 Fair.

Adjunct property on Lantz Road: David Dick shared some information about acreage on Lantz Road that will be up for sale in May. It would give us more parking and possibly some primitive camping. He needs permission from the Board to start investigating the possibilities, i.e. who would own it – the Commissioners or the Agricultural Society. **Chris Campbell made a motion for David Dick to start investigating the property and the feasibility of our buying it. Curt Fife seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Kiwanis: Tom Craft asked for a donation from the Board for their annual fundraiser. In the past, we have given them \$500.00 which is a gold sponsor level.

Remington Blevins made a motion that we give the Kiwanis \$500.00 for their event. Bill McFarland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Open Board position: Christy Keith announced that there is one position currently open on the board. She will have it posted on our website. The application must be accompanied by a letter of intent. All applications must be submitted no later than December 15, 2025.

Other:

Vets for Pets: David Dick made a motion to allow this group to have 2 buildings for their event at ½ price. Dustin Moysi seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Remington Blevins made a motion to pay Dave Grauer \$1,690.00 for the use of some of his equipment during the 2025 INK. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Phil Metzger said he still has a little work to do and is waiting for a warm day. We still need to do something about the pole out front. Ohio Edison can't figure out who owns it.

Election was held:

Christy Keith announced that she had received the following interested parties:

Christy Keith- President

Tom Craft – V. President

Kathi Mills – Secretary

David Dick was nominated for President but declined the nomination. Kathi Mills moved that nominations for President be closed. Krista Dull seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Nominations for V. President were opened. Tom Craft made a motion that nominations be closed. Heath Hershner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Nominations for Secretary were opened. Sadie Hoyt was nominated and she agreed to the nomination. Krista Dull moved to close nominations. Dave Grauer

Seconded the motion. A vote by ballot was taken. Christy Keith announced that Sadie Hoyt would be the new secretary.

Christy Keith brought up that our next Board meeting will be December 23, 2025. In the past, we have had a carry-in and spouses were invited. It was decided that we would just have our meeting at 7 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

President Christy Keith reopened the meeting at 8:33 p.m. and went into executive session. During this time, David Dick explained the situation that Bill McFarland has been faced with. David read our "Code of Conduct" and it is his opinion that Bill did not breach it. There was a roll call vote to determine if Bill did breach our "Code of Conduct".

David Dick made a motion to move out of Executive Session. Gene Esbenshade seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Christy Keith shared that by roll call vote, it was determined that Bill McFarland did not violate the Richland County Agricultural Society Board's "Code of Conduct."

Meeting officially adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Kathi Cutlip-Mills, Secretary