

**Richland County Agricultural Society
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
December 23, 2025**

President Christy Keith called the meeting to order at 7pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Roll call was taken for members.

Staff Present: Shirley Swihart, & Lisa Roberts

Guests Present: Pam Young, Deb Boyce, Philip Metzger, John Gray, & Anderson Roll

Secretary's Report: Remmington Blevins to accept the minutes as presented. Curt Fife seconded the motion, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Kathi Cutlip-Mills moved to accept the minutes as presented, Bill McFarland seconded the motion, motion passed.

Events Coordinator has nothing to report.

Committee Reports:

T-shirts and **Budget** had nothing to report.

Livestock: David Dick reported that the current member list was provided to the board tonight for those interested. Barn superintendents have been selected. **David Dick made a motion to approve the following positions: Sadie Hoyt for Feeder Calf Barn/Open Cattle, Heidi Kleman for Goat Barn, Mindy Rowlands for Poultry, Rebecca Gregg for Rabbit Barn, Mark Cook for Sheep Barn, Mike Cook for Swine Barn, and David Dick for Steer Barn, motion was seconded by Zac Tuttle, motion passed.** David informed that there are two late exhibitors for Market Steers, and that the Livestock Committee earmarked up to \$5000 for assistance to purchase the skid loader by Senior Fair.

- David also touched on the INK contract where line 10 a-c was clarified better on the contract. It was also added there are to be no fire pits, it was clearly stated no horses on the track after 12pm on Wednesday, and that the INK personnel will have 60 days to reimburse for utilities used during INK. It has also added that it will be \$90/hour for any IT training needed for the systems the grounds have in place at the time. Christy Keith noted that the kitchen will not be open on Monday after the event has ended and stated that will need to be changed, it was also added in to the contract that the kitchen will be open or closed longer or shorter at the discretion of the staff present. There are two also food trucks approved for the event. Also included in the 10 year contract is that INK will be made aware of any changed to the grounds during that time that may affect camping spots for the event. The contract states that INK will pay for upgrades throughout the years outlined in the contract. As well as sharing the cost of drainage work to be done in the infield. **Chris Campbell moved to accept the contract, seconded by Bill McFarland, motion passed.**

Advertising: David Dick also touched on the Bridal Spectacular, that we are not equipped yet to be a vendor and advertise for our venues. David brought up Bob Miller from iHeart Radio for advertising, what type of advertising would the board be looking for whether it be short blasts or ads that may run a few months, he will be getting pricing put together to bring back to the

board. Dale Hult questioned if we would reach our target audience with this form of advertising, David counted with starting at a 6 month stretch and re-evaluate then if it has brought in any more business for the rentals.

David Dick also mentioned that the County Commissioners will sign the renewal again.

Nature Park & Campground: Nothing to report

Racetrack: Dale Bemiller stated they will begin hauling manure soon, and the wiener dog race has been secured for this upcoming years fair.

Fairbook: Pam Young informing everyone that she needs changes ASAP so she can get them completed before the deadline.

Golf Carts: Scott Smith reported needing a list of everyone needing a cart for the 2026 fair, our contract with Willandale has expired and we will be looking at new options this year.

JFB: Christy Keith reported that Judy Villard Overocker has left the extension office. She stated that the board will be looking to post the position for Junior Fair Coordinator in January, with hopes of having someone in place before poultry ordering and pickup.

By-Laws & Sponsorships: Nothing to report

Admissions: Looking electronic ticket options for gates similar to what we had for concert while down at OFMA, David Dick questioned if this would allow us to use credit card readers at the gates. Phil Metzger advised that there is plenty of internet power to run these.

Elections: Two applications posted for old business

Grandstands & Parking: Nothing to report

Antique: Dale Bemiller has supplied and inventory list from 1999 of what should be in the barn. Krista Dull mentioned exhibitors that bring equipment in the week of the fair to sign a waiver if there is any damage done to the piece while at the fair.

Concessions: Kathi Cutlip-Mills reported there are still vendor interest forms coming in, the contracts have been given to David Dick to review, as they would like to start sending those out by February 1st 2026. That way if there is more merchant space needed there will be time to rent the appropriate tent.

Equine: No meeting this month

Raffle: Christy Keith reported she has tickets for the gun raffle and to pick up at end of meeting. New this year we will be doing \$300 sponsorship tables that also will get 10 raffle tickets, a bottle of liquor, and a charcuterie board. Also, it was mentioned to purchase 12 round tables to bring our total to 15 tables and use these for the sponsor tables. These would also be available to utilize for other events. **David Dick made a motion to spend up to \$3500 for the round tables, Bill McFarland seconded, motion passed.** It was noted that March 7th 2026 is the date for the raffle.

Social Media: Nothing to report at this time.

Safety: Kathi Cutlip-Mills reported that the Emergency Action Plan has been completed and she had sent it to Dustin Moysi to read over, once it is finalized it will be brought to the board to approve then she will set up and meet with the first responders for approval.

Infield: Bill McFarland reported nothing new other than verifying days that will host which event. He will be looking at Motorcross, and Truck & Tractor Pull promoters while at OFMA, John Gray has been looking in to Demo Derby promoters. Remington Blevins questioned to move Wiener Dog Races to Tuesday night, Dale Bemiller does not think this will be a problem but will confirm. **Bill McFarland made a motion to move the Wiener Dog race to Tuesday during fair week, seconded by Kathi Cutlip-Mills, motion passed. Bill McFarland made a motion to spend up to \$55000 for infield events Wednesday-Saturday during fair week, Colton Dull seconded the motion, motion passed.**

Grandstands/Grounds: Red barn is closed due to burst water lines.

Winter Storage: Bill McFarland reported not issues as of yet.

Show Arena & Livestock Judges: Nothing to report.

Kitchen Auxiliary: Gene Espenshade reported that the floors have all been scrubbed and will be setting a day to get things moved back in, and install the new ovens.

Grounds: Dave Grauer reported that Bellville and Crawford County may be interested in the permanent bleaches that we have and will not longer put up. He will reach out to see if they are still interested. He mentioned offering to sell between \$5000-\$6000, he will report back.

- With the INK improvement money Dave will beginning planning to have the drainage done in the infield and the stone installed at Browns lot.
- Dave will be meeting with the person who will be painting the Youth Hall this week so they can get a supply list, the board will be looking to block out the week that this will be done so that no rentals will take place then.
- He informed the board there are shovels and salt at almost every door in the buildings on the grounds to help with snow.
- They will be looking to get the salt bin built this week.

Dave Grauer made a motion to move forward with the drainage work, and gravel in Browns lot that will be reimbursed back to the Fair Board by INK, Curt Fife seconded the motion, motion passed.

Zac Tuttle mentioned that the new lawn mower was in and ready for pickup when the weather clears up.

Landscaping: Nothing to report.

Old Business:

Christy Keith noted there is \$20000 allocated for grounds acts during fair week. She also mentioned that he draft horse barn will be closed up shortly.

- Lisa Received a formal request for the Ontario Youth Sports for the use of one of the buildings for indoor training for ages 3-7yrs, for soccer. This would be a Monday and Tuesday rental every week for March and April from 4pm-8pm at \$1200. Concerns of building damage and if it would solely be used for youth sports were raised. It was agreed to allow them a trail run for these first two months. **Motion was made by Chris**

Campbell to allow the trial run of the rental for March and April for Ontario Youth Sports, seconded by Curt Fife, motion passed.

- **Open Positions:**

The board received two applicants, Anderson Roll and John Gray for the open position. Both applicants spoke about why they were interested in the position. A vote was taken and counted. **John Gray won the vote.**

- Phil Metzger presented a quote for a camera system to be installed/updated at the fairgrounds. There are two quotes one being NDAA Compliant which is required for government entities and a non-compliant quote. We will be reviewing this.
- Question was raised if all electrical upgrades were complete, which Phil Metzger advised they were, some of the money that was earmarked for that project that remains may be used to upgrade the camera systems. There is also the question of the pole that needs to be replaced which Phil had stated he was waiting to hear back from his contact at Ohio Edison.

New Business:

Committee signups are up, this will be reviewed then at the next meeting. Executive Committee has been formed and is up for approval with Christy Keith, Tom Craft, Sadie Hoyt, Shirley Swihart/Lisa Roberts, Remington Blevins, Kathi Cutlip-Mills, James Schuab, Dave Grauer, and David Dick. **Motion made by Tom Craft to approve the 2026 Executive Committee, seconded by Dale Hult, motion passed.**

Christy informed the board there will be a special meeting in January when the Hinkle Report is returned so it can be voted on so that we can get the report turned in by January 16th

Tom Craft swore in John Gray to the Board of Directors

Other Business:

Still looking for a skid loader, Livestock Committee has put up \$5000 if needed to purchase. Dave Grauer, Remington Blevins and Zac Tuttle have been actively looking.

Motion was made by Kathi Cutlip-Mills to adjourn the meeting at, seconded by Chris Campbell, motion passed.