

Richland County Agricultural Society

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

February 24th 2026

President Christy Keith called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Roll call was taken for members.

Staff Present: Shirley Swihart

Guests Present: Phil Metzger, Andrea Rees, Deb Boyce, Jason & Abby Snyder And Jackie Wazaleuski

Pam Young was recognized for her years of service and received the Directors Award of Innovation at OFMA.

Jason and Abby Snyder presented some concerns that they had for moving the lamb show, and it posing a time restriction for some exhibitors. They would like the fair board to reconsider the vote to move the show.

Secretaries Report, Kathi Mills moved to accept the report seconded by Gene Espenshade, motion passed

Treasurers Report, Matt Janish moved to accept the report, seconded by Dale Bemiller, motion passed.

Event reported that in 2 weeks there is a show followed by the Spa show, and the Cat show in April.

Lisa and Christy informed the board that Agri Business Tour will be stopping at the fairgrounds to see what the fair has to offer and they are working with Phil & Kenny to make a slideshow.

Committee Reports:

Tshirts – Nothing to report

Budget – Dave Dick reported that some of the earmarked electrical funds to be used towards ground transformers and towards new lights and cameras across the grounds. He will be looking in to a quote from Phil.

Livestock – Dave also reported the Jr. Fair rules have been amended by Livestock Committee and provided that this evening with the board. Motion was made by Matt Janish to accept the amended rules, seconded by Dale Bemiller, motion passed.

Nature Park, Campground, Racetrack, - Nothing to report.

Fair Book – Changes need to be in by March 1st

Golf Carts – Nothing to report.

JFB - Trudi Tilton was hired on as the new coordinator, and will be working with the Extension office with duties and responsibilities. Question was raised on what is acceptable Quality Assurance qualifications for fair? It was brought to the fair boards attention that it is up to the fair board to decide when and where. Question was asked if an advisor can do the training, the answer being only if they have been certified. Discussion was had on who should be certified.

-Motion was made to only allow FFA sponsored QA, OSU Extension QA, and State Sanctioned QA, decided by the Richland County Agricultural Society.

Question was raised what species may not be required for QA? It will be required for all Market and Breeding Projects.

Motion was amended to exempt Llamas, Alpacas, Dogs and Horses. By Dale Hulit, Seconded by Dave Grauer. Motion Passed

It was discovered that the extension office found that the FFA chapters were charged for the \$15 exhibit fee same as the 4-Hers, a motion was made by Marla Reynolds to continue collecting the money for the 2026 fair year and will be invoiced by senior fair. Seconded by Chris Campbell. Motion did NOT pass.

FFA instructors will be notified that they will not be required to collected this year.

Dave Dick raised the question if Jr. Fair will have any money to put towards judge selection, Andrea answered there is a possibility, yes.

Bylaws – nothing to report

Sponsorships – Anyone interested in heading?

Raffle – Less than two weeks, turn in unsold tickets

Admission, Election, Grandstand, Nature Park - Nothing to report.

Antique – A longtime member Art Seaman passed away.

Concessions – Kathi reported that contracts are out, there is a rule and regulation for everyone to sign this year and return. April 25th is the Upscale Flea Market at the fairgrounds.

Equine – Approved 4H showbills, working on open class barn updates, there will be a Fuzzy Show and Fun Show this year.

Social & Safety – Nothing to report.

Infield – Rodeo is locked in. Harden County Tractor Pull Association will be part of tractor pulls this year, Washed Up Promotions will be doing motor cross, and the demo derby has been locked in.

Entertainment – nothing to report

Storage – April 11th Moveout

LS Judges – Only waiting on Poultry and Goat judges to get back with them.

Kitchen Aux – Ovens are all hooked back up, Cat show will be the next event will need kitchen help, then Flea Market. Kitchen Aux also purchased 6 more round tables.

Landscaping – Nothing to report

Grounds – Dave Grauer reported that there was a skid loader purchased, along with new bucket, forks and hitch plate. Crawford drainage will begin work on the infield soon. The painting was currently going on in Youth Hall, there are some doors that need to be replaced in YH which would be \$5506 to replace. Fairhaven Hall also has some doors that need to be replaced, which would be around \$10000 for doors and labor.

Dave Dick made a motion to use rental funds for the door repairs, seconded by Zac Tuttle. Motion passed.

Front door of JFB office needs to be replaced, it is under \$1000 so no motion needed.

Looking to get an estimate for repainting John Hartz Bldg, along with new stall dividers and replacing the stage. Dave also looked in to getting new concrete barriers for Demo Derby. He will also be looking in to getting a quote to repair the ceiling in Fairhaven.

Dake Hulit mentioned that the Flower Dept that with shutting up the building during fair week to keep the A/C on it is keeping foot traffic out of the building.

Old Business:

The \$20000 that was previously approved for Youth Hall repairs, there is \$6332 needed in additional funds to switch to tankless water heaters. Motion was made by Kathi Mills to approve seconded by Colton Dull. Motion Passed.

New Business:

Discussion regarding Snyder families request to move back the sheep show, no motion made to change.

The new Junior Fair Coordinator will need a computer and or dock station Chris Campbell made a motion to purchase, seconded by Kathi Mills, motion passed

Dave Dick spoke about the volunteer insurance, the past insurance company that we had, covered volunteers working on the grounds, which we have lost now. If we want to get this back for our volunteers, we will need to get a quote Chris Campbell made a motion for each person's personal insurance be covered, seconded by Matt Janish, motion passed.

Richland Solid waste asked for a donation of family passes for a design contest they are holding, motion was made to donate 12 passes by Chris Campbell, seconded by Remmington Blevins, motion passed.

April 23rd Pioneer students will be having a work day at the fairgrounds.

Motion was made to spend up to \$2500 for Fair Entry by Dale Hult, seconded by Remmington Blevins, motion passed.

The bleachers were brought up as to what we will do with them; board will reach out to other fairs to see if they are interested before auctioning or posting for sale.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:45pm made by Kathi Mills seconded by Colton Dull, motion passed.

Submitted by Sadie Hoyt