

Richland County Agricultural Society

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 28th 2026

President Christy Keith called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Roll call was taken for members.

Staff Present: Shirley Swihart

Guests Present: Deb Boyce, Louann Steiner, Kristen Eisenhauer, Regan Kleman, Emmalgh Klemann
Kassie Kleeman

Secretaries Report, Scott Smith moved to accept the report seconded by Gene Espenshade, motion passed

Treasurers Report, A motion made by Zac Tuttle to approve to donate \$100 to each buyers club, and was seconded by Dale Bemiller. 2026 wages were also noted for Lisa Robert at \$55,000/year and Shirley Swihart at \$3000/month. Treasurers Report was accepted by John Gray and Seconded by Kathi Mills. Motion passed.

Events Coordinator reported there is a need to purchase more table to alleviate moving around all the buildings if we had a couple more sets to stay in the buildings.

Louann Steiner was a guest to speak on the Data Centers that are looking to come to Richland County, there is a state wide petition to ban large centers, looking to have 6000 signatures by June 30th to put it on the ballot.

Committee Reports:

Tshirts, Budget, Golf Carts, ByLaws, Sponsorship. Admissions, Elections, Antiques, Safety, Raffles, Social, Infield, Grandstands, Entertainment, Extension Educator - Nothing to report.

Concessions – Contracts are coming in, Gene called on people who have not gotten them back in yet. Question asked how many new spots we will gain with the new electric, Phil Metzger answered more in the grandstand area and in the game area.

Livestock reported that there was \$10,000 for bleachers, and the 2026 budget was passed at the last meeting as well. Self tagging is to be completed by May 16th at midnight. Goats are in question regarding tattoos vs. scrapie tags for identification. Another issue is if registration papers will be allowed for classification of dairy vs meat at check in. The committee has also been discussing allowing personal exhibitor cameras in stalls to keep an eye on animals during fair week.

Nature Park reported that all evening entertainment has been locked in.

Kitchen Auxiliary reported that kitchen help is needed for Civil War, along with the Gun Show May 16th, and beginning to look in to INK help in July. Kitchen is also looking in to selling off old equipment that is not being used.

Gene Esbshade reported he went to the spring district meeting, and brought back our fair managers passes. He reported that EIDs are coming state wide next month for livestock. Richland Counties report for grant funds had been submitted.

Dave Dick reported that the red books will not be printed anymore, only online.

Christy Keith mentioned that we will be hosting the fall meeting Oct 18th.

Campground – Camper swap night is June 29th Lottery is July 6th at 6 pm both days.

Racetrack – Paperwork is turned in for the year, the lower part of the track has been grated to help with drainage. Will need help putting new stone to fix the inner curb. We will also need to build a wiener dog race start for fair.

Fairbook – Pam is still waiting for a few more things to get in to the book. Shirley asked what we will be doing for special days during fair week (ex, veterans, kids) Dale Hulit moved to keep the same, seconded by Zac Tuttle. Motion passed

Motion was made to keep Pit and Band prices the same prices as last year by Kathi Mills, seconded by Stephanie Willis. Motion passed

Pam also needs two Superintendents, one for Agriculture and Horticulture.

Junior Fair Board – Trudi has made progress in the office, working on sponsorships and blue ribbon entries.

Grandstands – will not be opening for Civil War.

Parking- Looking for handicap paint and stencils for fair week. Scott Smith is looking in to having Richland Seal Coat at painting it.

Concessions – Four new food vendors, still trying to contact people who have not sent back contracts.

Equine – Pony Superintendent stepped down, but the 4-h super said that she would step in and do it, but they did not have enough people at the last meeting for quorum. They will be posting for applications.

Winter Storage – few minor issues during move out, one being with an RV but all issues have been resolved.

Show Arena – new sign is up

Livestock Judges – Contracts are all out

Landscaping – will be scheduling a clean up day

Advertising – Will be meeting with WMFD and Crawford's County soon for radio ads.

Grounds – Getting everything ready for Civil War, there were some window repairs done on The Red Barn, there are more barrels at Rocket Chevy that need picked up for trash cans. Will need to removed the salt bin in the horse barn, there is also a lot trash that needs cleaned up in the campground before Civil War. Also looking in to quotes for Fairhaven roof and ceiling.

Old Business:

-Bleacher quotes are in, Motion was made to Purchase 7 bleachers with the funds of INK and Livestock committee and the Fairboard to purchase 1 set, for a total of 8, and for the Fairboard to pay the freight, made by Sadie Hoyt, seconded by Gene Espenshade.

Dustin Moysi will get them ordered.

-Electrical updates, we may be looking at a new air switch if it is too old or needs to be updated. The switch may be up to \$10,000, this will not affect the updates at this moment, but will need two POs from the office, one for INK and one for the Fair Office.

-Infield will be getting grass seeded soon and will need a PO for this as well.

-Lantz Rd. Property – was originally asking \$250K for two parcels, Dace Grauer talked with the owner and they would sell to the fairgrounds for \$150K. The owner had spoken with auctioneers about sending to auction. If it does not sell it will go to auction in June.

-Roof had four estimates sent over to the commissioners for Fairhaven Office.

New Business:

- For Chuck Millers assistance during fair week, motion was made by James Schaub to all for up to three free rentals for online auctions. Seconded by Kathi Mills, motion passed.

-Mower blades needed for mowers

-Kathi thanked everyone who showed up for the Flea Market

Motion to Adjourn Meeting made by Remington Blevins, seconded by Chris Campbell , Motion passed.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:24PM

Submitted by Sadie Hoyt