

# Calhoun County Agricultural & Industrial Society

## Minutes of Board Meeting

September 15th, 2014 – Marshall Middle School - 7:00 PM

### **Call to Order**

The September 15th, 2014 Board meeting was called to order by CCAIS Board President, Doug Wildt at 7:00 pm at Marshall Middle School.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vic Potter.

Attendance with Roll Call was conducted by Megan Harvey.

Present: Doug Wildt, Nick Collier, Susan Baldwin, Bill DeSmet, Steven Benham, Hope Horton, Vic Parker, Vic Potter, Shirland Redfield    Excused: Bruce Bosserd, Jim Olds

Secretary's report of the August 26th, 2014 minutes was given by Susan Baldwin. One correction was requested to change the minutes to reflect that Margaret Taylor resigned as Floriculture Superintendent during the August meeting. Motion was made by Vic Potter, supported by Steven Benham, vote was all in favor to file the Secretary's report as corrected.

Treasurer's Report – Bill DeSmet provided the treasurer's report. He provided updates on the July statements, and reviewed the balance sheet, and profit and loss statement for August. As for August, the Fair numbers are still coming in, not all bills have been received or payments made. Initial reports show some expenses showing up in general column, this needs to be adjusted to fair expenses column. Fair is run on a cash basis so numbers will change in September. Bill DeSmet reviewed the August 2013 fair numbers with August 2014. There are some variances and Bill will be studying the reports to pinpoint the variances. Vic Potter moved that the July Treasurer's Report be approved for filing, Steven Benham seconded. Motion was approved. The August financials were tabled pending additional information.

**Executive Director Report** – Doug Wildt reported that Pat McCann has decided to resign as Executive Director. Vic Potter moved to accept the resignation, Hope Horton seconded. Motion was approved.

**Public Comment** - requested for any agenda items. None.

**Old Business:**

1. **Handicapped Ramp** – Vic Potter wanted to recognize Grant Myers and Jack Rocco who assisted with the handicapped ramp on the grandstand and thank them for their help.

**New Business:**

1. **Recognized Youth Organization Guidelines** – Hope Horton reported that the committee had to postpone their meeting. The draft guidelines have been given to Kathy Fischer, MSUE, for review. Committee will be meeting shortly to finalize the guidelines.

**Discussion Item:**

1. **Technology Updates** – Steve Benham provided background on the current system in place for internet access. In the past, the wireless setup has been unreliable and very slow. This year, the fair used a hard-wired system to process the auction and the program went smoother. Steve would like to propose hard-wiring out to several barns and buildings. He is gathering more information and is looking for donations of used equipment. Steve is hoping to keep the cost under \$1000. Vic Potter moved to approve spending up to \$1000 for this project. Hope Horton seconded. Motion approved. Cindy Thomas offered to help with the project.

**Events and Committee Reports:**

- a. 4H Council – Marilyn Letts – committee held a recent meeting at the fairgrounds. The fall convention is coming up on Oct. 7. The committee will be discussing awards.
- b. FFA Report – Laura Finch provided a written report which was shared by Megan Harvey. Homer FFA has a great fall planned. Gearing up for St. Louis with 8 kids participating. Marshall FFA will be meeting Sept. 16. On Sat., Oct. 11 the FFA Alum Chapter is holding a 5K race to raise money for programs.

- c. Floral Hall Building – Marilyn Jones – The Knit-Out on Wednesday during fair week went very well. There were many visitors all week. The Hall will be open during historic homes week.
- d. Houston School – Bonnie Rocco – the school was open during the Home Tour. And had good attendance. There were 180 quilts on display in the Merchants Building as well.
- e. Maple Grove Church – Margaret Taylor reported that the Church was open during the Home Tour. There will be an auction on Sept 21. The piano has been tuned and several weddings are coming up.
- f. Electrical – Phil Smith – all is status quo now after the fair.
- g. Marketing Committee – Hope Horton reported that Eric Cook is hoping to have the fair website up soon. The site will have a calendar of events and activities. The site will allow people to reserve campsites and so forth online. Will also be able to do online fair registrations.
- h. Sponsorships – Megan Harvey will be preparing and sending a complete report on the pledges committed and paid.
- i. Operation Committee – Vic Parker reported that some of the trees are looking unhealthy. He spoke with an arborist who suggested trimming the trees during the winter. Some of the tops are drying out.
- j. Cruise the Fountain – Lesley Parker reported that the first planning meeting for the 2015 cruise event is coming up on Oct 8.
- k. Fundraisers – Cindy Thomas reported that the golf committee will have their first meeting for the 2015 event after the first of the year.
- l. Fair Museum – JoAnne McKeever – no report.

**Livestock Superintendents** – Hope Horton indicated that there are a few openings in the Superintendent positions. She explained the rules for handling replacement of a superintendent. The openings need to be announced at a meeting. Anyone interested needs to apply for the position – the applications must be received in the next 20 days. The applicants must submit their own applications personally and not through another person. The following positions need to be filled in the

Open Classes: Floraculture, Antiques, Culinary Arts, Ceramics, Folk Art and Fine Art. The following positions need to be filled in the Youth Classes: Ceramics, Creative Writing and Floraculture.

- m.** Beef Breeding – Kim Mowry – 70 head participated in the fair. It was a good year. The barn was hit during the week of fair but the participants worked through it.
- n.** Beef – Nick Willis – Nick reported on the auction first. The lunch was good and was well attended. All three areas had good volunteer turnout. Some changes to make for next year – need to check on the number of ribbons ordered. Also – studying ways to recognize multiple buyers. Would like 2 years of experience to get a handle on the percent of the take needed to cover expenses.

Nick Willis also reported on the Beef participation. 71 animals participated. All went “awesome.” There were many great donations and in-kind support. Barns worked very well together. Appreciated the wood chip donation from Hickok Trucking. May need helping with clerking for next year. He would like the names of all youth groups as soon as possible. Held an “over the hill” showmanship event that went quite well and raised money for scholarships.

- o.** Dairy – Beth Letts was pleased to report that 6 of the top animals in the state are from Calhoun County. There was a water drainage issue during the fair. Water from the animal wash was running into the building, creating a wet and muddy puddle. Did not look good to guests.
- p.** Dairy Starter – Tom Carr – had largest participation ever. Great cooperation when the water line broke. Will be working on budget shortly. Had record sales at the auction. The banquet went well. Groups will meet in October to review the year. Will pick up meetings after the first of the year for 2015.
- q.** Draft Horse – Cathy Combs – had a good year, but there were some issues with having the draft horses in only half of the arena. Kids worked really hard this year and helped a lot with the chores. They instituted a “poop” phone tree.
- r.** Companion/Dog – Brenda Katz – no report.

- s. Goat – Hope Horton shared that there was enormous growth in participation this year. There were 47 participants, including the cloverbuds. There were 4 in the open class with 16 goats. Gave an opportunity for families who home raise to show their animals. Judging committee was a big help.
- t. Horse – LeeAnn Fischhaber – Will have to address timing with state show next year.
- u. Mini – Whinnie – Ken Flanders – Successful show – had so many people watching. Will need space.
- v. Poultry – Hope Horton provided the report from Tonya Wagley - the poultry barn was cleaned and looked good. Many participants this year.
- w. Rabbit – Ann Myles – this year, the participants showed at the arena. This worked well as parents could see their kids. There were some issues transporting animals to the arena – some kids show a number of animals. Some questions have been raised about cage sponsors. The Superintendent would like to camp next to the barn next year to be available for issues.
- x. Sheep – Steven Benham reported for Kori Albrecht who sent a report – Jessica Fountain is a new leader. The sheep event was held in conjunction with swine and things went well. The barn was cleaned and closed up fast. The barn rules were posted on the wall and that helped.
- y. Swine – Andrew Johnson – had a few hiccups at the beginning but worked them out and had a good week. The cookout was good – just need to plan a bit earlier next year. The “over the hill” showmanship event was great and raised money for scholarships.

#### **Non-Livestock Superintendents**

- z. Youth Ceramics – Melissa Winchell – no report
- aa. Youth Clothing – Andrea Boughton – no report
- bb. Youth Clowning – Sandi Christie – no entries for this year. Will do out-reach next year.

- cc.** Youth Creative Writing – LeeAnn Fischhaber – Will be very clear about materials that can be used next year. Had to deal with a judge that did not show.
- dd.** Youth Culinary Arts – Shelly Densmore – Will need more tables next year. Also want to get better ribbons.
- ee.** Youth Agriculture & Horticulture – Amanda Shreve – not many entries but had a good show.
- ff.** Youth Leadership/Development - Lee Fischhaber – had about the same number of participants. The event only lasted until noon. Would like event to go all day. Would like to invite scouts and other youth groups to participate.
- gg.** Power Safety/Woodworking - Ted Densmore sent in a report. Had fine quality projects but would like to see more.
- hh.** Youth Photo – Hope Horton provided the report. About 24 kids came through the line. Suggested changes for the fair book for next year – would like to see age categories so youth are not competing against adults or older kids.
- ii.** General Marketing Projects – Kathy Philo – participation was down to 6 to 8 kids but hoping for more next year. Had to reject 2 projects as they did not meet requirements. Janet did a great job of setting up the booth. Had a first-time judge who did a great job. Kathy added a couple of suggestions for the Auction: Ask youth to write thank you letters, also suggested plaques for buyers at the auction, suggested a 3% administration fee
- jj.** Antiques – Denise Banfield – would like to clarify time for drop off and pick up. Doretta Wilson has resigned. Pam Woods is eager and ready to take over. Denise recommends lowering the fencing a bit to permit better viewing of items. Overall, loved the fair.
- kk.** Culinary Arts – open – Hope Horton reported that Bonnie Laing has resigned as superintendent.
- ll.** Floriculture – open – Margaret Taylor – Had a good judge for the event. The judge asked the kids a lot of questions and helped them with

presentation. 134 exhibits in Floral Hall. Marshall Garden Club, K Drive Greenhouse and Jolly Green Junction donated extra discount coupons.

- mm.** Needlework – Lesley gave the report for Marilyn Jones. The knit out went great.
- nn.** Antiques – open – Doretta Wilson – report provided with prior Antiques report
- oo.** Antique tractors – Kim Mowry – reported that over 100 participated on Saturday of the fair. Good attendance. This coming Sat (Sept 20) there will be a tractor pull for cancer. Lunch will be served at noon. There will be a wagon ride for donations. The event raises about \$10,000 for the Fountain Clinic and Bronson Battle Creek Cancer Clinic in Marshall.
- pp.** Fine Art, Folk Art and Photo – open – Hope Horton reported that Connie Hubbard did not attend the fair. Edith Smith stepped up and did a great job.
- qq.** King and Queen – Kathy Heisler – no report
- rr.** Trucks and tractor pulls – John Hamilton & Tyler Avery – no report
- ss.** Demonstrations – Donna Zenker - had a great turn out.
- tt.** Show of Champions – Chris Landis – had a great show. An idea has been suggested about splitting into large and small animal groups.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – three minute time limit and one opportunity to speak

Cindy Thomas talked about the fair parade. There was no superintendent. Norbert Friel stepped up and the parade went very well. Also suggested that the fair may need a superintendent for Kids Day.

Pattie Baughman commented on the fair parking, felt there was not enough on event nights. By the horse arena, there was haphazard parking. Saw minors drinking in the lot, need to set up protocol for handling this. No one was directing traffic. Strings were getting knocked down and complicated the issues. Regarding the dirt piles, made it tough for draft horses to work. Wagons had to go through loose dirt. She also asked if ideas for reorganizing the gates and parking will be looked into.

Doug Wildt replied that the 5 Year Plan meetings were getting started and would look into some of these issues. The 5 Year Committee will be Nick Collier, Vic Potter, Susan Baldwin and Vic Parker for tracking the meetings, but all Board members and CCAIS members are welcome to attend.

Margaret Taylor shared concerns about kids having to stand a long time during events. No one was assigned to help the open youth with their participation and competition. Need to plan better to address the open class youth. Also suggested that there is a need for a stage. Margaret mailed a letter to the Fair Board explaining her concerns.

Hope Horton explained that if youth join a recognized youth group, then their projects will be put in the youth barn.

Megan Harvey reported that CCAIS has received 8 laptops from Consumers Energy. Many thanks to Consumers. CCAIS member dues deadline is coming up on Oct 21. Megan also passed out a current schedule of upcoming events at the fairgrounds. The Volunteer Recognition Dinner is coming up on Oct 18.

Kathy Fischer asked about the status of the dog superintendent.

Jeanette Flynn said that she heard there were youth allegedly drinking on Monday night at the fair. An incident was reported in writing. Ms. Flynn states that Nick was notified.

Amanda Shreve stated that she is disappointed with how the Board handles committees as a member-based organization. Appears that the Board does not open up committees.

Melinda Hauta stated that dates were conflicting between the tri-fold and the fair book. She suggested that the Supers help confirm the dates.

Michelle VanSickle asked when Pat McCann's resignation is effective? Pat responded that it was effective Sept 12.

Pat McCann asked who Hope Horton talked with at the Binda Foundation regarding any grants. Responding to a question about the handicapped ramp, Pat indicated that he had not seen any bills.

Kathy Philo stated that she will be re-doing the forms for youth to complete. Also stated that parade times were inconsistent on the forms, flyers and other publications.

Hope Horton indicated that the Superintendent Committee will be meeting with each Superintendent to cover issues and recommendations for next year. The deadline for changes for the fair book is Oct 1.

Denise Banfield shared that the wedding this past weekend at the church was lovely.

Cathy Combs would like to see the guidelines for youth organizations. Hope responded that the 4H items will go through Kathy Fischer, MSUE. Cathy Combs is concerned about open classes and youth ages versus older kids and adults.

#### **BOARD COMMENTS –**

Doug Wildt offered thanks to Pat McCann for his service. Doug also mentioned that the Nominating Committee would be meeting this week. Nominations are due.

Vic Potter stated that the Board needs to make changes to make its operation better as well.

Shirland Redfield noted to the Board that the CCAIS members are our customers. We need to be conscious not to lose them.

Susan Baldwin reminded members that any proposals for changes in the CCAIS bylaws offered by members of CCAIS need to be sent to her by the end of the week.

**Adjournment** – Motion was made by Nick Collier, seconded by Shirland Redfield to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm.