

Lancaster County Agricultural Society, Inc.

*A Nebraska non-profit corporation, designated as 501(c)(3) by the IRS
and separate county-level political subdivision
created under Nebraska law in 1870 to promote agriculture & youth.*

MINUTES

Board of Directors Emergency Meeting

5:30pm - Thursday, April 2, 2020

President Ronnau called the meeting of the Lancaster Country Agricultural Society to order at 5:43 p.m. for an emergency meeting due to the COVID-19 global pandemic on the Zoom platform with majority of board members/public on computer video/audio and remainder by phone. Ronnau reminded the board that Governor Ricketts issued an executive order permitting public bodies to meet virtually and still be in accordance of the Nebraska Open Meeting Act. The Open Meeting Act laws were displayed to attendees on the screen and notice was given to the Lincoln Journal Star by email and by phone call from Managing Director Dickerson to City Editor Todd Henrichs this afternoon.

Board members present were Cooper, Doeschot, Dowding, Messick, Ronnau, Rutt, Rawlinson, Swanson, and Suing. Also present were Lancaster Event Center staff: Managing Director Amy Dickerson, Office Manager Stephanie Schrod, Operations & IT/Digital Media Manager Jason Rief, Operations Director Greg Rook, Accounting Manager Lois Hartzell, Business Development Manager Hoyt Kraeger and Ag. Society Board Clerk Jess Nguyen. Members of the public in attendance were Lancaster County Extension Leader Karen Wobig, Lincoln Journal Star's Cindy Lange-Kubik, and guest speaker Dr. Bob Rauner.

Update on COVID-19 from Guest Speaker: Dr. Bob Rauner - Dickerson invited Bob Rauner, MD, MPH and member of the LPS and State Education boards among other local roles to share his medical expertise and give his perspective on how COVID-19 will impact Lancaster Event Center over the next months. Dr. Rauner explained that if everyone stays home then transmission will be halted. Halting the virus could take anywhere from 9 to 18 months until a vaccine and full testing exist, and there is a chance that the virus could have a second, third waves after this initial wave we are in. Regarding when to reopen the Lancaster Event Center & other businesses to gatherings, Dr. Rauner said there needs to be adequate testing to see a sustained reduction in cases for at least 14 days, and even after reopening, there is a chance that businesses/gatherings will have to close again with no notice due to additional waves of infections.

Managing Director Update on COVID-19 Impact on LEC Current Operations & Future Planning – Dickerson updated the board that an email has been sent out today about how LEC is closed to the public now through May 6th following the latest Health Directive for Lancaster County. A daily healthy to work screening process has been instituted on grounds for the LEC construction/cleaning/café crew. Team members are screened for symptoms every day before getting out of their vehicles continuing to be ahead of the health guidelines on our LEC work practices. Signs have been added on doors that tell people including LEC remote working staff, board members and any other contractors/guests to stop and not enter in order to reduce touching of surfaces or spread by air. LEC has a full team now working remote to keep the number of people on site down and due to the small size/lack of ventilation in the LEC office. They are in touch by phones forwarding, cell phone and/or emails which are listed on the LEC website. This remote team is very occupied and getting more productive by the day working remotely on construction planning, operational planning for the summer's large events including changes in plans due to the pandemic, rescheduling events, communicating with our many audiences, supporting furloughed staff, implementing new payroll/HR laws and working on financial planning. In terms of future projects, the LEC team is looking at all the possible scenarios and impact for its national shows scheduled started in June with the Cornhusker Classic Quarter Horse Show in June and NHSFR in mid-July. Dickerson said decisions would be in conjunction with the show promoters to follow the latest health guidelines likely in mid-May. The board will talk more about contingency plans for the annual Lancaster County Super Fair scheduled July 30 to August 8 at the regular monthly meeting on April 16th.

Board Approval to Apply for CARES Act PPP Forgivable Loan – Accounting Manager Hartzell explained that the CARES Act Payroll Protection Program (PPP) for small businesses and non-profits like LEC is a largely forgivable loan that will be given on a first-come, first-serve basis starting tomorrow. By applying using the seasonal period to calculate the historical baseline cost of LEC's payroll rather than an annual figure, LEC would maximize the available dollars totaling an estimated \$396,410 which would pay for all payroll, benefits, utilities and other allowed operational costs over an 8-week period that begins with loan issuance. Anything not used in the 8 weeks can be given back. There is a calculation at the end of the 8 weeks where LEC can ask for the majority of the loan to be forgiven if we can show we maintained our staff levels by the end of June and is reported to be at half a percent interest to be paid back in two years. Rawlinson made the motion to authorize Ag. Society Board President Ronnau to sign a loan application for the PPP immediately on behalf of LCAS, Dowding seconded the motion. Rawlinson then motioned, seconded by Suing to revise the initial motion to add that the loan application could use the seasonal amount to maximize the dollars available to LEC. Amendment passed 9-0. Motion passed 9-0.

Appoint Board COVID-19 Finance Committee – Up to four board members at a time can meet to work with Dickerson, Hartzell, and our legal/accounting experts including former LEC Finance/Budget Manager Bruce Gubser on ongoing financial planning due to LEC revenues going to zero with no events allowed since March 14th to at least May 6th and likely impacting LEC operations for well over a year as is the case for many small businesses and non-profits nationwide, especially hard hit hospitality businesses like LEC. Ronnau expressed her interest in seeing Rawlinson and Doeschot on the committee as they had already been active online researching information on all the new Federal

programs as well as herself. Treasurer Rutt expressed interest as well. Dowding motioned to appoint Rawlinson, Doeschot, Ronnau, and Rutt to the COVID-19 Finance Committee with Swanson as an alternate, Messick seconded the motion. Motion passed 9-0.

Additional Emergency Items - None

Public Comment – Wobig updated the board that all of Extension is now working remotely, and their office is completely closed as of April 3. One person will be there to pick up mail and for maintenance and cleaning. Lots of Extension programming is still going on, just virtually, including new nationwide demand for their innovative chick hatching (embryology) program that’s been online for viewing already for years now really a great fit for home-based student learning across the USA.

It was motioned by Suing and seconded by Swanson to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m. Motion passed 9-0 to end the meeting before an All Hands LEC Team meeting to be held virtually.

Respectfully submitted by: Jess Nguyen – LCAS Board Clerk

President Ronnau

Vice President Dowding

Next meeting: April 16, 2020 at 7:30pm