



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 Monthly Meeting

Lancaster County Farm Bureau Room—Lancaster Event Center

4100 N. 84th Street, Lincoln NE 68507

7pm - Thursday, March 19, 2020

President Ronnau called the meeting of the Lancaster Country Agricultural Society to order at 7:09 p.m. Proof of due notice was given in the Lincoln Journal Star, and the Nebraska Open Meeting Act is posted in the meeting room.

Board members present in the meeting room were Cooper, Dowding, Rawlinson, Ronnau, and Rutt. Absent were Swanson and Suing. Also present in the meeting room were Business Development Manager Hoyt Kraeger, Ag. Society Board Clerk Jess Nguyen, and Bryce Doeschot. Attending remotely through conference call were Managing Director Amy Dickerson, Accounting Manager Lois Hartzell, Operations Director Greg Rook, Event Coordinator Justy Hagan, and board member Tom Messick.

Minutes – It was moved by Rawlinson and seconded by Rutt to approve the February Monthly meeting minutes as presented with no changes. Motion passed 4-0 with Rawlinson abstaining due to being absent from last month's meeting. Rawlison motioned to approve the minutes from the March Emergency Meeting, Rutt seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0, Dowding abstaining.

Financial –It was moved by Rawlinson and seconded by Dowding to approve the paying of the checks in the amount of \$191,392.79. Motion passed 5-0. The board looked over the balance sheet and agreed it looked good. When looking over the P&L, Rawlinson asked about the audit adjustment and when it needs to happen. Hartzell and Dickerson responded that the audit will start next month, and the audit is due in May. Cooper moved to approve the P&L, Dowding seconded. Motion passed 5-0. Hartzell overviewed the Accounts Payable and Recieveables. Regarding receivables, Lancaster Event Center will start making phone calls to see what can be collected. Excess inventories of beer, Pepsi, food, and paper products have been picked up by vendors. Items that cannot be returned will be opened up for the public to buy.

Officer and Committee Reports

- President (Ronnau): No report
- Vice President (Dowding): No report
- Secretary (Cooper): No report
- Treasurer (Rutt): No report
- Personnel Committee (Ronnau): No report
- Strategic Planning Committee (Rawlinson): No report

- Premium Auction (Cooper): Cooper reported that the premium auction is on track. He has talked with that group and they are willing to work with LEC. Ronnau added that she and Cooper met with the livestock boosters. She thinks the board needs more presence, but one thing that needs to stick is that the boosters can have banners for their premium auction but cannot have them all over LEC during the fair. The boosters will not be doing their meal because it doesn't bring in enough people. In regards to Celebrity Showmanship, they have decided to go with an alumni type showmanship that the boosters will support.
- NHSFR Rodeo Board Committee (Ronnau): Ronnau's only point is that all parties involved are moving forward with plans to have the NHSFR.
- Grievance (Cooper): No report
- Fund Development (Rawlinson): Rawlinson says they've made good progress with communicating with potential sponsors. \$51,500 are signed for this year rodeo. Two more meetings are scheduled once a month. Hoyt Kraeger shared communications from NHSFR. LEC will have a social media post and email speaking on the partnership and will also do a social media takeover next month.

2020 Fair Update – Dickerson reported that LEC is ahead on fair planning. LEC will work with and book music acts. Music acts will have no consequences if quitting because of coronavirus otherwise the contract will be held. The message to public right now is that LEC is still planning to have the fair. Ronnau asked board members to think of someone to invite to add value to the team. Rawlinson asked about calling it the 'Community Board' instead of 'Junior Board'. This item will be added to next month's agenda. In regards to the VIP Luncheon, Kraeger asked the board to look at the current list and make decisions of who needs to be taken off or who should be added. Board members should let Kraeger and Guest/Community Relations Lead Susan Bulling know in the next week to ten days, so they can get started on sending out save-the-dates.

Extension Update - Trudy Pedley sent Ronnau an update from Karen Wobig through email. Wobig reported that both UNL and county staff will be working remotely. They are moving forward and working on programming. Rawlinson spoke about the 150th committee. They've talked about having a birthday cake and ice cream, memorabilia, and history. They are full speed ahead on this project as well.

Appoint NAFM District 1 Meeting (Seward) Representatives – Ronnau and Messeck are willing to be representatives at the meeting if the meeting will still be held in April.

Ag Society Board Member Vacancy Appointment – Ronnau spoke on how a couple of candidates were contacted by board members, but there was no interest. Another candidate, Bryce Doeschot, was in attendance. Ronnau overviewed his background in livestock, FFA, and 4-H experience, and she also spoke on how important it is to be out in the public and keep roots in the 4-H and agricultural world. Rawlinson nominated Bryce Doeschot to fill Jamie Bauman's position on the board for a three year term. Dowding seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

NHSFR Construction/Operational Prep Report – Greg Rook updated the board that LEC is going full force with a full team since operational team has been added to construction. They are currently working on building stalls and wiring. The completion date is the middle of April.

Managing Director Report – Dickerson updated that the meetings with LEC employees to get their questions answered went well. After March 30, decisions will be made on a week-by-week basis. She encouraged employees to reach out and ask questions as they come up. Ronnau jumped in to say we need to find a safety net and that nobody is better to lead this than Dickerson.

- In terms of COVID-19 related preparations, actions, scenarios, impact, the office team is still working on day-to-day tasks to get ready for summer events. The office is closed to the public in accordance to the President's guidelines, and the majority of employees will work remotely for the next week. LEC has three full-time cleaning employees; one has moved to the operations team, and the two others will stay on to keep the facility safe for construction crews and special cleaning projects. LEC will be sending out a furlough letter in relation to COVID-19.
- Amy spoke about how it is unusual and rare to get event cancellations. It was determined that regardless of reason, you cannot be released from a contract. Legally, the event host is obligated to pay the rent. There is no insurance or coverage, that is why government is getting involved. Everyone agreed they could not see how it was fair for the event host to pay the full cost when the cancellation is due to COVID-19 regulations. A lot of event hosts are understanding of the situation. LEC is working with promoters with how to postpone and change events. Cooper asked about how long funds will last and what the plan is after. Dickerson said LEC can make it at least 45, even 60, days. LEC has resources like the bank, government, and grant – grant must be applied for specific uses. Rawlinson asked about interest on rodeo's loans. Some adjustable lines of credit have been lowered; the rodeo loan was locked in, but they're looking to lower this again.
- Kraeger brought up the concern that if an employee is gone longer than two days for illness, they will need a doctor's note; with the current situation, it may be very hard to get a doctor's note. Rawlinson moved to deputize the executive board to be in charge of making adjustments to the employee manual as well as decisions related to COVID-19 in a declared state of emergency in 2020. Rutt seconded the motion. Motion approved 6-0.

Discuss Options for Alternative Board Meeting Formats - Dickerson reminded the board that Governor Ricketts has suspended the Open Meeting Act through May 31. Ronnau would like to keep Zoom as an option, and she will touch base with everyone to make a decision early enough to get everyone set up. Cooper asked if the board should start having an intermediate meeting to keep everyone updated with all the changes. It was determined if an emergency meeting is needed, the board will go that route. The board will have a planned emergency meeting on April 2.

Other Business – Congressman Jeff Fortenberry called into the meeting. He updated the group on the plans for the nation. The first aspect is trying to protect America's health by moving more testing kits and figuring out how to solve the problem of paid sick leave. He also mentioned a plan to help small businesses get money for loans and forgiveness of loans. The government is attempting to subsidize businesses if people stay on the payroll and keep working instead of getting laid off. LEC is a non-profit, so he believes it will be eligible for the bill. Congressman Fortenberry will ask the technical writers to confirm eligibility, and also commended LEC for doing a great job of being the center of gatherings and sticking to Nebraska's roots in agriculture.

Communication from the public (5-minute limit per person) - none

It was motioned by Bryce Doeschot and seconded by Cooper to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. Motion passed 5-0.



President Ronnau



Secretary Cooper

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