

DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 21, 2025

ATTENDANCE:

Present- Jeff Armentrout, Jackie Colflesh, Adam DeMarco, Mark Fisher, Mike Harter, David Laaksonen, Jon Melvin, Tiffany Rankin, Kevin Simpson, Colleen Smith, T. Thomson, Randy Turner, Chris Welker, Diane Winters, Tom Wright, Laryssa Hook, Don Howard, Jen McGowan

ABSENT: Jennifer Brown, Bryan Mellen, Chip Thomson, Benjamin Wenner, Patricia Gladman

GUESTS: Tab Gepper, Mike Knapp, Jeff Crotty, Tim Wilson, Jessica Miller

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

Chris Welker called the meeting to order, Jeff Armentrout led the pledge of allegiance and Jen McGowan called the roll.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Guests introduced themselves. Tom Wright introduced Tim Wilson from Destination Delaware. Tim presented an idea to coordinate advertising efforts for the Jug. He gave some history and is concerned about attendance and demographic. How do we get the younger generation interested in the Jug. Tim took some surveys and some people have never heard of it. The top 3 reasons that people come to the Jug are drinking, socializing, and networking. We have met with the commissioners and are working on ideas to elevate the Jug as a brand and increase attendance. Tim passed around a scope of work on some ideas to make a marketing plan and would like to start advertising in April to get a head start. Tom thinks that he can ask for help with the advertising with Destination Delaware possibly from OHHA, USTA and the Commissioners, so don't be deterred by the amount. We are trying to reach a younger crowd and with that comes a place to put them. We are also looking into an App to put on your phones to place bets on track without having to go up and down stairs to the windows.

MINUTES:

Jackie Colflesh motioned to approve the December minutes with a correction of Adam DeMarco's name to Chris Welker's name under motorsports. Jon Melvin second. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Chris Welker thanked everyone that attended the OFMA convention and also the OHHA banquet. Skip Hoovler was inducted as a member of the LBJ society.

FAIR MANAGER'S REPORT:

Jen McGowan referred to the ODA financial report that was included in the board packet. We need to approve it in the meeting so it can be finalized. Jon Melvin motioned to approve the financial report for the ODA. Jackie Colflesh second. Motion carried.

We will be having a Spring Fling and craft show April 5-6, 2025

#### TREASURER'S REPORT:

Randy Turner reported \$2.6 million in the Star account. \$2.5 million is capital budget and about \$43k is from the ODA and we have to stick with what we gave them on the list. A lift is on the list and there are several in the auction that we can look at. We are a little behind on the bed tax reimbursements.

Morgan has been really busy with W2s and 1099s. As we get caught up we will have more money to work with. We have 2 outstanding loans. We have the line of credit and the SBA loan and we would like to start getting those paid down.

Diane asked about the Commissioner taking money out of bed tax for insurance and can they do that.

Tom Wright said that he had met with Commissioner Benton and asked that question and he agreed that they should not be doing that. They were also requesting we leave \$1 million in the account and Jeff agreed that we do not have to do that and he will speak to them. He also mentioned a couple grants that we should apply for that are beneficial for non-profits. Randy mentioned that it comes down to whose money is it. We also asked for money to repay the grandstand for the entire year and they did not like that idea.

Adam had a question about the stallion account and the money in it. Tiffany explained that is where it was reconciled from the other Quick Books file. T. Thomson moved to approve the treasurer's report. Colleen Smith second. Motion carried.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Chris mentioned that the committee minutes were in the board packet. There were a couple maintenance issues that maintenance will discuss in their committee report

#### GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:

No Report. Dave and Jen will be discussing contracts that will need renewed.

#### FAC COMMITTEE:

No Report

#### ADVERTISING COMMITTEE:

T. Thomson mentioned Tim Wilson's marketing plan and we will be working on that. Dave Laaksonen asked where we were on the Pennsylvania sign. We need to apply for a variance and will reach out to the sign company to see if that is something that they will do for us.

#### SECURITY COMMITTEE:

No Report. Will be having a meeting in February

#### MOTORSPORTS COMMITTEE:

No Report. On the Mark sled company owner's wife passed away. Committee will send something to the family.

#### FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE:

Mark Fisher mentioned that the minutes went out in the board packet. Morco Electric fixed the paddock. Jen approved that repair to be done at \$2800 and the committee supported her on that. We are getting a bid on all new LED lighting in the performance barn and spider boxes in there as well. We

talked about wash bays and repairing those. RLS gave a bid on that. Discussion on whose responsibility fixing them was. Discussion will continue in Executive session. We fixed block where horses have kicked holes in the walls. We fixed them as a safety hazard. Mark would like a motion to be reimbursed from the horsemen to be added to their stall rent. Jackie Colflesh motioned for the cost to be passed on to the horsemen. Colleen Smith second. Motion carried.

Mark mentioned that for our 1<sup>st</sup> snow, we didn't have a salt spreader. We did buy one from Ag. Pro for \$6900. The same day we lost the leg underground at the maintenance building. AEP said that it is our responsibility, but they did put a temporary line down. Cory is around \$5k to dig and put conduit in and repair it. The budget for those 2 things was \$25k and we will be well under that.

We lost one truck for plowing and are about to lose another one due to equipment just being too old. We would like to get a truck, but not sure if that is feasible. Mike Harter asked about the 19 door truck that we wasted money on last time and that we can subcontract that out for less than \$6900.

Jackie asked why Tri wouldn't be doing fire extinguishers anymore. It is because they are getting out of the business of doing that at their new location.

Adam DeMarco mentioned that we had a fuel issue with an individual at the gas tanks. He proposed putting a set up at the fuel tanks that would code and keep track of equipment. It is easy to set up and can blue tooth to your phone. It would come with 50 users which we shouldn't ever need. The cost on that would be \$4349.73. Jen updated that the fuel tanks are currently locked and we only have 3 key holders. Discussion was held on the new system. Jackie Colflesh motioned for \$5k for the fuel system. Jeff Armentrout second. Motion carried.

#### RACING COMMITTEE:

Tom reported that the Breeder's Crown race is at Scioto Downs in 2026 and Don Campbell had called and asked if we could go a week earlier. The problem is where Labor Day falls. Tom asked the board to think about it and come let him know of reasons that would affect us doing that.

#### HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

No Report

#### BED TAX COMMITTEE:

Jon reported that we met with Myers about 3 projects. The Grandstand, a final complete master plan and replacing 2 barns and replacing the pig barn. We are still waiting on their proposal for these projects. Mike asked where we were with AEP and the midway project. Maintenance will discuss electric issues at the next meeting.

#### ALL HORSE PARADE:

Diane reported that the Buckeye Guy is booked for the parade. The parade is Sept. 7, 2025

#### HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE:

Don Howard asked for the old Ford tractor that was "Scotty's" tractor. He would like to ask the board to allow him to restore it and put it in the museum. Chris asked if we would have room for 2 tractors? Don said that we would have space. Diane Winters motioned to restore the tractor and put it in the Ag. Hall of Fame. Jackie Colflesh second. Motion carried.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mark Fisher brought up that Katie Meade sent him an email about digital tagging stick with an RFID reader that we will need to buy. It will be \$242 plus shipping. Jen can approve that purchase.

Mark reported that horse trailers are still not moving with the texts being sent. Or they will move and move back. Mike Harter will get with FD and see if they will come up and help with that.

Tom Wright moved to go into Executive session. Colleen Smith second. Motion carried.

Adam DeMarco moved to return to regular session noting that no decisions were made. Jackie Colflesh second. Motion carried.

Jackie Colflesh moved to adjourn. Diane Winters second. Motion carried.