

DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 20, 2025

ATTENDANCE:

Present-Jeff Armentrout, Jennifer Brown, Jackie Colflesh, Adam DeMarco, Mark Fisher, David Laaksonen, Bryan Mellen, Jon Melvin, Tiffany Rankin, Kevin Simpson, Colleen Smith, Chip Thomson, T. Thomson, Randy Turner, Chris Welker, Diane Winters, Don Howard, Patricia Gladman, Jen McGowan

ABSENT: Mike Harter, Benjamin Wenner, Tom Wright, Laryssa Hook

GUESTS: Mike Knapp, Jeff Crotty, Jeff Vigar, Peter Scott, Tim Skinner

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Peter Scott and Tim Skinner introduced themselves from Meyer's and Associates. They presented improvements to the grandstand accessibility and also the master plan. They went over framing the beginning of the master plan and understanding what that process looks like. They discussed the design plan that was handed out. The first step is gathering information for analysis. They will then do preliminary sketch plans, draft wish lists of the master plan, plan to get feedback during fair and finally the final master plan. This project should wrap up in early fall. The bike path is being taken into consideration. They discussed adding accessibility to the grandstand before fair. If it can't be done before fair, they would like to put up a display to show people what is coming and we could possibly put in a temporary ramp for this year.

Jeff Vigar with Absolute Impressions introduced himself and mentioned that Keith Hamilton, his business partner of 29 years, has retired and Jeff will be taking over our account this year. He has met with Jen and started getting things going for this year. If anyone has and questions or needs, let him know and he can get that going. He can also accommodate last minute requests. Randy Turner mentioned that he would like to see new coffee cups.

MINUTES:

Diane Winters motioned to approve the April 2025 board meeting minutes. Chip Thomson second. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Chris Welker reported that he and Tom Wright met with UMH properties and asked if they wanted to move their mobile home to the old fair office area and they agreed. We can now increase our tent area at the top of the stretch. Tim Wilson has been working on moving forward with our advertising project.

FAIR MANAGER'S REPORT:

Jen McGowan presented samples of our new Little Brown Jug license plate and asked for opinions on any changes. Board agreed to match the brown shades in the logo and lettering. Jen will submit the changes to the BMV and we should be able to purchase in the next couple months.

Jen asked the committees for any fair needs that they are aware of to be submitted in writing to the fair office by June 1<sup>st</sup> so that we can be proactive in starting on projects that we can do now, understanding that there are always last minute changes.

We are currently in the process of switching to Quick Books online.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT:

Randy Turner reported that he resent out the financials so that they were easier to read and asked if anyone had any questions. He mentioned that Tom had some questions regarding the finances which Randy had answered in an email earlier. Chip Thomson asked Randy to follow up with the Caribbean festival and their payments to us from the courts.

Randy reported that the purse account worked out better than he expected. We have 32 reissued checks that have cleared the bank and it has been worthwhile to get this caught up. Randy will work on 2019 and 19 once we get the rest sorted out.

Randy updated about the Comcast bill that came out of our account. It turned out to be an internal error at the bank and the money is back in our account already and that no one has our account information which is what he was worried about. Randy will be meeting with the bank on Thursday to review all of our accounts and where we stand on things.

The updated loan balances were discussed. On our \$3.2 million dollar grandstand loan, we are not at \$1.7 million. We did throw \$750k at it out of bed tax last year and it might be a discussion for bed tax for this year as well. The line of credit stands at \$86k right now and we would like to start working on paying that down. We got our first bill from Meyer's and Associates and \$19.5k of that is for the master plan. Randy would like to pay that out of the bed tax account. T. Thomson motioned to pay the \$19.5k out of the bed tax account for Meyer's and Associates. Colleen Smith second. Motion carried.

The commissioners have been paying our insurance bill due to them out of our bed tax account and Randy would like to submit our insurance bill to PEP for \$82k to bed tax for payment as well. Chip Thomson motioned to submit to pay the insurance bill to PEP for \$82k out of the bed tax account. Randy Turner second. Discussion was held on whether or not we would be using bed tax to pay it. Chris Welker called to question. There were 5 no votes: Jon Melvin, Mark Fisher, Bryan Mellen, Jeff Armentrout, and Jackie Colflesh. There were 10 yes votes: Jennifer Brown, Adam DeMarco, David Laaksonen, Tiffany Rankin, Kevin Simpson, Colleen Smith, Chip Thomson, T. Thomson, Randy Turner, Diane Winters. Motion carried.

Tiffany reported that the auditors will be here May 28-30 to do their field work. We do not have a full list of their needs yet.

Jon Melvin moved to approve the treasurer's report. Jennifer Brown second. Motion carried.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

No Report. Chris mentioned that the minutes were in the board packet.

#### GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:

Dave Laaksonen mentioned that we needed a formal vote on the new sound company, Kiser Sound for the 2025 fair. Jennifer Brown motioned to use Kiser Sound for the fair. T. Thomson second. Jeff Armentrout abstained. Motion carried.

#### FAC COMMITTEE:

Mark Fisher reported that board members met and came up with some rules regarding golf carts. Each committee will get a golf cart and the committee chair will be responsible for it. If there is misuse we can take it away from them. We can use extra carts that might not be being used until Thursday since they will only need them until Wednesday night.

#### ADVERTISING COMMITTEE:

T. Thomson mentioned they will be having a meeting next month. Chip brought up advertising on the billboards. Jen has already gotten those set up. Chip mentioned getting some names of some sign companies for our Pennsylvania Ave. sign. It is still our goal to get something out here for fair. We can apply for a variance on that sign or move on out front. Mark Fisher suggested repairing what we have now until we decide what we are going to do. Chip will have something up before fair and will get with Absolute Impressions to discuss.

#### SECURITY COMMITTEE:

Adam DeMarco proposed the code of conduct that was sent out in the board packet be approved. It was also sent to Executive committee for review. This will put policies in place in case something happens, we can fall back on this. Jackie Colflesh moved to approve the code of conduct. Chip Thomson second. Motion carried.

#### MOTORSPORTS COMMITTEE:

Jeff Armentrout reported that they are working with Jessica on sponsorships and he would like to discuss paying her a commission for the motorsports sponsorships. Jen will determine a percentage and get with Jess.

#### FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE:

Adam DeMarco reported that they discussed the replacement of the track tractor. The quote was for \$127k for a John Deere. We will have \$12k in trade in value so the final cost would be \$115k. It is a bigger tractor than we have had and should hold up better. T. Thomson motioned to approve the purchase of the new tractor at \$115k. Jackie Colflesh second. Motion carried.

There are 3 John Deere mowers that are about to be out of warranty. If we trade in our 2 72" and 1 62", they will give us \$40k in trade in value. So we would be trading in 3 and getting 2 for \$8,300. Randy Turner motioned purchasing the 2 mowers at \$8,300. Jennifer Brown second. Motion carried.

Chip asked if we could talk about getting a gator for maintenance. Jeff Armentrout mentioned that we did away with gators. Mark Fisher said that we have a cub cadet and we can look at getting it fixed up to be usable, which it currently is not, and we can look at getting a sprayer that would fit on the back.

#### RACING COMMITTEE:

Tiffany Rankin reported that the entry fees from the February and March payments are up \$50k. She has met with Frank with the OHHA regarding their purse enhancements and they will be the same as last year as well as their other funding throughout the year.

Qualifiers will be on June 17 and 24, 2025 at 9am. Jen has EMS scheduled to be here.

**HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:**

No Report

**BED TAX COMMITTEE:**

No Report

**ALL HORSE PARADE COMMITTEE:**

No Report. Parade will be September 7, 2025 at 3pm

**HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE:**

Don Howard reported that they should have the HOF announcement by the July meeting and they do not have a need for anything at this time.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Mark Fisher mentioned that the Pig and Lamb committee met and they have been counting the ground hog holes around the barn. We need to be doing more to get rid of them and get the holes filled in.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Discussed the possibility of putting up a kiosk to let people know they can purchase an LBJ license plate. Jr. Fair scholarship recipients are as follows: Jessie Rice \$1000. Sydney Stults \$1000. Tyler Thompson \$1000. Trenton Day \$1000.

Chip Thomson moved to adjourn. Jon Melvin second. Motion carried.