

DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MAY 19, 2026

ATTENDANCE:

Present- Jennifer Brown, Adam DeMarco, Patricia Gladman, Mike Harter, Don Howard, David Laaksonen, Earl Lehner, Jon Melvin, Kevin Simpson, Chip Thomson, T. Thomson, Chris Welker, Benjamin Wenner, Diane Winters, Tom Wright, Laryssa Hook, Jennifer McGowan

ABSENT: Jeff Armentrout, Colleen Smith, Randy Turner

GUESTS: Jeff Crotty, Jeri Jenkins

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chris Welker introduced Jeri Jenkins with Budweiser. Jeri would like to have the Clydesdales here for the 40th anniversary of the parade. We will definitely at least have one of them. She would like to have a party after the parade with pictures with the Clydesdales and a band. We would need to look into getting a liquor permit for that event. We will also need a restroom trailer. Chris Welker appointed a committee to start the planning process. The committee will be Patti Gladman, Don Howard, T. Thomson, Diane Winters, Colleen Smith and Jen McGowan.

MINUTES:

Don Howard moved to approve the April 2026 minutes, T. Thomson second. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Chris Welker reported that he, Benjamin, Chip, Kevin, and Jen met with the city to talk about the bike path. We are going to move forward getting some designs on our side and see what happens. Chris mentioned that he and Jen attended the Delaware County Finance Authority's board meeting and presented information on the tents. It was a very interesting learning experience.

FAIR MANAGER'S REPORT:

Jen McGowan reported that we settled the Skyworks lawsuit. Jen has secured 3 Massey Ferguson tractors for fair. If anyone has any needs besides what we already have on our lists for fair, we would like to have that as soon as possible to add to maintenance list. Jen mentioned that DACC will have only one more year on the grounds for their equine program. Jen is asking for the Humane Society to use the Jug or Jugette barn temporarily for about 20-30 horses. Chip Thomson motioned to approve the Humane Society to temporarily use either the Jug or Jugette barn. Benjamin Wenner second. Motion carried.

RACE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Tom Wright mentioned that he and Jennifer Brown met with the trophy company and made some progress there. They have had a sponsorship meeting and are heading in a good direction. Tom met with United Tote and they will present a new contract for another 3-5 years. The March payments are done and May 15th is here. Tom has reached out to the big staking farms. Chip Thomson mentioned that he would love to see us have a Delaware Open race or something similar. Tom said that they have done that in the past and that he wouldn't be opposed to looking into it. They are trying to reduce the number of races.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Randy Turner was absent so Jen McGowan presented the report

Financials – Jody continues to correct and integrate the financials. Items of note:

1. The balance sheet does not reflect our current financial position – the bank balance is \$287,000 with approximately \$50,000 in outstanding checks. Part of the issue is still reconciling and connecting deposits with payables in QuickBooks but we also have outstanding checks that must be cleared. Jody has cleared about \$100,000 in outstanding checks from when Dan Huffman was still treasurer since these financials were generated.
2. The balance owed Sargent Enterprises is still significant but we are making good progress. When we issue a payment, Sargent is picking it up in the office (hopefully bringing in any new invoices) and we are not issuing another payment until that check clears.

Loan Status - Grandstand-Balance is \$872,900.34 - we are in position to discuss how to pay it off by the end of this year.

STAR Account-Balance is \$2,388,783.58 – I have provided a spreadsheet to Jennifer if anyone wants detail.

Bed Tax Report-Balance with the commissioners is \$1,891,938.48 and we have spent \$1,063,360.93 so far this year. Jennifer has a spreadsheet with detail

Myers Associates-These expenditures are all from bed tax and the STAR account but I have generated another spreadsheet to help the board track expenses as well as help me stay organized since this comes from two pots of money. Jennifer has the spreadsheet for those interested. Paid to date - \$348,281.90

Credit Line-The balance on the credit line is \$33,652.11 and we have been using dividends from the STAR account to make payments. I expect to retire this balance before the next meeting and carry a \$0 balance on this account into the fair this year.

Tax Exempt Status-We have received our tax exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service retroactive to June 30, 2024.

Randy Turner is asking for a motion to approve a 403B retirement account for our employees wishing to participate. The presentation from Todd Everingham at last month's meeting was well received and we are ready to proceed. Chip Thomson moved to approve the 403B for employees with up to \$2500 yearly fees. Jennifer Brown second. Motion carried.

Randy Turner is asking for a motion to remove Dan Huffman as a signatory on the Stake Account and add Tom Wright, Randy Turner and Tiffany Rankin. Jennifer Brown moved to approve removing Dan Huffman from the account and adding Tom Wright, Randy Turner, and Tiffany Rankin to the Stake account. Benjamin Wenner second. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Chris Welker reported that the committee met at the beginning of the month. Tickets are ready to go live online for purchase.

GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:

No Report.

FAC COMMITTEE:

No Report. Benjamin Wenner mentioned that the Fair Book is online and is ready to print.

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE:

T. Tomson mentioned that they have no official report that the County will jump in and help us with Destination Delaware yet. We have given them the OK to move forward. Chip Thomson mentioned that over the past several years we have had an arbitrary number of \$85k in the budget for advertising and he would like to make it the same again for this year. Chip moved to approve \$85k for the advertising budget for 2026. Jennifer Brown second. Motion carried.

SECURITY COMMITTEE:

Mike Harter reported that we are moving forward with Advance Wiring solutions for the security systems on the buildings. This will cost less than \$10k and will be \$110 for monitoring. We would own all the equipment. They will also look into our camera situation. We have no more bandwidth to hold any more cameras at this point. We are working on pricing for that. This will not be a project completed before fair. Jen attended the first security meeting with EMA, FD, City PD and EMS. The meeting went well. We will have a PA system in place by fair that will be able to reach all areas of the fairgrounds. They have mentioned that they want us to come up with a policy on E-Bikes and Hoverboards. We will be picking up some barriers in the next couple weeks.

MOTORSPORTS COMMITTEE:

No Report.

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE:

Adam DeMarco reported that they met and went over projects and needs before fair. Jeff Crotty is working on fixing the riding arena fences. We would really like to get rid of all the white fencing and replace with split rail where needed. Adam mentioned that there is a pole in the middle of the roadway where we are wanting to pave. We will need to look into getting a quote to move that. The gas pumps are working, we just need to get it programmed. Mike Harter mentioned that he had talked to Cory with Morco after his contract removed and asked him to identify what we need fixed. Mike passed around photos and a list of priorities. We will get a bid on those items and see what that looks like. Adam updated on the bath stalls. We are still waiting on Fraker to get us a quote. Jeff did have someone come in and give us a bid of about \$15k per stall. Tom Wright is concerned about mold making the horses sick.

Chip Thomson mentioned that we needed to get some type of scope of work for this. Chris appointed a committee of Jennifer Brown, Adam DeMarco, Jon Melvin, Don Howard and Chip Thomson to help move this along in the next 30 days.

Tom Wright mentioned that the sound guys were on grounds and would be willing to come out and show us what their needs are. Jeff Crotty will work with them on getting that done.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

No Report

BED TAX COMMITTEE:

Jon Melvin reported that they did not meet but that the contract is done with ACI to proceed. We are still waiting on updates from Myers on the barns. Chris mentioned that he and Jon met with Jon Huffman about paving. He is going to send some documents with the estimated cost. The front of the grandstand, Top of the Stretch area and game row would be \$411k. This will be a project completed this year and would go in after the ramps. Benjamin asked what the cost difference was from the first estimated cost. Chris said that it was \$10 less on this one. T. Thomson motioned to allow the County to put this out to bid. Jon Melvin second. Motion carried.

ALL HORSE PARADE COMMITTEE:

Diane Winters reported that she has been non-stop on the phone inviting Clydesdales to the parade. All the forms are out and shirts are in process. The parade will be September 13, 2026 at 3pm

HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE:

No Report

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mike Harter reported that Keith Ott with Delaware Meats passed away.

Tom Wright moved to adjourn. Benjamin Wenner second. Motion carried.