DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 18, 2026

ATTENDANCE:
Jeff Armentrout, Jennifer Brown, Adam DeMarco, Patricia Gladman, Mike Harter, Don Howard, David Laaksonen, Earl Lehner, Kevin Simpson, Colleen Smith, T. Thomson, Randy Turner, Chris Welker, Benjamin Wenner, Tom Wright, Jen McGowan

ABSENT: Jon Melvin, Chip Thomson, Diane Winters, Laryssa Hook

GUESTS: Jeff Crotty, Mike Knapp, Bill Lowe

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:
Chris Welker called the meeting to order, Jennifer Brown led the pledge of allegiance, and Jen McGowan called the roll.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
None

MINUTES:
Earl Lehner moved to approve the July 2026 minutes. T. Thomson second. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:
Chris Welker mentioned that it is about time for fair. He, Jeff, and Tom met to discuss the grandstand. Things are going well. They are meeting with the handrail company tomorrow so things are progressing. The asphalt project should be starting at the end of this week beginning of next week. Jen McGowan asked when the September board meeting would be. Chris stated that it will be September 8, 2026 at 6pm.

FAIR MANAGER'S REPORT:
Jen McGowan brought a quote for picnic tables to replace the old ones at the Buckeye Valley building. For the all-weather picnic tables, they vary from $975 to $1200. T. Thomson motioned to get 3 new picnic tables for the cheaper price. Benjamin Wenner second. Motion carried.
Jen updated on a couple projects going on. The Arts and Crafts building and the Paddock roofs have been completed and look great. The new doors for the Merchant, Coliseum, and Arts and Crafts came back with a different amount in the quote due to some recommended hardware from the fire inspector. The total cost for all 8 doors is $52,107. Earl Lehner moved to approve the completion of the doors at the $52,107. Patti Gladman second. Motion carried.
Jen mentioned that she had board packets ready to hand out after the meeting. It is definitely getting close to fair time.

TREASURER'S REPORT:
Randy Turner reported that the financials are starting to look a lot better. The balance is higher than it looks. They had good discussion in the finance meeting last week and were able to get some other things fixed. Hannah Edelbute is heading up the sale committee, and we were going to wrap all of that into our QuickBooks, but we are going to put a pause on that. They are willing to get their own stand-alone QuickBooks and go online. Earl Lehner asked about the A/R and is it correct that we have several people owing over 90 days. Randy explained that yes, some are vendors that have been invoiced for a deposit, but the final payment is not due yet. Don Howard asked about the sales committee having their own QuickBooks and will the auditor be able to audit that. Randy replied that yes, it will get added into our QuickBooks for the audit. Randy updated that the Star Ohio account balance is $2,087,286.29. We have about $15k in dividends available and he has moved $12k into that account for scarifying the track. The balance in the Bed Tax account is $2,339,623.83. The balance of the grandstand loan is $735,529.20. He expects it to be $552k by the end of this year and we will pay it off in January as part of next year's budget. We owe less than $1000 on the line of credit.
The 403B plan is set up for the employees and everyone is participating which is great.
We still have not received the $400k from the Capital Budget.
Randy gave a warning about all the fraud out there and updated on an incident that happened this week in the office involving First Citizen's Bank.

RACE SECRETARY'S REPORT:
Tom Wright reported that we have too many races, this is the most that we have ever had. There will be some long days. Tom mentioned the news about the Hambiltonian moving and that this is why we have a separate board for the Little Brown Jug. Sponsorship is going pretty well. He would like to have a meeting on Friday. Tom mentioned that we are invited to attend the Breeders Crown at Scioto Downs. The big day is October 24. Will need to get a head count on those who would like to attend. We will not be scarifying the track this year, we have had too much rain. Tom thanked Jeff Crotty for taking the blows on that. We will look at doing it possibly in the spring or maybe in October.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:
Chris Welker mentioned that the minutes were in the board packet. They went over the steps and ramps that couldn't be done at the grandstand. They also approved the railing at that meeting and talked about bed tax stuff

GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:
Dave Laaksonen reported that they reviewed the lawyer reviewed policies and approved how they were worded. Dave Laaksonen motioned to approve the mobility policy and assumption of risk policy as written. Colleen Smith second. Motion carried.

FAC COMMITTEE:
Benjamin Wenner reported that they did not meet, but will have some things to talk about later. They will be meeting the second Saturday in September. Mike Harter asked if we are adding the new tent this year. Benjamin didn't think that we are setting it up, but will let him know after Saturday. Jen McGowan mentioned that open show entries were up this year.

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE:
T. Thomson reported that we approved radio advertising and a few other items at their meeting.

SECURITY COMMITTEE:
Mike Harter reported that we are getting ready to go to the final meeting with the County. We should have a final fair plan by Sept. 4. Motorsports need for fire and EMS and private security is locked in. We talked about water barriers a year ago. They no longer stock them. If we can get them ordered this week, we can have them for the fair this year. The total cost on those is $7, 020. Benjamin Wenner moved to approve purchase of the water barriers for $7,020. Patti Gladman second. Motion carried.

MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE:
Adam DeMarco mentioned that they did meet. Weather has not been very cooperative. Down in the pit, there is a catch basin that has blown out and we will have to have Ben Lehner come in and fix that. The power panels are going in. We now also have a drivable roller. Mike Harter mentioned that there is a pole in the west lot that needs a light for a camera. He also mentioned that last year he had talked to Homeland Security about a grant. We can start after fair to apply for a grant for a generator for the Ag Center.
Adam mentioned that the sooner we can get things to Jeff Crotty to get done, the better. We are getting very close to fair.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:
Colleen Smith reported that 4 or 5 members of the committee went for a tasting at All Occasions and we have changed a few things on the menu. We will have a final committee review in the first week of September. We need to have scanner training for all the people who will be using them.

MOTORSPORTS COMMITTEE:
Jeff Armentrout mentioned that they need a new fence where the hill is. We got a quote from Tackett for a 200' long fence for $4200 for a 4' fence, and $5300 for a 5' fence. T. Thomson moved to approve the 5'x200'fence for the motorsports area for the $5300. Randy Turner second. Motion carried. We are having the wiener dog races. We have over 15 dogs so far.

BED TAX COMMITTEE:
Tom Wright mentioned that they had met on the 29th of July. We made a motion to approve the railing to take to the exec committee. The roof on the paddock is done. They have decided to hold off on the cabin repair. We met with an Owner's Rep at our last meeting and the committee agrees to look at using that person to get us thru these projects in the future. An Owner's rep could help us in a lot of ways.

ALL HORSE PARADE COMMITTEE:
Tom Wright updated that Diane Winters had been in the hospital for a couple weeks. She would probably appreciate a text check in. They are on track with the ribbons. The parade is Sunday, September 13th at 3pm.

HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE:
Don Howard reported they are in good shape. No report.

OLD BUSINESS:
None

NEW BUSINESS:
None

Benjamin Wenner moved to go into executive session regarding a personnel matter. Earl Lehner second. Motion carried.
Benjamin Wenner moved to return to regular session, noting that no decisions were made. Jennifer Brown second. Motion carried.

Benjamin Wenner updated with a correction on the dairy tent. With the extra entries, we will need the tent. We will put it at the North end of the tie out.

Randy Turner moved to adjourn. T. Thomson second. Motion carried.