DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JULY 21, 2026

ATTENDANCE:
Jeff Armentrout (left at 7:25pm), Jennifer Brown, Adam DeMarco (6:49pm), Patricia Gladman, Don Howard, Earl Lehner, Jon Melvin, Kevin Simpson, Colleen Smith, Chip Thomson, T. Thomson, Chris Welker, Benjamin Wenner, Diane Winters, Tom Wright, Jen McGowan

ABSENT: Mike Harter, David Laaksonen, Randy Turner, Laryssa Hook

GUESTS: Jeff Crotty

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:
None

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:
Chris Welker reported that he just got back from 4-H camp. He might be on a podcast with Destination Delaware in the future. Chris has been watching the ticket orders coming in online. It is out there and is starting to work. Chris mentioned that he had gotten an email from Jon Huffman regarding the asphalt project. Shelly and Sands was the lowest bid and under the estimate at $413,331. Chip Thomson asked if the area in front of the grandstand was included in this bid. Chris answered that it was included in the bid. Chip thanked him for clarifying. Colleen asked about the asphalt on the east end of the grandstand and it is not part of this bid. Chip Thomson motioned to approve the bid from Shelly and Sands for $413,311 for the asphalt project. Colleen Smith second. Motion carried.

FAIR MANAGER'S REPORT:
Jen McGowan reported that she got the quotes for the rain insurance for 2026. Based on the same days and hours as last year, the total was $$12,740. This would be for Sunday from 12pm-5pm, Wednesday from 7am-1pm, and Thursday from 7am-1pm. Discussion was held on increasing Thursday's limit. Benjamin Wenner moved for Jen McGowan to rework the numbers to increase Thursday coverage up to $15k. Chip Thomson second. Motion carried.
Jen got a quote to replace the doors on the merchant building for $17,411.20. These were non-compliant per the fire inspection. There are also 2 doors on the Coliseum and one on the Arts & Crafts.

To do all of them would be about $29k. T. Thomson motioned to replace all the doors up to $29k. Diane Winters second. Motion carried.
Jen mentioned getting a bench in honor of Dan Huffman would be $1000 and would the board like to split the cost with the 4H committee. Chip Thomson mentioned that there is a bench outside the Ag. Center with a broken plaque that also needs replaced, and we can do that at the same time. Chip Thomson motioned to pay half for the bench for Dan Huffman, Colleen Smith second. Motion carried.
Jen mentioned that she hired a new staff member for the office. Heidi Moehring will be our temporary office staff for the season so stop in and say hi.
Jen reported that she talked to ACI about the change in molds and asked Benjamin Wenner's question about getting the walls dyed or clear coated and due to time constraints, they offered to give us a $1000 dollar credit. Chris explained that the brick forms were not what the specs called for. They were originally supposed to be a smooth finish. The board agreed that the brick finish would look better and hide more blemishes.

RACE SECRETARY'S REPORT:
Tom Wright updated on scarifying the racetrack. This should ultimately be done every 3-4 years. Greg Coon is recommending a milling machine to do the work. This will cover 7-8' of width, and we should be able to get it done in a day. We will do the work on Aug. 3rd. for $8,850 which also includes hauling. We are paying for a minimum of 9 hours. We will also have Greg's bill for a few days, hotel and flight. The hope is for Jeff and Henry to learn how to do this and they can do it next time on their own. Chip Thomson motioned to approve the scarifying expenses up to $15k. Diane Winters second. Motion carried. Tom mentioned that he now has 2 bids on repairing the log cabin. There is a $90k difference between the 2 of them, so we will need to do some more research on that for comparison. We will wait until fall on this. Tom mentioned that Randy Turner brought up the paddock roof and the bad shape that it is in. Jen had gotten 3 bids from roofing companies and presented them to the board. Benjamin Wenner motioned to approve the bid from M&R Roofing for $44,283.73. This bid includes metal roofing, gutters, downspouts, snow guards, and an anchor system to hang the Chesrown banner. Patti Gladman second. Motion carried.
Tom updated on sponsorships. We are a little over $200k and still have some more to go. Payment wise, we are done. Just a small deadline in August left. We will get a small bill for that for using Pam to help. The Tuesday night Wall of Fame honors three people. This year Marilyn Fogle will be the Lady Pace honoree, Chip Hastings will receive the Neville award, and Governor Mike DeWine will be the Wall of Fame Honoree. Chris Welker asked what the number of RSVPs coming in that we would want to think about moving the event out of the cabin. Tom mentioned setting up the tables differently to allow for more space. He is meeting with Tiffany and Jay tomorrow and will get invites out earlier this year to get the RSVP count and see if we need to move it.

TREASURER'S REPORT:
Chris Welker gave the report on behalf of Randy Turner
STAR account is sitting at $2,374,376.59 to date

Bed Tax balance is $2,217,089.39. The finance committee discussed the budget submission for 2027 to commissioners, possible purchase and installation of solar panels to cover electric use in the Ag Center, will ask Jennifer to get new quotes for roof on paddock and see if we can get it done before fair.

Reviewed report for Myers bills, we have paid them$359,864.83 to date.

Randy reported expected loan balances for Line of Credit (~$1630 after July payment) and Grandstand loan (~$782,500 after July payment)

The 403b offering for our employees continues to progress with all paperwork signed and hoping to get this onboard in August 2026 with board providing matching funds up to 3%. All employees are eligible and must opt out if they do not wish to participate.

Scarification of the track is scheduled for August 3, 2026 and we plan to use dividends from the STAR account to pay the bill.

The following is a motion from the finance committee to the floor: The private sale will purchase the following at a cost of $24,000

- 2011 3520 John Deere utility tractor with 696.8 hours
- Backhoe attachment (375)
- Bucket attachment (300 CX loader)
- Finish mower
- Sprayer
- 150 gallon roller
- Grapples
- Grader blade
- Box blade
- Hobalt MIG Welder and supplies
- All purchase paperwork available to also be supplied

Accept the gift of a 20 ft. tandem axle trailer with electric winch valued at $5000

The Fair Board will provide a tax deductible receipt for the tractor, a lifetime pass for Anita Shively, and two week long passes for 10 years beginning with the 2026 Delaware County Fair.

Jon Melvin moved to approve the deal as written for the new equipment. Colleen Smith second. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:
Chris Welker reported that the committee met and approved a few expected change orders from the Grandstand ramp project, but nothing crazy.

GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:
No Report

FAC COMMITTEE:
Benjamin Wenner mentioned that he had all the sound requests from last year's fair and he will scan them to Jen to get to the sound company. Kevin Simpson mentioned that he was working on plant risers for the flower ladies.
Benjamin mentioned that the new Dairy tent was dumped on Jon Melvin. Jen found a tent to house the animals if the numbers are up. We need to discuss placement. Mike Harter has a meeting with Chief Carr next week and they will discuss that. The tent will be sponsored for $2000 if it is needed, if it is not needed, the sponsor will pay $500 for a banner to be hung in the show arena.

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE:
T. Thomson reported that the committee will be meeting August 6 to finalize advertising needs. Chip Thomson mentioned getting the table tents with animals on them to hand out to businesses. He mentioned that the digital sign in Marion is gone but the one on 33 is still live. Chip passed around information on overhauling our website making it more user friendly. More to come on that. Chip secured an extension for our $2.5 million dollar grant for the grandstand until December of this year. Things are also in the works to extend the bed tax, hopefully in a lame duck session.

SECURITY COMMITTEE:
Adam DeMarco brought up policies to add to the code of conduct. The board recommended that we run them thru an attorney and also the G&A committee.
Jon Melvin brought up the security systems that we have talked about for the cabin, Ag. Center, Grandstands, and maintenance shop. The committee has decided to go with AWS for this project. The total quote is $5300 and adding the main rental area of the Ag. Center will be up to $8k. We would need that area to run on a separate system. Jon Melvin motioned to approve up to $8k for the security system. Benjamin Wenner second. Motion carried.
Benjamin asked about getting a camera installed inside the pig & lamb barn.

MOTORSPORTS COMMITTEE:
No Report

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE:
Adam Demarco reported that we got some quotes from Morco on a new motorsports panel for $5k and a quote to fix and bury the conduit in the grandstands for $3700. Chip Thomson thinks that the conduit powers the timer for the racetrack and infield. Chip Thomson motioned to approve the $3700 bid from Morco Electric to fix the conduit. Benjamin Wenner second. Diane Winters abstained. Motion carried.
Benjamin Wenner moved to approve the motorsports panel at $5k. Jeff Armentrout second. Diane Winters abstained. Motion carried.
Jennifer Brown mentioned that she had seen some chatter about manure hauling and put some numbers together. At $250 per dump it averages about $62.50 per stall per month.
Chip Thomson mentioned the blacksmith shops on grounds are in bad shape and need to be looked at. The one in the back needs to be demolished and maybe replaced with a small barn of some type. Both need upgraded electric.
Jeff Armentrout asked about removing and replacing the dead trees in the west lot. Jen will get some quotes for that. Benjamin Wenner can help her with that.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:
Colleen Smith reported that they did not meet, but they are having a meeting on the 29th for the 40th Anniversary parade party. We are trying to get at least one Clydesdale here but we are unable to get any. Colleen will pull a hospitality meeting after that meeting.

BED TAX COMMITTEE:

Tom Wright reported that we are going to lose some money on the east end of the grandstand. Discussion was held on the tile found under the ground. There are no records of this and no one knew it was there. The question is are we going to repair it before we do anything with the stairs on that side. Do we want to put in temporary stairs until we come up with a solution for the crushed pipe or do we put permanent steps back in. Adam didn't think the new steps would be in the way. Benjamin Wenner asked about getting a project manager to oversee this project. He knows of someone and it would cost $50k for the year. Tom mentioned that bed tax will meet on the 29th at 6pm. Benjamin will bring his guy to the meeting and we will decide to move forward or not. Chris mentioned that there would be some sort of cost and credit for the stairs and lack of a ramp on the east end.

ALL HORSE PARADE COMMITTEE:
Diane Winters reported that until the gas prices drop, our entries are down. The committee decided to take the entry deadline off the form and accept all entries at any time as long as we can get them. The parade will be Sept. 13, 2026 at 3pm.

HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE:
No Report

OLD BUSINESS:
None

NEW BUSINESS:
Kevin Simpson mentioned that when he was up here over the weekend he noticed water running from barn 36 down toward the cabin. He could not find the source. Could be a hose left on from a horseman.

Jennifer Brown moved to adjourn. T. Thomson second. Motion carried.