DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

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

ABSENT: Mike Harter, Chip Thomson, Diane Winters

GUESTS: Jody Bennett, Jeff Crotty, Bill Lowe, Mike Knapp

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:
Randy Turner moved to approve the August 2026 minutes. Don Howard second. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:
Chris Welker reported that the tents are up which means fair is here. Everything seems to be coming together early this year. He mentioned that he has been helping the girls in the office with tickets. We have had a few hiccups but it seems to be working out. Training will be next week on the scanners. Thanks to Colleen, we should have a good understanding of what we are walking into.

FAIR MANAGER'S REPORT:
Jen McGowan mentioned that the roof has been completed on the paddock and the new doors for the merchant building and coliseum are being painted and will be in next week. Things are quickly coming together for fair, if anyone has any last minute requests, now is the time to get them to us and maintenance.

RACE SECRETARY'S REPORT:
Tom Wright reported that things are pretty good on the racing side of things. John Littlejohn has been working on sponsors and it has been great. There are still a couple stragglers dragging their feet on sponsorships. We are at about $315k right now. We are waiting on Anheuser Busch's contract to get signed. We have not done claiming races in a long time and we are working thru the details on that. It is basically an in and out of cash.

TREASURER'S REPORT:
Randy Turner reported that QuickBooks is not completely reconciled yet from August. We should see those buy the end of the week and he will get those sent out. Randy mentioned that he sent out the Bed Tax, Star Account and Myers reports. If anyone has any questions on those to let him know. He is submitting $80k in permanent improvement projects, it will be nice to get that in before fair.

Patricia Gladman: No Report

Colleen Smith: Reported that they are ready to rock and roll. Colleen passed her phone around so that everyone could see the banner that was ordered for Diane for the All Horse Parade. Dave Laaksonen has a couple people to carry it during the parade. Anheuser Busch has a plaque that they would like to present to her as well.

Laryssa Hook: No Report but wanted to inform the board that Bob Irvin, a former board member passed away. He worked on getting the original Little Brown Jug shrubs put in. Jen will get with Tom and get flowers sent.

Jon Melvin: No Report

T. Thomson: No Report

Benjamin Wenner: FAC will meet on Saturday. If anyone wants to put money in for the sale, bring it in to Jen by Monday and then we will know what we have to spend for the sale. This will be Tuesday at 5pm if anyone would like to come over for the picture.

Jennifer Brown: No Report

Tom Wright: Danny Jones and Buck will start putting TV's up Wednesday of next week.

Adam DeMarco: Kudos to Jeff and his team for having so much already done ahead of schedule. The maintenance committee came in yesterday to help him get the hoop barn fixed, set up and ready.

Earl Lehner: No Report

Kevin Smith: No Report

Dave Laaksonen: Programs are down to the right numbers. He didn't touch Wednesday or Thursday. He added the new tents. They are staying with the same $3 price this year. Dave asked about painting all the buildings before fair next year that need a fresh coat of paint. The board agreed by a show of hands that they are agreeable to that.

Don Howard: No Report

Randy Turner: No Report

Jeff Armentrout: Mentioned that we had 35 dogs signed up for the Wiener Dog races this year.

Chris Welker gave an update on the grandstand. The rest of the railings will be coming in tomorrow. The stairs will be here Friday and they are scheduled to pour concrete on Monday or Tuesday. Paul will be replacing the 40 boards that need to be replaced and Jeff Crotty will be behind him painting. We will need Paul to get occupancy or temporary occupancy by Saturday. If there are any concerns or testing that we want done, bring it to Jen so that she can ask the questions. The beam got some welds repaired and there will be a cap put over the rusted beam. It will be primed but not painted.

Don Howard mentioned that there will be political candidates here this year and reminded everyone that they can't be out politicking.

Tom Wright asked if the horse ambulance was ready to roll. Jeff mentioned that everything is ready to go and Jenny Brown's truck is available to pull it.

Benjamin Wenner moved to go into Executive session for personnel reasons. T. Thomson second. Motion carried.

Colleen Smith moved to return to regular session, noting that no decisions were made. T. Thomson second. Motion carried.

Jon Melvin moved to adjourn. Colleen Smith second. Motion carried.

Chris Welker mentioned that we would be meeting at 7:30am fair week.