

The Special meeting (10 days after the fair) of the Ross County Agricultural Board of Directors was held Monday, August 21, 2023, at the Ross County Fairgrounds, 344 Fairgrounds Road, Chillicothe, Ohio.

The meeting was called to order by President Bradford Cosenza at 6:00 pm.

Roll Call revealed that Corcoran, Elliott, Gearhart, Haubeil Jr., McCorkle, Hoop, and Guthrie were absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Cosenza.

Guests – Tom McWhorter, Andrea Arledge, Chris Hooks, Bradley Parrett, Karl Gearhart, Heather Sowers, Leslie Willis, Katrina Robinson, and Ryan Kline.

Andrea Arledge, President of Ladies Auxiliary reported there were 462 exhibitors with 2,877 entries for 2023(up 405 entries from 2022). Homemaker of the Year is Kathy Wells with 103 classes over 18 departments receiving 285 points. Newly elected officers are, President Gayle Mahaffey, Treasurer Lori Graves, officers elected for 2024, Vice President Karen Cydrus and Secretary Cathy Lamm.

Karl Gearhart went over his dumpster bill and donation to Fair Board. He stated that he worked well with Bub Campbell and appreciated the business.

Leslie Willis, a parent of a 4-H exhibitor selling his steer, wanted clarification on how the sale order that was changed this year worked. She felt it was unfair that her son was a class winner and it was not mentioned at the time of his sale and he sold third from last. She thought it was punishment for the buyers to have to stay until 11:30 pm to purchase at the livestock sale. It was explained to her why it had been changed. Buyers have requested to receive the sale bill earlier so they can plan their purchases.

Heather Sowers, a parent of a 4-H exhibitor selling turkeys was upset that the turkey sale was not in order as it was published, and to sale 30 turkeys, including Grand and Reserve Champions only took 30 minutes and the prices were very low compared to surrounding fairs.

Brad Parrett was upset and complained that he has always been on the calf scramble committee and now will not be included due to personal issues with the rest of the committee. Bethel said he would speak to the committee.

Clary would like to drop the discussion and resume after the checks have been distributed.

Pickerrell suggested to go back to just covering the Jr Fair Horse Arena for now until money has been raised to build the planned upgrade.

Kline - The Jr Fair went well, two probation letters had to be sent. The fair vet worked well. Jr Fair Board had good reviews from the Superintendents. The show and sale bills went out much faster this year. He thanked the Senior Fair Board for the use of the Grandstand for Jr. Fair Night, they brought in \$19,000.00 for the night. The food drive did not do so well. Evaluations will be sent out soon. There was an issue in the Sheep Barn with one sheep, he would like to see if cameras can be placed in the sheep barn and wash racks in the future.

Tom McWhorter - 823 exhibitors went through the sale arena and most sale times were compatible to last year's times.

Kacey Shaffer reported that the Buyers Appreciation Dinner is back this year. It is being presented by the Ross County Agricultural Society and Just Meats. It will be held on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, doors open at 6:00pm, dinner served at 6:30pm, program and awards at 7:15pm, in the Multipurpose Building.

8-1-23: Clever moved, Kemper seconded to accept the July 11 & 31, 2023, minutes. Motion carried.

A list of businesses that donated equipment and time was given to Ludwick to send thank you notes.

Katrina Robinson thinks that the Senior Fair Board should show more support to the Queen during the OFMA Convention.

Cosenza - Thought the fair went well this year. Bub Campbell did a great job with emptying the trash cans. He was also very appreciative of the letter that was sent to the Senior Fair Board from a family with disabled children, thanking us for the assisted bathrooms we have. The entrance off of the 207 connector worked great.

8-2-23: Hill moved, Prater seconded to refund the down payment of a renter on the Vegetable Building. Motion carried.

It was suggested that the rental agreements should state No Refunds.

Wheeler – The Dixie Chopper mower needs to be replaced it no longer works. The Skaggs mower does not do very well either. Hill will put together an estimate for replacement. The 301 John Deere is not being used and someone would like to

purchase it. It will be put on gov.deals. 1st Capital Enterprise is not doing a very good job on cleaning up after the fair. Community Service people are helping clean the buildings.

8-3-23: Clary moved, Bethel seconded to purchase a Read Post Driver for \$2,045.00. Motion carried.

Hill – They will be setting up the fence for RoCo and the stage will be setting up on Monday, help is needed. They have met with Critical Protection Services and they will be taking tickets and will have metal detectors, they will be using gate #1 and the tunnel gate. Four generators have been rented.

Peterbilt sponsored the stage for \$10,000.00. VanHoose has been working with 10 radio and tv stations, covering 6 states.

The PA system is not working properly and the amp is broken in the Jr Horse Arena.

8-4-23: Bethel moved, Clever seconded to approve submitting August 3-10, 2024 for next years fair dates for ODA to approval. Motion carried.

8-5-23: Clary moved, VanHoose seconded to nominate Bill Pickerrell for the Hall of Fame Award. Motion carried.

Boggs would like a way that the building cleaners can gain entrance into the MPB next year during the fair without gaining entrance into the office.

Bethel – The golf cart orders for the fair next year will have to be placed earlier, if you want something different than what has been ordered in the past please let him know.

The reserving seats in the Pitts is getting out of control something needs to be done as well as the VIP seats.

8-6-23: Boggs moved, Prater seconded to refund Sheila Clark her booth rental money for the Commercial Building during the fair due to a death in the family. Motion carried.

Clifton – Another air conditioning vendor would work out great in the Commercial Building.

Haubeil asked the status of the hog that tested positive during the fair, ODA is now investigating.

Pickerrell thanked Gray for stepping up and judging the second flower show after the judge was in a car accident on the way to the fair.

8-7-23: Clary moved, Boggs seconded to give Wheeler, Guthrie, and Ludwick a bonus of \$1,000.00 for their work during the fair. Motion carried.

Nelson – The first Monday of the fair there were 14 spots that had been rented that did not have a camper or tent on the site. Those in violation were called and all but 4 put something on their site. On Sunday at 7:30pm after the fair 25 campers were still plugged in and were charged an extra \$25.00, on Monday after the fair 4 campers were plugged in and were charged an extra \$50.00.

Rain insurance for RoCo was discussed and decided it was too expensive.

8-8-23: Boggs moved, Hill seconded to pay PEP Insurance no more than \$8,250.00 for general liability and liquor liability for RoCo. Motion carried.

8-9-23: Bethel moved, Nelson seconded to permit Ross County Farm Bureau/SWCD to conduct Ag Career Exploration Day on September 12, 2023 for area FFA students. Motion carried.

8-10-23: Bethel moved, Gray seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:14pm. Motion carried.

WITNESSED BY:

RESPECTIVELY SUBMITTED BY:

BRADFORD COSENZA
RCAS PRESIDENT

MARY LUDWICK
RCAS SECRETARY