

Cass County Fair Association  
Regular Meeting  
Gregarek Building  
May 13, 2025  
Minutes

President Dave Bratton called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Present:** President Dave Bratton, Vice President Daryl Keesler, Secretary Sara Johnson, Treasurer Diane Skibbe, Fair Manager Brenda Smego, Rental Mike Smego, Directors Jim Teter, Rodney Waldschmidt, Rob Eubank, Neil Bowman, Stephanie Bender-Breseman, Zelda Cloud, Shane Harris, Ben Waldschmidt, Mike Frushour, Recorder Stephanie Knepple, Guests Sara Heuer, Jeremiah Hartsell, Mackenzie Hartsell, Tiffany Graves, Pauline Harris, Ryan Laperriere, Nick Dussel, Preston Bartow, Vicki Schoetzow, Tim Miller, Heather Burchfield, Jon Blough, Laura Blough, Mike Rogers, Jim Strukel, Nikita Mehaney, Julie Johnson.

**Absent:** Directors David Gleason, Rob Carpenter, and Gail Peterson.

**Minutes:** Zelda Cloud moved to approve April 2025 Board Meeting Minutes, supported by Rodney Waldschmidt. Motion carried.

**Financial Report:** Zelda Cloud moved to approve the Financial Report, supported by Stephanie Bender-Breseman. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:**

- Dave Bratton reported that he attended validations and was impressed on how successful they were. Kudos to the superintendents and volunteers.
- Sara Heurer addressed the 4 trees by the draft horse barn and ring. Shared appreciation, but 3 of the 4 trees will cause an issue.
  - A meeting will be scheduled with Mike Smego and Daryl Keesler about moving the trees.
- McKenzie Hartsell reported hog validation went well. Offering it for 2 days was helpful for the families. 242 hogs were validated. Had plenty of help. Shared a thought to have an available weigh day at the end of June for families that would like to weigh their hogs. It was approved to have an open and voluntary weigh day on June 21st 7am-11am.

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- Tiffany Graves
  - Security meeting scheduled for June 10th at 6pm.
  - Graves asked the board what they were looking for from the 3 Reserves.
    - Monday, Tuesday, and Friday 10pm-4am
  - 18 members for mounted division will be present
- Ryan Laperriere presented her case on the reasoning why her coggins test results were submitted late. The lab took over 3 weeks to send her the results.
  - There will be an additional meeting to discuss the situation.
- Preston Bartow inquired if there has been any more discussion about small animals buyback.
  - Something to consider is the difference is that resale on Thursday is by weight vs. resale on Saturday would be per head.
  - Sara suggested for Preston to submit a proposal and submit it to Brenda Smego for the board to review.
- Jon Blough inquired if participants are only allowed to have one sale lot for those that get grand and reserve get to sell 2. Blough suggested to open it to top 6 to have the opportunity to sell 2.
- Mike Rogers shared that he received the letter from the lawyer. Has heard conflicting information and would like clarification about his daughter and what she is able to do. Understanding she is not allowed to show at the 2025 fair.
  - Dave Bratton that she is not banned from the fairgrounds. Thinks it would be great for her to volunteer and help fellow 4-Hers. She is just not allowed to bring a horse due to not being able to show at the fair.

**Committee Reports:**

- Raffle Report: Currently 86 tickets have been sold. A total of 300 need to be sold at \$100 per ticket. 10 cash prizes will be awarded for a total of \$15,000.00 and \$15,000.00 will go towards fair improvements.
- Sponsorship Report: Brenda Smego reported it is going slow. \$40,000-\$50,000 is average currently far below the average that has been received.

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- Concrete Report: Mike Smego shared that the concrete company is scheduled to begin work by Memorial Day weekend.
- Lowe Building: Mike Smego reported that 3 phase transformers need to be installed by MEC.
- Work Nights: Scheduled for Thursdays beginning May 15th at 5pm

**Old Business:**

- Website Design: Zelda Cloud reported the development has gone well and is currently live.

**New Business:**

- Fair Entry Program: Training is scheduled for May 19th 6pm-8pm
- Date Change for Workshop: May 31st 8am-12pm
- Set Date for Superintendent Meeting: June 5th at 6pm
- Set Date for Auction Meeting: June 23rd at 6pm
- Car Show: Free entry for 2 people in the car.
  - The Car Show will depend on the weather.
- Ag Olympics Ages: Stephanie Bender-Breseman shared the difference between the age difference for Ag Olympics compared to show ages. The age difference is confusing.
- Wifi Infrastructure: Mike Frushour is adding more spots throughout the fair to help with the lag. Frushour will add private wifi for board members and superintendents.

**Adjournment:** 8:18 p.m.

Mike Frushour, moved.

Rodney Waldshmidt, supported.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Stephanie Knepple