

**Cass County Fair Association
Regular Meeting
Gregarek Building
October 14, 2025
Minutes**

“This Meeting is a meeting of the Cass County Fair Board in Public for the purpose of conducting Fair Board business and is not considered a public meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated in the agenda.”

President Dave Bratton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: President Dave Bratton, Vice President Daryl Keesler, Secretary Sara Johnson, Fair Manager Brenda Smego, Rental Mike Smego, Directors Jim Teter, Rob Eubank, Stephanie Bender-Breseman, Zelda Cloud, Rob Carpenter, Gail Peterson, Rodney Waldschmidt, Mike Frushour, Shane Harris, Neil BowmanRecorder Stephanie Knepple, Guests Bridget Teter, Ron Proctor, Earl Proctor, Brooke Lamb, Danielle Lamb, Vicki Schoetzow, Tim Miller, Kim Burger, Sarah Peterson, Karen Wright, Heather Burchfield, Deb Ridenour, Mat Burke, and Jon Blough.

Absent: Treasurer Diane Skibbe, Directors Ben Waldschmidt and David Gleason.

Minutes: Zelda Cloud moved to approve the amended September 9, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes, supported by Rob Carpenter. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

- Ron and Earl Proctor of Scouting America expressed their gratitude to the board for the opportunity to clean the fairgrounds. They noted that it serves as an excellent fundraiser and allows their Adventure Crew to utilize their outdoor skills.
- Brooke Lamb, Dog Superintendent, requested the removal of current assistants and the addition of two new assistants. She also proposed two new classes for the 2026 fair's show lineup.
- Kim Burger, the Beef Superintendent, put forward a proposal to host a sanctioned Michigan beef show on April 12th as a fundraising event. Additionally, she recommended the appointment of two new assistants.
- Sarah Peterson inquired about the fair's mission statement on the website, which Brenda Smego confirmed was available. Peterson also expressed support for a Beef Show on April 12th as a fundraiser for the Beef Barn.

Committee Reports:

- Shane Harris presented a radio commercial quote for \$5,450. Rob Carpenter moved to accept the quote, and Daryl Keesler supported the motion. The motion carried.
- Stephanie Bender-Breseman announced that Facebook post approvals would be activated.

**Cass County Fair Association
Regular Meeting
Gregarek Building
October 14, 2025
Minutes**

Old Business:

- Fair Board Workshop: Brenda Smego delivered a comprehensive report on the recent workshop, providing key insights into the financial performance of various shows. She detailed which events generated revenue and which incurred losses, offering a clear picture of their individual economic impacts.

Following this, Smego provided an update on the insurance situation, including a review of the latest quote. This update likely covered changes in coverage, costs, or other pertinent details related to the fair's insurance policies.

The discussion then moved to practical operational matters, specifically work nights. This segment likely involved planning, scheduling, or reviewing progress on tasks requiring collective effort outside of regular operating hours.

A significant point of discussion was the future of the Darlene Lowe Building. This could encompass plans for renovations, repurposing, or long-term strategies for its utilization within the fairgrounds.

Smego also highlighted the potential for an asphalt project to be pursued as a grant opportunity. This suggests an initiative to improve infrastructure through external funding, which would be a significant undertaking.

Finally, the issue of species paying consistency was raised. This likely refers to an examination of how fees or payments related to different animal species participating in the fair are handled, and a potential need for standardization or clarification in this area.

- Superintendent Reviews: The reviews were successful and the new fair entry system has proven to be a success, garnering positive feedback from users. Its intuitive design and user-friendly interface were particularly highlighted as key strengths. The fair entry team has expressed their satisfaction and confirmed their commitment to continuing with the system for future events, confident in its ability to streamline the entry process and enhance the overall experience for participants.

New Business:

- Beef Superintendent Applicant- Kim Burger: Zelda Cloud moved to approve Kim Burger as Beef Superintendent, supported by Rob Carpenter. Motion carried.
- Committee Recommendation/Director Interviews
- Annual Meeting- October 28, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m.

**Cass County Fair Association
Regular Meeting
Gregarek Building
October 14, 2025
Minutes**

- Area Fairs - Round Table Saturday, November 1, 2025: 7 fairs were invited
- Scholarship - 2 Scholarships will be awarded: There were four applicants and only 2 qualified.
- Elliots Amusements donation of \$1,500.00 for more trees.

Adjournment:

8:05 p.m.

Mike Frushour, moved.

Shane Harris, supported.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Knepple