

**Cass County Fair Association
Regular Meeting
January 13, 2026
Minutes**

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

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

Present: President Shane Harris, Vice President Neil Bowman, Treasurer Mike Frushour, Secretary Zelda Cloud, Bookkeeper Beth Klug, Fair Manager Brenda Smego, Directors Stephanie Breseman, Sara Johnson, Rob Carpenter, Jim Teter, Bob Thompson, Dave Bratton, Recorder Stephanie Knepple, Guests Rodney Waldschmidt, Bridget Teter, Hilary Hunt, Julie Johnson, Karen Wright, Mackenzie Hartsell, Jeremiah Hartsell, Vicki Schoetzow, Preston Bartow, Nick Dussel, Laura Blough.

Absent: Executive Director Gail Peterson, Space Rental Mike Smego, Directors Jason Holdeman, and Ben Waldschmidt.

Minutes: Bob Thompson moved to approve the December 9, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes and January 5, 2026 Meeting Minutes, supported by Zelda Cloud. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Zelda Cloud moved to approve the Financial Report, supported by Bob Thompson. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

- President Shane Harris provided an update on the Grandstand agenda, stating that Pure Pro Wrestling had been scheduled for Wednesday Night Entertainment at the January 5th meeting. This decision was subsequently tabled at the same meeting in favor of booking a Rodeo. At the MAFE Convention, 2D Rodeo, based in Reed City, was successfully booked. Sunday's entertainment will feature Street Truck, and Monday's will be the Rodeo.
- Stephanie Breseman provided a report on social media, noting the creation of a Fair Facebook page and sharing the login information with Shane Harris and Zelda Cloud. A TikTok account was also created. She contacted Nick Devries regarding his son singing the national anthem at the parade, and he agreed.
- Shane Harris announced that Wooden Accounting has been retained as the third-party accountant for the fair.

Old Business:

- Beef Validation: Shane Harris reported that the weather was cold and snowy.

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- Report from MAFE Convention: Shane Harris reported that the convention proceeded well. Jim Teter reported spending most of his time at the Rodeo; Sara Johnson attended the round table; Mike Frushour attended the Financial session and found the Keynote speaker to be decent; Beth Klug attended the Financial session, which was very informative, and noted that the gates and tickets session offered good information; Zelda attended sessions on how to stop rumors and their effect on children, and another session on AI; Bob Thompson reported absorbing a substantial amount of information and attended the sponsorship session, where he shared details about "Vows with the Cows," a successful event where 10 couples renew their vows with a cow placed between them; Neil Bowman shared that it is a historical year and recommended celebrating and advertising various aspects; Brenda Smego attended the AI session, and the managers meeting was characterized more as a round table discussion.
- Beer Garden: Jim Teter recommended to pay volunteer groups \$35 an hour.
 - Zelda Cloud made a motion to pay the volunteer groups \$35 an hour for working the Beer Garden, supported by Jim Teter. Motion carried.

New Business:

- Sheep Rule Changes at previous meeting Breed Stock was approved.
- Poultry Book Changes: Zelda Cloud moved to change duck minimum weight to 4 pounds, supported by Stephanie Breseman. Motion carried.
- Auction Meeting Tentative Date: February 10, 2026 at 6 p.m. and Sponsorship Meeting February 3, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
- Grandstand Banners: Five spots are available for sponsorship.
- Superintendent Meeting: April 9, 2026 Pre-Validation Meeting
- Canva Calendar of Fair Task: Beth Klug will work on critical events and due dates.
- Maintenance Skilled List and Unskilled List: To be compiled by May 1, 2026.
- Sweepstakes Superintendent: Callie High will be concluding her tenure as Sweepstakes Superintendent this year and recommended Jenna Bradley as her successor.
 - The open position will be posted until February 2, 2026. Will place someone in the position by March.
- Light Horse Changes: Zelda Cloud moved to approve dates of orientation and name of primary horse, supported by Neil Bowman. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

- Goat Superintendent Karent Wright proposed adding a theme for the costume class to the fair book.
- Swine Superintendent Mackenzie Hartsell requested clarification regarding the wording in the fair book. Hartsell also proposed eliminating the YQCA and the Swine Flu vaccination form to bring the day of validation, and suggested that registration information may include both the exhibitor's and parents' names.
 - Zelda Cloud moved to approve the house keeping only for the Swine and Goats Costume theme, Supported by Stephanie Breseman. Motion carried.

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- Hilary Hunt will set dates for YQCA.

Fair Theme: 175 Anniversary

- Zelda Cloud moved to approve the 2026 Fair theme as Through the Decades, supported by Rob Carpenter. Motion carried.
- Battle of the Barns: Each barn should be decorated according to a chosen decade.

Grand Marshall: Stephanie Breseman nominated Butch Bender.

- Rob Carpenter moved to designate Butch Bender as the 2026 Fair Grand Marshall, supported by Zelda Cloud. Motion carried.

Adjournment:

8:04 p.m.

Zelda Cloud, moved.

Rob Carpenter supported.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Stephanie Knepple