

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY FAIR COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

7:00 PM, Conference Room

Location: Agriculture & Resource Center

227 1st Street W

Altoona, WI 54720

MINUTES

Members Present: Scot Zimmerman, Debbie Kitchen, Allison Olson, Dakota Roettger, Darren Schlewitz, Miranda Nelson, Kevin Kitchen, Leslie Strey, Lisa Vetsch, Jodi Thesing-Ritter, Letecia Papke.

Members Absent: Tami Schraufnagel.

Others: Danyelle Steinke

Call to Order

Chair Kitchen called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.

Review / Approval of Committee Minutes / February 21, 2018

Minutes were reviewed. Scot made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Jodi seconded. Motion carried.

Review Bills / February 2018

No payments were made this month.

Public Input

No public input was presented.

2018 Fair / Discussion – Action

Danyelle Steinke and Lisa addressed an issue within the Livestock Project as to where livestock would be transported to following the fair for slaughter. Some exhibitors expressed they would prefer to send their animals to a different locker plant than what two locker plants were previously decided on by the Livestock Project Committee. With this year's swine show being terminal, the committee was concerned as to how the process of tracking each animal would carry out if the Livestock Project Committee were to expand the number of locations animals were being sent to for slaughter. The Livestock Project Committee made the decision as of recent as to where animals would be sent to for slaughter, and the committee agreed that this decision should be upheld. Scot made a motion that the Livestock Project Committee uses only the two locker plants previously lined up by the committee, being Augusta Meats and Crescent Meats. In addition, if an exhibitor would like for another locker plant to process their animal, they are allowed to make their own arrangements and cover the expenses of transportation and processing. Darren seconded. Motion carried. The Fair Committee will be sending a letter to the Livestock Committee addressing this decision. The committee is interested in adding more interactive and educational opportunities to future Livestock Project meetings.

The Distinguished Service Award and Partner in the Fair recipients were discussed, and a decision will be made at a further time. The fair schedule is finalized. Lisa will have letters sent out to daycares within the next month inviting them to visit the fair.

The committee was excited to share that Inga Witscher from PBS show 'Around the Farm Table' will be making an appearance at the fair on Saturday at 2:00 P.M. in the show tent with an interactive kid's oriented presentation.

The Petting Zoo will have extended activities on Thursday, as well as corn boxes with the corn provided by Scot. A commodities carnival may also a part of the Petting Zoo if Eau Claire County Fair is chosen.

Debbie will touch base with Clint from the Exposition Center to see what tasks have been completed for the 2018 fair and what needs to be accomplished before July.

Miranda shared that Compeer Financial has county fair facility grants available up to \$3,000. Miranda will fill out the grant, and it was proposed that the money that would be received from this grant would be allocated to purchasing new chicken and rabbit pens. This project is estimated to about \$4,000, and so the committee would plan to reach out to 4-H clubs around the county to find additional funding. Leslie will check with a family in the Poultry Project to see if they would be interested in storing the pens throughout the year.

Sub-Committee Reports

Biosecurity- One case of hand sanitizers will be bought from Indianhead Foods.

Sign Up Genius- No discussion.

Set Up/ Tear Down- No discussion.

Grounds Keeping- The Friends of the Fair agreed to allocate \$1,200 to garbage and bathroom cleaning staffing. Areas will be covered on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of the fair. \$400 will be for security, \$400 to Jon Bohl for garbage clean-up, and \$400 to a second person to help with garbage and clean the bathrooms to cover all four days.

Contracts- Jodi made a motion to rent four golf carts from Airtec Rental LLC, three being a four-seat golf cart and one being a utility cart, bringing the cost of rental to \$350. Leslie seconded. Motion carried. Parking will be on the north side of the Exposition Building.

Rock & Roll to Go will be providing a moonwalk, slide, spider obstacle course, kitty pillar, bungee jump, and photo booth throughout the weekend. Dakota will arrange the sign up to complement the schedule with an adequate number of workers. Jodi made a motion to accept the contract from Rock & Roll to Go. Dakota seconded. Motion carried.

Sponsorships- Close to \$19,000 has been raised as of this meeting. Debbie passed around the proposed design for the fair t-shirts. The committee decided to have coral, hunter green, and tie dye for the t-shirt colors. Jodi will contact Fleet Feet to make the t-shirts, as well as look into using an online order system.

Scheduling of Future Meetings / Agenda Items

Future meetings were scheduled for April 18th, May 16th, and June 20th. All future meetings will take place at the Eau Claire County Agriculture and Resource Center and begin at 7:00 P.M. unless otherwise noted. Agenda items for the March meeting will include 2018 Fair and sub-committee reports for biosecurity, sign up genius, set up/tear down, contracts, grounds keeping, and sponsorships.

Adjourn

Chair Kitchen adjourned the meeting at 8:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Olson
Committee Clerk