

Fair Committee Minutes

March 27, 2024 at 7:00pm

UWEC Brewer Hall Room 255, 131 Garfield Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54701

Meeting link:

<https://eauclairecounty.webex.com/eauclairecounty/j.php?MTID=m53474b28a438aa2ce5af05160548ffee>

1. Call to Order and Confirmation of Meeting Notice- Meeting called to order at 7:08am
2. Roll Call -Committee Members Present- Jodi Thesing-Ritter, Tammy Schlewitz, Jenni Haan, Meg Mueller, Valerie Strauch and Derrick Nelson

Others present - Sarah Brown-Jager, Corporation Counsel.

3. Public Comment Jenni Haan made a motion to close public comment; Tammy Schlewitz seconded.

4. Approval of Committee Minutes- Discussion/Action

a. February 14, 2024 – minutes Jenni Haan made a motion to approve the minutes as circulated; Valerie Strauch seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. Election – Chair

Jenni Haan nominated Derrick Nelson for Chairperson; Jodi Thesing-Ritter seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Jodi Thesing-Ritter- Yes

Tammy Schlewitz- Yes

Jenni Haan- Yes

Tammy Schlewitz- Yes

Derrick Nelson- Yes

Derrick Nelson will be the new Chairperson

- Election – Vice Chair

Jodi Thesing-Ritter nominated Jenni Haan, Jenni declined the nomination. Derrick Nelson nominated Valerie Strauch. She accepted the nomination. Jodi Thesing-Ritter seconded the nomination.

A roll call vote was taken.

Jodi Thesing-Ritter- Yes

Tammy Schlewitz- Yes

Jenni Haan- No

Tammy Schlewitz- No

Derrick Nelson- Yes

Valerie Strauch will be the new Vice-Chairperson

6. County and Fair Relationship – Discussion/Action

a. Fair Structure – Sarah Brown-Jager, Corporation Council, explained the process that will follow the outcome of the joint committee meeting on March 4, 2025. Sara requested samples of the documents of possible bylaws for the new body moving forward after the 2024 County Fair. Tammy Schlewitz agreed to forward draft documents to Sarah. She explained that the priority for the committee is to focus on this year's 100th anniversary fair. Sara offered to meet with a working group to discuss planning for the new structure.

Sarah suggested that the potential working group should include: Derrick Nelson as Fair Committee Chair and Livestock Liaison, Tammy Schlewitz as the Liaison to Friends of the Fair, Steve Erdman as the Chair of Friends of the Fair, Meg as Fair Coordinator, and someone for the County Board/Extension Committee. Sarah offered to create a monthly meeting schedule and invite the suggested working group members.

b. Roles/Responsibilities

c. Code of Conduct- Tammy Schlewitz presented a proposed document. The committee reviewed and discussed the document. Jenni Haan made a motion to approve the document as presented. Derrick Nelson seconded the motion. 4 people voted in favor and 1 against. Motion carried.

d. MOU – Chancy made the requested changes. Sarah Brown-Jager presented the revised MOU. She indicated that the Extension Education reviewed the document and approved MOU. Jenni Haan made a motion to approve the MOU. Derrick Nelson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

7. 2024 Fair - Discussion/Action

a. Fair Schedule – Meg Mueller presented the completed Fair Master Schedule. Jenni Haan made a motion to approve the schedule as presented. Valerie Strauch seconded the motion. Motion carried.

b. Fair Vet – No action taken.

c. Open Class – Jenni Haan presented the amendments to the Open Class Book. Jodi Thesing-Ritter made a motion to approve the Open Class Book as presented. Derrick Nelson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

d. Superintendents – Meg Mueller presented the four superintendent applications. Jodi Thesing-Ritter made a motion to approve the slate of superintendent applications as presented. Jenni Haan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

New Superintendents:

Danielle Strauss- Crops and Soils

Geraldine Erdman- Cake Decorating

James Stone- Natural Science

Tammy Knuth- Sheep

e. COOL Forms – Jenni Haan made a motion to remove all COOL Form requirements. Jodi Thesing-Ritter seconded the motion. Motion carried. Derrick Nelson will request that Charlene Deetz, Livestock Secretary, send out an email to all Livestock members and a post to be made on Facebook to alert all members to the changes.

f. YQCA for non-livestock members – Jenni Haan made a motion for all YQCA for non-livestock members due at the time of fair entry. Derrick Nelson seconded the motion. Motion carried. This announcement will not be made until after the April 1 deadline for youth enrolled in the Livestock project to avoid confusion.

Jodi requested that emails be sent to all livestock members reminding them about the April 1 deadline for YQCA completion, a post be made on the Fair, 4-H and Livestock Facebook page. Derrick indicated that he would ask the Livestock Secretary to do this. Meg indicated she would post to the Fair Facebook page.

g. Mentorship program – Jodi reported that Devin was able to fill all three species.

8. Fair Committee Structure Fair Representative Reports – Discussion/Action

a. County Board - MOU - Missy was not present. Sarah Brown-Jager reported on the MOU in a prior agenda item. Sarah indicated that Missy is not running for reelection and her replacement will be assigned following the election. That person will likely not be in attendance until our May meeting.

b. Livestock – Derrick reported that he received a mutual respect complaint. He consulted with Chancey and will follow the process outlined in the mutual respect policy.

a. Mutual Respect

c. Extension – Rachel was not present. Meg reported the Foods Revue has been postponed due to lack of enrollment. The Clothing Revue date is in question.

d. Friends of the Fair – Tammy presented a brief report. The next meeting will be on April 23rd at 6:30 p.m. in Fall Creek. The District WAF meeting is scheduled for April 16th. Meg will need RSVPs by April 1st. Tammy, Meg, and Derrick will attend our committee.

9. Fair Coordinator Report – Discussion/Action Meg gave her report. She reported on the donations received. The assistant coordinator is working on getting the judges solidified. Bands have been contracted for the Friday and Saturday night activities. The Cleghorn Lions will assist with bartending at the events. Permit paperwork has been started. The Army Reserve reached out the set up a booth and may be able to help with security. Sponsorships for the Rodeo are separate from the Fair donation amounts presented in Meg's report. Jodi asked a question about the food committee. Meg indicated that the goal is to meet on Tuesday, April 2.

a. Updates

10. Announcements – Breakfast on the Farm will be on June 15 from 7:00 to 11:00 a.m. at Bischoff Farms this year. A farm has been secured for 2025. Parking will be at Equity with a Shuttle running to Bischoff's.

11. Future Agenda Items

- Committee Roles and Responsibilities and Updates
- Superintendents
- Mentorship Program
- Opportunities for engaging volunteers in fair planning roles
- 100 Year Activities
- Superintendents welcome and introduction meeting

12. Future Meeting Date:

a. April 10, 2024 in Brewer Hall 255, UW- Eau Claire. Agenda Items are due to Derrick by April 3, 2024

13. Adjourn- Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted March 28, 2024

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Jodi M. Thesing-Ritter

Committee Secretary