

MINUTES

White County Agricultural Association Meeting Tuesday, March 21, 2017, 7:00 PM 4-H Building, Reynolds, IN

Present – Suzette Alma, Ron Byrd, Cindy Campbell, Andrea Cole, Chad Dahlenburg, Joe Demerly, Brandon Foutch, Samantha Foutch, Randy Freshour, Luke Furrer, Cindy Griffin, Rodney Hall, Mark Helms, Matt Holderly, Joann Hoyt, Phil Hunt, Kevin Kelley, Marleta Misch, David Reiff, Jerika Schroeder (Junior Leader President), Sara Shelton, Denise Schroeder, Kim Stockment, Andy Stoll, Steffanie Warren, Adam Wasson, and Andrew Westfall.

Absent – Roger Geisler.

Guests Present – Brian Barnes, Leslie Barnes, Deann Bick, Herman Bick, Tom Byers, Jeff Campbell, Jan Faker, Deb Foutch, Brian Furrer, John Gooding, Lisa Gooding, Scott Griffin, April Hall, Andy Humphreys, Marty Huseman, Taylor Seymour, Keith Snowberger, Jon Tebo, Meredith Vandever, Barry Wesner, Don Wright, and numerous other adults and 4-H'ers affiliated with the goat and beef projects.

Welcome and Call to Order – Randy Freshour, President

Secretary's Minutes - On a motion by Ron Byrd and seconded by Sara Shelton, the minutes of the February 21, 2017 meeting were approved as written. (Note: The meeting start time for the February meeting was incorrectly listed as 10:00 AM instead of 7:00 PM. The error was discovered on 3/30/17, and amended minutes were emailed to the Board.)

Treasurer's Report – Cindy Griffin presented the treasurer's report. The report will stand until the audit is complete.

Jr. Leader Report – Per Jerika Schroeder, junior leaders will work shifts at the Food Pantry on Mondays in March. Their completion trip to Skyzone is scheduled for April 8th.

4-H Enrollment Update – Andrea Cole reported there are 652 members enrolled with 30 more in pending status.

Unfinished Business

- **Goat Barn Expansion** – Due to the number of guests present for this issue, Randy Freshour announced it would be addressed before committee reports. John Gooding, Goat Committee, and Jon Tebo, Beef Committee, reported on projected growth for 2017 in both projects. The goat project needs additional space for animals/pens and spectators/arena. The beef project needs additional space for grooming chutes, and

Beef Committee members are concerned about becoming landlocked. Cindy Griffin favors expansion of the goat barn but does not want to use funds from the Tam account to do so although she believes the Ag Association should help pay for restrooms in the goat barn since they would benefit all. On a motion by Ron Byrd and seconded by Cindy Griffin, the tabled motion from the February 21st meeting was untabled. Cindy Campbell withdrew the untabled motion. Andy Stoll moved to approve goat barn expansion plans as previously presented. Cindy Campbell seconded the motion. Andy Humphreys presented a plan for a covered space to the east of the beef barn where chutes could be located on show day and their carry-in could be held. Several guests and board members suggested forming a new committee to find a solution beneficial to both barns. Andy Stoll withdrew his motion. Ron Byrd moved to form a goat and beef barn expansion committee to include Randy Freshour, Adam Wasson and Suzette Alma as chairs of the Development and 4-H Programming Committees, and two representatives from each barn. Joann Hoyt seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

- **Grounds**

- **Camping** – Chad Dahlenburg reported on work done the previous weekend to install 108 campsites on the north side of the Memorial Farm. Per Joe Demerly, all the sites were installed on the east end of the fairgrounds rather than splitting them between the west and east ends because some swine committee members expressed concerns about parking on the west. NIPSCO agreed to this change, and some costs could be reduced by putting all on one end. Although Sara Shelton did not believe horse and pony participants would be inconvenienced by this, they could use approximately 36 campsites on the west end during large shows. In response to a question from Cindy Griffin, Joe answered that security lights could be added around the campsites. Andy Stoll expressed concerns that the work done was significantly different than the plan presented and approved at the February meeting, and the Board was not notified of the change in advance. Several other members concurred. Earlier in the day Phil Hunt had emailed to the Board drafts of rules and a contract for camping, and these documents were discussed. Phil asked that all suggestions be emailed to him.
- **Memorial Farm** – Per Don Wright, the Antique Power Association is concerned about the future of their display area and buildings and wonder if they should invest in structures that may be taken away from them. Cindy Campbell moved to grant the Antique Power Association rights to use the farmstead and tractor display area, not including tillable land, without encroachment by the Ag Association for 10 years with an option to renew at that time. Suzette Alma seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- **Monon Lions/Tri Kappa Stand** – Per Chad Dahlenburg, these organizations are interested in a new building and are open to discussing other locations. However, they have no funds to put toward the project.
 - **Water Upgrades** – Work on the water mains is progressing as reported by Chad Dahlenburg.
 - **NIPSCO Credit** – Per Joe Demerly, contracts with NIPSCO have not been signed. The commercial building and camping projects are separate, but each must be completed in the same calendar year in which the corresponding credit is issued. If a contract is signed and the work does not proceed, NIPSCO can go back and charge the Ag Association for all work completed. In response to a question from Brian Furrer, Joe answered he did not know if the credit would be enough to fully cover the costs of both projects because he has not given them a firm plan yet.
 - **Permits for Projects** – Cindy Griffin reported a check has been sent to FBI to begin the permitting process for the commercial building (\$8000) and stage (\$600).
 - **Commercial Building** – Cindy Campbell described her efforts to obtain financing for the commercial building. Alliance Bank, State Bank of Burnettsville, Farmers State Bank, and Bank of Wolcott were approached with Bank of Wolcott offering the most advantageous terms. Because the best option would be a loan secured by a CD from the County and because the Commissioners and Council had asked for a report on the feasibility study, Commissioner John Heimlich invited Cindy, Denise Schroeder and Ron Byrd to present the study and discuss near-term projects at a joint meeting. At the meeting on March 20th, it was clear the Commissioners and Council are very supportive of the 4-H program and all the Ag Association does, and they see the benefits of this type of building. However, several expressed concerns that the commercial building was being pushed forward too quickly, the County would wind up backing the loan and making the payment through the annual allocation, and it could take a long time for the building to generate significant revenue. The Commissioners and Council also invited the Board to present a comprehensive request for assistance during the County's budget hearings to begin in early summer. Chad Dahlenburg said he had also heard concerns about the timing of the project, but from his conversations with vendors, sports organizations, and other entities, he believes there would be demand for the space.
- Brian Furrer addressed the Board stating he, his family, and Bio Town Ag have always supported the program because they believe in investing in youth, and they have encouraged others to do so. They funded the feasibility study in hopes that a long-term plan would be developed. He has experience in large construction projects for non-profit organizations through his church and has concerns that no one on the Ag Association has this experience. Bringing design and funding together can be challenging, and he has seen how costs can increase and funds can be raised. He has spoken to Board members, elected officials, and other community stakeholders, and all agree that things should slow down, and efforts

should be more unified because relationships are being jeopardized. Brian offered to help raise funds, take members to visit other venues, and help us work together on this project to avoid mistakes in the design and regrets later.

Cindy Griffin moved to delay the commercial building until after the fair, reevaluate the plan, and solicit donations to fund it. Joann Hoyt seconded the motion.

Several members suggested a committee be formed to work on this project. Cindy Griffin amended her motion and moved to delay the commercial building until after the fair and form a committee to reevaluate the plan with a soft completion date of July 2018 and the first status report due from the new committee in June 2017.

Joann seconded the amended motion. Motion passed. The Development Committee will also review donation levels.

- **Event**

- **Commercial** – Per Sara Shelton, the Committee continues to speak with potential vendors.
- **Entertainment** – Sara Shelton reported Levi Riggs has been booked for Friday evening, and they are trying to book other acts, such as a hypnotist, woodcarver, etc. They have also looked into mutton busting, and Joann Hoyt suggested pigeon rolling. Per Keith Snowberger, the Antique Power Association has booked the Dancing Tractors for two shows on Sunday at 4:00 and 6:00 PM. Per Adam Wasson, Farm Bureau is bringing a tractor simulator to the Monticello Park in July, and this could be a good attraction for the fair. He will gather more information on report back at the April meeting.
- **Queen Contest** – Proposed changes to the Queen Contest rules adding the Junior Miss Contest were distributed. Sara Shelton moved to approve the changes as presented. Ron Byrd seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- **Development**

- **Booster Club/Adopt-a-Building** – Cindy Griffin distributed a list of boosters who had not yet remitted their donations. She asked members to review the list and contact those they know.

- **4-H Programming**

- **Auction** – Suzette Alma summarized the recent Auction Committee meeting at which plans to procure and mount large screens in the arena for the auction and other events were discussed.
- **Trips and Awards** – Suzette Alma summarized the recent Trips and Awards Committee meeting. She moved to allocate \$2730 from 4-H Remit Fees to pay half of all camp and workshop fees. Kim Stockment seconded the motion. Motion passed. Suzette asked members to submit nominees for the Volunteer of the Year Award to her or Cindy Campbell by May 1st. As for the Farm Bureau Tenure Awards, Andrea Cole will compile a list of all 10-year members, and the Committee will meet to review the list prior to the submission deadline.

Unfinished Business - Continued

- **Stage Renovation** – Per Chad Dahlenburg, the construction contract has been signed, he has been speaking with concrete contractors, and the project should be done by the fall. Jan Ficker, Queen Committee, reported they have been working with Chad and FBI to develop a plan for the dressing room and restroom. In addition to being used by entertainers, this area will also serve as a cool, resting area for the Queen and Court. She suggested the stage be named in honor of the donor if the Tam family agrees. Denise Schroeder will research the original donation to see if there were any stipulations regarding its use.
- **Building Contract** – Chad Dahlenburg believes the source document for the contract was forwarded to the Extension Office. The issue was tabled until another revision can be presented to the Board.
- **Constitution and Bylaws** – Ron Byrd moved to approve the second reading of the proposed changes as written. Kim Stockment seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- **Mission Statement and 4-H Pledge Signs** – Cindy Campbell presented mock-ups of the proposed signs. The 4-H Pledge sign will be hung above the fireplace in the north end, and the Board agreed by consensus to hang the Mission Statement sign on the western side of the north wall in the south end. The costs will be \$115 for the Mission Statement sign and \$90 for the 4-H Pledge sign. Cindy will frame and mount the signs.
- **4-H Volunteer Enrollment** – Once again, Andrea Cole reminded everyone to complete the online enrollment process, including the mandatory training for working with minors.

New Business

- **King Contest** – Ron Byrd presented rules for a new King Contest which has been discussed with the Queen Committee. Ron moved to proceed with the King Contest with rules as presented. Chad Dahlenburg seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- **Moving of Fence by Antique Power Association** – Per Don Wright, they would like to make some improvements to the fencing, and the Antique Power Association will fund the project and do all the work. Andy Stoll moved to approve the improvements. Kim Stockment seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- **Other**
 - **Entrance Area** – Chad Dahlenburg and Adam Wasson will work on the proposed entrance area with a sign, flagpoles, and possibly a large steel “4-H” to be made by Cives.
 - **Stone from New Power Towers** – Per Chad Dahlenburg, the power companies are changing the way stone from the new towers is being handled. He hopes to trade topsoil for stone for the new campground. Chad was granted authority to negotiate and arrange this trade with the power companies.

4-H News and Announcements - Cindy Campbell encouraged members to attend an upcoming Goat Club tip night in April.

Adjourn – Ron Byrd moved to adjourn, and Andy Stoll seconded the motion. Motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Campbell, Secretary.