

MINUTES
White County Agricultural Association Meeting
Wednesday, December 6, 2023
4-H Building, Reynolds, IN

Present- Keith Altman, Molly Childers, Samantha Chitty, Ashley Clark, Maddie Clark, Jon Coy, Lauren Dimmitt, Deb Foutch, Randy Freshour, Luke Furrer, Roger Geisler, April Hall, Rodney Hall, Trent Hall, Jr. Leader Rep., Scott Hood, Betty Kelly, Jeremy Lemming, Caleb McClure, Doug Morehouse, Josh Robertson, Baily Tanner, Jon Tebo, Hillary Hawkins

Not Present- Lee Anderson, Kyle Arvin, Bob Oliver

Guests-

Call to Order- President, Randy Freshour, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Secretary's Minutes- On a motion by Betty Kelly and seconded by Jon Tebo the minutes from the November 1, 2023, was approved as written.

Treasurer's Report- Keith was present to report. Funds Report – Big change since last month was \$50,000.00 came in from Cass Township Trustee. \$25,000.00 went to the Beef Barn Renovation and \$25,000.00 went to the swine barn. Keith zeroed out the account for the 75th anniversary. The Profit and Loss – Under expenses it says reconciliation discrepancies \$100,000.00, he figured that out. The expenses of \$699,000.00 are only \$599,000.00. That is only the big change. When he made the cd for the Bank of Wolcott, he hit the wrong reconcile button and it kept showing up twice. Now he's figured it out. Net income should be \$131,283.48 and most of that money is from the beef barn renovation and goat barn expansion and Cass Township donation. All money that is coming in for the renovations will be under building income general. Last year we were at \$17,138.00 and this year we are at \$162,087.76. It is in a money market account. Treasurers report will stand for audit.

Jr. Leader Report- Blaine Reiff was present to report. A couple weeks ago they had their officer elections. President – Murphy Misch, Vice President – Hannah Alberts, Secretary – Noah Scherer, Treasurer – Emma Oilar, Ag Association Representative – Blaine Reiff, Community Service Representative – Jace Haselby and Jacqui Hoover. They've had several team building exercises such as going to Hillside Acres with Carroll County 4-H, Malibu Jacks for Jr Leaders and to Purdue. They are also working on community service ideas – examples helping nursing homes, going around and picking up trash, doing things at police departments. They're also inviting people to go to Best Bowling Alley on December 12th at 6:30 pm. It is \$15 entry.

4-H Update- Molly Childers was present to report. Right now, for enrollment numbers there are 66 members, 31 volunteers, 43 minis. These numbers seem low considering enrollment has been open since October. If you can encourage people to get their enrollment done our priority deadline is January 15th. Ideally most will do their enrollment over winter break but have

noticed it's just trickled in for some reason this year. Honey Creek and Jr. Leaders are both looking for people to help step up to possibly lead or co-lead these groups. So, if you know anyone who might be interested with either of these let Molly know. The current leader at Honey Creek is Kelly Whitaker, she's staying on for now, but would like to get some help and possibly train someone to take over. Molly and Miranda are leading Jr. Leaders, Molly is staying on, but will be on maternity leave for three months and Miranda is stepping down. Ideally Molly's last day in the office will be December 21, 2023, for maternity leave. If anyone needs anything you can reach out to Sheila and Jessica. Hillary Hawkin's email and Marty Huseman's email is listed on the agenda as well to contact. A potential small animal judge that Molly reached out to contacted her and asked if we could possibly raise the rate. Right now, we pay \$50.00 for the small animals and cats. They were wondering about raising the rate to make it more competitive with other counties to potentially \$75.00. Luke asked who the committee chair was, but since there isn't one that is why Molly is bringing it to us. Molly treats this like a building project because it is so small, so it is kind of ran by the Ag Association. Doug Morehouse made a motion to raise the small animals and cats judges' rate to \$75.00. Jon Tebo seconded the motion. The motion passed. Molly also brought up the deadline fee again. For those that don't remember, the state has asked us to stop charging a fee for the people who come in late to fair entry after July 1st. They weren't pleased with our decision from the last meeting unfortunately. Molly said it's out of her hands and she's just the messenger, but if we continue to have the fee, they will have to come talk to the Ag Association soon about potentially disbanding the Ag Association. Luke Furrer was thinking after last meeting that our rule was more lenient than their rule. Molly stated that they don't care. Luke asked to remind us again on how to handle this. Molly responded with to create a showmanship only class for people who missed the deadline. Luke is going to contact Josh Winrotte this week and figure out the thought process and keep Randy up to date with the information.

Committee Reports

- **Development-** Jon Tebo was present to report. They met the other night about potential new directors, which we will cover in new business.
- **4-H Programming-** Doug Morehouse was present to report. We are down to two unpaid auction invoices. Otherwise, we are waiting for the calendar to turn and the weather to warm.
- **Event-** Lauren Dimmitt was present to report. She's reached out to the Racing Pig's about three weeks ago and hasn't heard back yet. They're trying to get them for next year. She's going to call again, but that's all she has right now.
- **Grounds-** Luke was present to report. There is nothing new since the last meeting.

Unfinished Business:

- **Goat Arena/Multipurpose Arena & Beef Barn Expansions-** Trent has done a lot of research and has Luke. Luke Furrer made the announcement that it has come to our attention that for the goat arena expansion we were made aware that they had to get a variance because of the square footage. Once you get to that many square feet you are required to put in a fire suppression system because it's enclosed. Obviously putting in a

fire suppression system is very costly so naturally they got a variance so they wouldn't have to do that. Part of the problem is when they got the variance, they stated in the variance that the nearest building would be 69 ft away. Which is the distance between the existing goat barn and the extension homemakers building. That is currently the closest building, but obviously we know there is a beef project being planned that's going to be much closer. The current plans have the goat arena and the beef barn expansion being within 19 ft apart. So, if we do nothing and both projects start building basically what the state would do if there were an inspector that would come out, which every year the fire marshal is here fair week, they would basically red flag the goat building and tell you that you cannot use it until the setback of 69 ft is fixed. So, Trent has done a little bit of research and talked to FBI Buildings and the lady that wrote the variance. Trent said the lady told him as it states is the nearest building is 69 ft away. She says because it doesn't say anything on that part that you can't build anything in between there. She says it's fine. It also says the local building of fire officials have no concern to purpose the addition of variances. The problem with that is the goat committee never said anything about the beef barn expansion. So, FBI Buildings at the time didn't know that these two buildings were going to come together, the lady that did the variance didn't know, but they both assured Trent as long as they're at least 20 ft in between they should be fine. Melissa who did the variance said for \$500.00 is what it will end up costing to do another variance she will file a new variance to make it 20 ft, but it must be at least 20 ft in between the two buildings. Luke said if we did nothing, it would create some major problems. We must do another variance because they're going to be so close together. If there is 30 feet in between the beef and goat barns, the beef barn will not have to do any variance. They can build their building and the engineer has said that if there is 30 ft it's what the state wants to see. This is affecting the beef barn construction because they aren't submitting their permit yet because they're trying to figure out how submit it. Doug Morehouse sees that there are three options – we just ignore it and have an issue next year at the fair because at Howard County they did this and ignored it. They had their arena shut down in the middle of the fair. Option two – put a pause get the two committees together and see if we can't work something out. Option three – they both have to cut a half a foot off. Option four – they both have to put different plans in and hope nobody comes out with a tape measure. Luke talked to Mike Smolek about this a little bit because he's the County Commissioner. He has volunteered to be the county commissioner that oversees the fair if you will. Right away Mike's suggestion was the goat arena needs to be turned the opposite direction and that gives you a more square footage and you can put better seating on the ends and it's a more functional arena. Luke does think that it is a very good idea, but that would likely also be a more expensive project for the goat committee/barn. The beef barn addition is running north and south that has helped them maximize the amount of space without coming out to the east very far. So essentially that has helped the goat barn because they didn't just try to make the beef barn longer and try to take up a bunch of space so if we did the same thing with the goat barn like Mike Smolek was saying you utilize that space better. Right now, on the sides of the arena you have some unused space. It's not big enough for parking you

can't really do anything with it. You turn that barn the other direction then you have two barns that mirror each other, and it looks like it was intentional and planned and there'd be more space in between and wouldn't be sandwiched together like we're battling over land. If it comes to a money issue and the goat committee needs help raising funds then as the Ag Association that's where we can step up and say okay if you guys are willing to look at a different plan and do something a little different and we can help them fundraise to try and make it happen. The beef barn doesn't want to submit something when they know it's not going to be correct. Randy would like to get the two committees together with the executive committee before the end of the year. Luke asked if current construction should be halted in the meantime. Jeremy Lemming made a motion to suspend further progress on both the beef expansion as well as the goat multipurpose arena expansion until researched and discussed. Maddie Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Randy asked that after the meeting with the two committees and executive committee, can the executive committee make the decision to move on after the meeting. It was decided to bring it back to the Ag Association at the January meeting.

- **Director Elections** – Jon reported that the committee met last week, and they have narrowed it down to a few townships. Steve Schemerhorn from Princeton Township, he is the Industrial Arts teacher at Tri County. He was highly recommended. Clint Federer for Round Grove, and Kimberly Neuendorf for Liberty Township. Kimberly just joined the extension board and just joined as a club leader for Making Strides. She's also been a 4-h leader for years in Cass County and her daughter is out of 4-h and college. Her and her husband works in this area and wants to be involved in this area and would like to be involved. Clint was 10 years in 4-H, he did dairy, his children aren't in 4-H, but his nephew is. Luke made a motion to pass the ballot of the three nominations. Lauren seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

- **FSA** – Instead of having the Grounds Chairman to sign up the acres for the FSA program, Bill Dahlenburg offered to do it since he's on the county committee. We must have it in the minutes to sign all paperwork. Doug Morehouse moves to give Bill Dahlenburg permission to sign FSA papers for the Ag Association. Luke Furrer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Keith got information in the mail stating we went from 4.73 acres to 4.72 acres and then they aren't counting the campground area as farmed acres now. Email Colette a copy of the minutes so they have on record.
 - **Spring Cleanup Date** – 3/16 rain date 4/6 at 8 am
 - **January Meeting/New Director Training** – January 3, 2024 6pm
 - **Other** – We would like to thank Samantha Chitty and Kyle Arvin for their service!
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- **Upcoming Dates**
 - January 18th – Roots Dinner 6pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 3, 2024, 6:00pm 4-H building, Reynolds
Adjourn- The meeting adjourned at 8:14pm.