

MINUTES

White County Agricultural Association Meeting Tuesday, August 22, 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, Roger Geisler, Cindy Griffin, Rodney Hall, Mark Helms, Joann Hoyt, Phil Hunt, Kena Phimmassen (Jr. Leader Representative), Denise Schroeder, Sara Shelton, Kim Stockment, Andy Stoll, Steffanie Warren, and Andrew Westfall.

Absent – Matt Holderly, Kevin Kelley, Marleta Misch, David Reiff, and Adam Wasson.

Call to Order – Randy Freshour, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and welcomed all who had come to express their opinions about the Fair.

Comments Regarding the Fair – Members of the public and Ag Association directors offered criticisms, compliments, and suggestions on a wide variety of topics. These comments were recorded on large sheets labeled as follows: 4-H Attractions, Non-4-H Attractions, Grounds, Vendors, and Other. At 8:35 PM, all comments had been heard, and Randy Freshour called a short break before the regular meeting resumed at 8:46 PM.

Secretary's Minutes - On a motion by Ron Byrd and seconded by Steffanie Warren, the minutes of the July 17, 2017 meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report – Cindy Griffin presented the treasurer's report. She is still getting bills in from the Fair, but most are included in the report. All requests for reimbursement must be approved by the associated committees. The audit report has not been received yet, and the treasurer's report will stand until that report is received.

Jr. Leader Report – Per Kena Phimmassen, the Junior Leaders had duties before, during, and after the Fair including project check-in/check-out, judging, building watch, flag-raising, auction, and clean-up.

4-H Enrollment Update – Per Andrea Cole, enrollment opens October 1st. Purdue Extension is considering combining some deadlines to simplify the system.

Committee Reports – Chad Dahlenburg

- **Grounds**

- **Water Lines and Drainage** – Chad Dahlenburg has been talking to people about completing the work on water lines and addressing drainage issues. It is possible a topographical map will be needed to identify elevations.
- **Splash Pad** – Chad Dahlenburg has been approached by Town of Reynolds officials about partnering with the Town on a splash pad to be located on the Fairgrounds. The Town may be able to get a grant for it and would maintain it, but they expect the Ag Association to carry the liability insurance. Cindy Campbell stated it seems the relationship with the Town has become very one-sided and suggested the Ag Association negotiate lower water bills considering how much has already been done for the Town, such as installing the new water line and saving the Town tens of thousands of dollars in permit fees in doing so. Sara Shelton moved to further discuss a splash pad with the Town of Reynolds with the idea that the Ag Association will receive some type of compensation. Mark Helms seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- **Break-in at the Fair Office** – Andrew Westfall reported the Fair Office was broken into, but nothing was stolen. Roger Geisler repaired the door and installed deadbolts on the Fair Office and EMS Building doors.
- **Memorial Farm Barn** – Per Keith Snowberger, the Antique Power Association would like to install steel siding on the barn at a cost of approximately \$2,000. They have bids for materials and will do all the labor themselves. Roger Geisler moved to allow the Antique Power Association to use funds out of the Memorial Farm Land account for the siding. Kim Stockment seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- **Event – Sara Shelton**

- **Vendors** – In response to complaints about the impact of Mitchell's food truck on non-profit vendors, Sara Shelton explained that while Mitchell's location may not be ideal for other vendors, they are a paying vendor, and they are very popular. The consensus of the Board is that competition is good for all, and other vendors should find ways to differentiate themselves. Kim Stockment commented the committee is not hand-picking vendors or playing favorites, and all are welcome. Steffanie Warren noted a potential new vendor was given inaccurate information by Extension Office staff. Cindy Griffin asked if local vendors can open during pre-fair judgings and activities. It was noted that Kappa Kappa Sigma has been open during sewing/fashion revue/consumer clothing judging for years, and others could likewise open during pre-fair events. In response to a few questions, Sara stated the vendor contract specifies minimum hours of operation, and being open as agreed is a condition of receiving the deposit back.

- **Campground** – Per Sara Shelton, the committee plans to update the contract and possibly widen some campsites. They also want to get the contracts out earlier and start generating income for further improvements.
- **Development – Adam Wasson – No Report Available**
- **4-H Programming – Suzette Alma**
 - **Auction** – Ron Byrd summarized the Auction Committee’s meeting on August 16th. The software used to project buyers’ names onto the screens will be updated to add sellers’ names and prices. All donations from auction proceeds must be specified on the auction declaration form, and every barn must have a designated individual to make sure all kids and animals are lined up. An earlier start time and the possibility of a silent auction for exhibit building projects will also be discussed at future committee meetings. Per Denise Schroeder, the auction checks have been printed after being proofed at the committee meeting. About two-thirds of auction payments have been received, and the Extension Office will begin mailing out checks soon.
 - **Goat Barn Expansion** – Per Suzette Alma, the joint committee has met and come to a compromise. Jeff Campbell described the most recent plan for goat barn expansion which would take place in two phases. Phase 1 would be expansion 112’ to the east for penning space. Phase 2 would add an arena on the west and extend 64’ out from the current arena, which would be 56’ from the beef barn. The Beef Committee has agreed to this plan provided the Goat Committee assures them there will be no activity on the west side of the new arena on beef show day. The new arena will measure 56’ X 90’ which will provide more space for larger classes and spectators with bleacher space on the north and south sides. The new plan does not include restrooms and will not interfere with the straightening of Fairgrounds Road. FBI will procure all necessary state and county permits, and a zoning variance for the setback will be requested. The Goat Committee is seeking approval to begin Phase 1 this fall with Phase 2 to hopefully follow in the spring. The total “hands off” price for both phases is approximately \$208,000, but the Goat Committee will seek donations/discounts for materials and equipment and provide sweat equity to reduce costs as much as possible.

Ron Byrd moved to allow the Goat Committee to proceed with Phase 1 with funds raised by the Goat Club. Several concerns were raised about drainage on the east end of the goat barn and the need to see a new construction plan which includes drainage before proceeding. Suzette seconded the motion and commented that plans were presented previously, and FBI is unwilling to produce another set until there is a commitment due to the costs involved in revising plans.

Questions about the number of animals per goat exhibitor, goats showing in the main arena, and the possibility of switching barns with sheep were raised and debated. Cindy Campbell explained the average number of goats per exhibitor is well below the maximum, and the shows follow the class structures used by the official associations for dairy, boer, and pygmy goats. Andy Stoll further explained that the differences between species of goats can be compared to the differences between beef and dairy cattle; however, all the types of goats are housed in one barn. Roger Geisler noted two arenas are needed because beef and goats show on the same day, and Denise Schroeder stated a second arena is needed because it is used for events other than the goat show, and the master plan created in the 1990's demonstrated a need for it. Joann Hoyt also commented that the funds for the current goat barn were donated specifically for that purpose, and future donations may be jeopardized if the Association does not honor donors' requests.

In response to a question from Luke Furrer, Jeff answered the Goat Club can provide funding for Phase 1, but Phase 2 may have to be delayed until funds are available. Luke asked that drainage be addressed as part of Phase 1. Suzette noted that drainage is the Ag Association's responsibility, and other barns are not in charge of drainage in their areas. Suzette moved to amend Ron Byrd's original motion to require drainage to be addressed before Phase 1 begins. Joann seconded Suzette's motion. Motion to amend passed. A vote on the amended motion was then taken and passed.

Scott Griffin stated there is a 12" tile in the area around the goat barn which could be accessed to drain the area, and it could be done inexpensively. After some discussion, other members of the Grounds Committee agreed this could be done prior to Phase 1, but they did not provide a timeline for completion of the task.

Unfinished Business

- **Tabled Items** – Andrea Cole reminded the Executive Committee, affected committees, and interested directors to meet regarding the following items which were tabled at previous meetings:
 - **Constitution and Bylaws** – Executive Committee
 - **Responsibility for Grounds When Rented** – Grounds and Event Committees
 - **Web Conferencing** – To Be Determined

New Business

- **Floor Mats** – Per Denise Schroeder, the floor mats in the entry way of the 4-H Building need to be sent out for cleaning. Joe Demerly moved to send out the mats for cleaning. Ron Byrd seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- **Tile Floors** – Per Denise Schroeder, the tile floors in the entry way of the 4-H Building need to be stripped. Joe Demerly moved to have the tile floors stripped. Mark Helms seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- **Grounds Rental Contract** – Per Andrea Cole, the 4-H Building rental contract was updated in April, but the rental contract and checklist for rental of the grounds and/or other structures on the grounds need to be reviewed and updated soon. It will be referred to the Grounds and Event Committees.
- **Future White County Fair Dates** – After a brief discussion, Sara Shelton moved to hold the 2018 White County Fair on Friday, July 20th – Thursday, July 26th. Ron Byrd seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- **Future Ag Association Meeting Dates** – Mark Helms suggested meetings be held on Wednesdays rather than Tuesdays as there might be fewer conflicts with school functions on Wednesdays. A brief discussion followed, and Cindy Campbell confirmed that this change would not require an amendment to the constitution or bylaws. (Secretary's Note: The bylaws state the *annual* meeting shall be held on the third Tuesday of January, but there is no reference to the day for regular meetings. The annual meeting section may be changed in the next series of amendments to the constitution and bylaws.) Mark Helms moved to change the day of regular meetings to the third Wednesday of the month beginning in October 2017. Kim Stockment seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Upcoming Dates – Randy Freshour reminded directors to review the upcoming date listed on the agenda.

Adjourn – Ron Byrd moved to adjourn, and Andy Stoll seconded the motion. Motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 10:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Campbell, Secretary.