

May 14, 2025

The regular meeting of the Washington County Fair board of directors was called to order by Brian Gilchrist, President.

An attendance sheet was circulated.

April minutes: Diane Smith moved to approve the minutes. Seconded and carried.

Brian Gilchrist thanked the office and grounds staff for filling in the gaps and moving forward with events. Also those that volunteered to help and filling in when needed.

Staff Reports: Entry office report on file. Chris Doyle report on file. Questions for Chris were about the dry well behind the grandstand. Vendors in that area have been made aware that there would be a cost for a portable tank.

Correspondence: A letter from Joanne Booth about the Fair History committee was read. Also, a thank you was read.

Treasurers Report: Beginning balance on 4/1/25 was 459,415.83 with income of 28,011.13 with expenses of 124,711.31 with an ending balance on 4/30/25 of 348,244.05. Janet Brown moved to approve the report and pay the bills. Seconded and carried.

Committee Reports

Finance: Discussed different reports to show budget variances and figures. Discussed using tech soup for some of the programs that are cheaper for non-profits. Would like have budget requests by Oct 1st. Next meeting July 30 th.

Big Push: On file

Equine: On file

Concession: On file

History: On File

Motorsports: On file

County bounty: Discussed craft beverage proposal.

Advertising: Putting it together. Will repeat last year's placements. Next meeting is May 19th.

Safety/Traffic: Updated action plan. Annual bite protocol was added. Updated maps. No change for Middle Falls Fire dept parking. Discussed exhibitor parking. Job fair for parking lot, tellers, etc. Robbin Anuszewski and Greg Danio took over the chairmanship of Safety committee. Thelma Rymph will guide them.

Jr Committee: Raffle will be June 8th at 430pm. Buy tickets at the office or online. Deadline is June 7th. Next meeting June 8th.

Entertainment: Stilt walker has cancelled. Dave Conkey presented 4 other choices and the committee ranked them.

Sunshine: Several cards were sent.

Old Business

Craft Beverage Proposal: Went over their proposal. Serving time is 2pm-8pm. Several other vendors do not want to be in the building if the craft beverage vendors are not there. Vendor fee would be 495.00 flat fee which will be 300.00 for the space and 195.00 for Security. Security would be 39 hours though A and D Security at a cost of 3,780. Discussion was held. Fair is requiring the vendors to provide their sales figures. One of the craft vendors to be in the building providing education 10-10. Pay for Wi-fi just like all other vendors. Robbin Anuszewski moved to move on with the proposal of 495/flat fee, provide sales numbers, pay wi-fi fee, man booth 2-8 for serving and requiring to stay til 10pm to leave as per policy on moving vehicles. Exception made to bring in product after 10am. Seconded. They said there would be up to 10 vendors there are 7 committed so far. Carried. Diane Smith and Tina Dearstyne were opposed.

New Business

Rabbit Superintendent: Sarah Lauder put in an application for superintendent. Jen Hunt, previous superintendent, supported Sarah Lauder in being the new superintendent.

Assistant Horse barn Superintendent: Janine Bentzen put in an application for the position.

Assistant Beef Superintendent: Beef Superintendent has withdrawn the need for an assistant.

Staff update: Setting up job fairs. Dylan Skiff has started back in the office. Talked with HR about paperwork. Filling holes this summer with Miriam and Charlotte. Gary St Mary is back mowing. Looking for temporary help for buildings and grounds.

Bedding and Manure: Harry Booth reported that 2 years ago a member of the fair association suggested that the fair charge Booths Blend to take the livestock bedding. Booths Blend currently does not have the room for the fairs bedding. Would have to put it on another site. Harry Booth reported that it would cost Booths Blend to take the bedding or the Fair would have to pay them. The Fair currently trucks it to Booths Blend. Harry Booth quoted a price of 35.00/load to take the bedding.

Dairy Judging Exhibition: Lori Benson why we do not do a dairy judging team. Would like to do a dairy judging team exhibition after the fitting program in the show ring on Monday. Would like to get youth interested in the judging team. Ruth McCuin moved to add the Dairy Judging team exhibition. Seconded and carried.

Proposed Exhibitor Overflow parking: Rob McWhorter moved to go ahead with the Exhibitor/Concession overflow parking. Seconded. Discussion was held about a fence. Fence needs to be tall enough such as deer fence. It would need 600-700 ft. Janet Brown moved to table the motion.

Equine: Committee would like to have an Equine clinic on June 20-22. Robbin Anuszewski moved to have the Equine Clinic and allow them to use the grounds and dorms. Seconded and carried.

North Pole Productions: Chris Doyle reported that he has informed Tammy that this will be the last year of the lights. They will be here in June to do some repairs.

Set Committee Dates

Capital Campaign: May 29th

Advertising: May 19th.

Camper: May 28th

Policy: June 4th

Ag Center: June 2nd

Equine: May 20th

Buildings and Grounds: June 5th

Diane Smith moved to go into Executive Session.

Janet Brown moved to come out of Executive Session.

Rabbit Superintendent: Ruth McCuin moved to appoint Sarah Lauder as Rabbit Superintendent.

Assistant Horse barn Superintendent: Discussion was held. Lynn Horton said it shouldn't be a family member. Tina Dearstyne moved not to act on the appointment. Seconded. Janet Brown moved to appoint Jeannine Bentzen as Assistant Horse Barn Superintendent. Seconded. Carried with 7 Nays. (Tina Dearstyne, Greg Lapan, Rob McWhorter, Margaret Brownell, Lori Benson, Tim Havens, Diane Smith).

Janet Brown moved to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julia A Reynolds

Secretary

Greg Rowland, Chris Doyle, Frank Nestle, Ruth McCuin, Randy Smith, Diane Smith, Sylvia Weaver, Doug Weaver, Mike Okonski, Tina Dearstyne, Brian Gilcrest, Earl Horton, Dave Conkey, Jason Hamilton and Tim Havens Sr.

Discussed Quotes for projects from last meeting.

Grey Water tanks

DOH mandating that tanks in the commercial food court and across from Argyle food booth need high level alarms. DOH also recommended placing one on the fence line campground. Committee recommended purchasing the alarms from FW Webb for \$244.00 each and electrical wire from Granite city for \$241.00. Chris will also need conduit for \$100 and miscellaneous parts for another \$100. Total: \$1173 plus labor. **Take to the board.**

County Bounty Building

100amp electrical sub panel upgrade to handle the new entertainment tent area. The committee recommended purchasing the panel, wire, conduit and miscellaneous parts from Granite City for \$1325.00 plus labor. **Take to the board.**

Commercial Building

2 - 100amp sub panels to front corners of building to replace old overhead that is failing. The committee recommended purchasing the 2 panels, wire, conduit and miscellaneous parts from Granite City for \$3278.00 plus labor. Chris will prioritize the south side panel first and if time permits complete the north side before fair. **Take to the board.**

Barn 6 Electrical Upgrade

New 200 amp panel to remove barn 6 from barn 4 power panel. The committee recommended purchasing the Panel, wire, conduit (including separate conduit for future Barn 7 upgrade) and miscellaneous parts from Hill Electric for \$9007.00 plus labor. **Take to the board.**

Overflow Exhibitor/Vendor parking expansion

480 linear feet of fencing to add approx. 120 vehicle parking. The committee recommended purchasing 5 – 100 rolls of 6 ft fence for \$1395.00. Also, 4x4 posts and T posts for approx \$900. Chris will replace the existing gate and add another for emergency access on the north end of lot. **Take to the board.**

Ag Center wash rack

One row of wands and hoses (5) for \$1700. Try to do one row a year. The committee recommended trying one row and see how it goes. **Take to the board.**

Chris gave update on track stage project, floor and stairs are in progress and will be completed before Pull for a Cure in July. Discussed miscellaneous roadway repairs that were needed, will pick larger stones out of walkways and place shoulder stone where needed. Maintenance will work on shoring up the foundations on the School House, Outhouse and Corn Crib. Chris will work on adding more lights to the roadway from Broadway to Argyle FD, its dark at night. Cattle barn water upgrades continue as Chris digs on the grounds. Barn Tarps, get quote from Fred when Fred returns. As time allows maintenance will start replacing lighting around the grounds with the new lights previously purchased. The second dorm hot water tank is installed just needs to be plumbed in. Discussed power washing and painting building/barn fronts as needed to spruce things up and will look at placing tin on fronts later.

The committee also discussed other projects for the future.

4H food booth

Needs new underground conduit/power and new panel, so that old overhead can be removed. Quotes ranged from \$4400 - \$5000 plus labor. Committee recommended place on hold for now. Chris will swing overhead temporarily so that the old, rotted pole in middle of food court can be removed.

Stormwater drywells

The area near rabbit tent and where sheriffs park is a lake when it rains. Needs a 8ft drywell installed, from Fort Miller Group \$2550 includes delivery. Also, would need washed cobble for \$800 from Korb Trucking. Plus, labor. The committee recommended putting it on hold for now unless time and budget allow before fair.

Camper Committee Meeting- May 28, 2025

Attending: Tina Dearstyne, Renee Kober, Rob McWhorter, Diane Smith, Robbin Anuszewski, Margaret Brownell, Janet Brown

Chairperson: Tina Dearstyne has decided to step down as chair of the Camper Committee. Vote was held to elect Rob McWhorter as committee chair pending Board of Directors approval.

Camper Placements: Discussion was held about camper placements and the methodology behind doing so (exhibitor location, location preference, requests, etc) Concerns were raised regarding the number of sites available for exhibitors in "the hub" area where the old horse barn used to be. The camper committee would recommend 14 of the 28 spots there to be held open for exhibitors in the future to firm up the number of spots available to exhibitors and to have a better idea for planning as applications come in.

Violations/Infractions: Discussion was held on violations and infractions of the camping/fair rules and how they are handled. One of the biggest problems that has arisen recently is dogs in the campers and the camper area. There were several problems with dogs last year, which are not supposed to be there to begin with, and are a potential liability issue if not addressed. Another example is campers that are not actually being used for overnight accommodation.

1. Written violation outlining what rule is being broken and a warning that it needs to be rectified immediately. Failure to do so may result in the loss of camping privileges.
2. If a serious violation continues to be ignored or unresolved, camping privileges will be revoked for the following fair.

While this may seem a bit harsh, some exhibitors have been turned away in recent years due to lack of space. This would be a real-life consequence for violations and should not result in any unused camping spaces regardless.

Camper Information/Authority: Camper placements are made by several different entities for the fair (concessions, office, motorsports, camper committee). However, what we lack is a centralized place where that information all goes together. This may be something for the policy committee to discuss, but we would recommend that all of the camper placements on the grounds be sent to the camper committee upon placement so that a centralized document can be created with the camper number, site placement, and the persons camping there can be placed in one central document that is available in the event of an emergency or other situation where this information may need to be accessed quickly, and for historical purposes in order to look back and evaluate for future fairs.

Items Needed to be Made/Purchased:

1. 2 3-ring binders (we may have these)
2. Plastic Sleeves for Applications
3. Bags for Camper Permits
4. Double Sided-Tape

5. White Paint for layout
6. Camper Permits (once applications come in, typically made in office)
7. Offender/Violation Slips (typically made in office)
8. Exhibitors hang tags

Respectfully Submitted,
Rob McWhorter

Capital Campaign Meeting Minutes

6/26/25

Attending: Mike O, Robin A, Frank N, Harry B. JoAnne B, Greg R and Ruth M.

Discussed 4th of July 50/50 raffle. Will set up a pop up near food court as well as selling tickets in the parking lot.

New bricks for the Brick Garden are ordered. Will be placed in time for 2025 fair. Planning to make a grid of brick garden and map out all the bricks to make it easier to find if someone is looking for a particular brick.

Blue Jean Ball planning is under way. Planning on making center pieces before fair time. Need to order tableware and drink cups. Frank will apply for temporary liquor license. Decided to go with the same menu as last year because everyone agreed that it was great. Save the date flyer will be posted soon.

Submitted by,
Ruth McCuin