



LAKE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING MINUTES

DIRECTORS SIGN-IN SHEET

August 6, 2026

Michael Peplowski	Karen Cline	Nate Huray
Jeremy Bezek	Donna	
Michelle Byram	Shirley	
Care Wilcox	Ron	
Al Henson	Sam	
Val Hefner	Jan	
Jim Day	1/1/1	

Caretaker:

Paul Aaron

Concessions:

LM

Auxiliary:

4-H Extension Rep:

Minutes:

President Joe Slansky called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm

VISITORS: There were no visitors in attendance.

MINUTES: Mike Peplowski made a motion to approve the minutes from July 16, 2026. Dave Wilcox seconded. All in favor and minutes were approved.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Accounts receivable report: There were no accounts receivable to report at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters of Intent. Michelle Byram reported two more letters of intent were emailed out to the Fair Board. One from Kelsey Bezdek and one from Nate Huray. Discussion was had on when or if the At-Large-Central seat will be filled. It was suggested to wait until after the elections in October. Some that are interested are eligible for the positions that are up for election and can run for those. Possibly invite those still interested in the seat to the November meeting to introduce themselves.

- **Concern regarding treatment of autistic daughter:** Joe Slansky reported and read a letter that was received regarding an incident that occurred during fair between a ride operator and the autistic daughter of the letter writer. Mike Peplowski advised that by the time he was aware that a special hand stamp was available and confronted the mom about it, she was ready to leave at that time. Mike Peplowski was called to the Grange Gate to discuss this incident with the mom. He advised her that there was a special hand stamp available for autistic children and offered to take her and her child back to the ride area and have this corrected. While discussing the issue, Mike assured her that we could get the issue addressed, but she was too distraught and just wanted to leave. Cindy Woodman reported that she did pass the information on to Linda Kissel. It was decided

that since we are now aware of the special hand stamp, we will inform our ride booth people of this and see if we can have one on hand from Kissel's.

OLD BUSINESS: No old business to report

NEW BUSINESS: Press Release: Bob Dawson reported the press release is a summary of the fair with highlights given to the media and the Lake County Commissioners.

- **Fair Summary:** Bob Dawson reported that as of today, this is a summary of the revenue expenses of the fair. This was not a record-breaking year but a good, strong fair. The weeknights were good. We need to look over the grandstand events to see if we are getting our money's worth. This is a problem at many fairs.

- **Income vs Expenses:** Bob Dawson reported the budget vs actual for the fair week. At the budget meeting, we typically were conservative on the revenue and expense sides. The numbers look good.

COMMITTEES:

- 4-H Livestock Auction:** Sam Taylor reported the livestock auction brought in \$605,821. This surpassed last years amount by \$160,000. Sam thanked everyone for their support and participation.

- Advertising: Publicity:** Bob Dawson reported we ended up where we thought we would be with sponsorship. For advertising, it was strong by the looks at how many people attended the fair. Bob feels the advertising on billboards really works.

- Camping:** Mike Peplowski reported camping sold out! Some campers moved in earlier than Saturday but all were out by Monday night. A few did not abide by the rule of hitch facing out.

- Cattle-Sheep-Swine-Goats:** Rich Van Pelt reported it went okay. He reported there were a few hitches. Sam Taylor reported the barns were full, even the open barn.

- Concessions:** Cindy Woodman reported all went well. Cindy was concerned about the numbers, but they did fill in.

- Culinary-Farm-Dairy:** Dave Wilcox reported this was a good year, with the bake sale auction setting another record. The cooler worked well.

- Decorations:** Michelle Byram reported that Lassnick's supplied the hanging baskets for decorations for fair.

- Entertainment:** Joe Slansky reported all went okay. The infield entertainment is not drawing the crowds. Truck pulls were moved and they put on a good show, but the attendance was low, along with the demo this year. The motocross had good attendance. On the grounds, the dog show had good attendance, along with Jungle Terry. Dave Jr. stated that the bleachers helped in the infield. Bob Dawson stated that the fence worked and the numbers in the pits showed that. Jeremy Hejduk reported they had to chase people off the fence. Suggested putting something up to block the fencing.

- Entertainment Tent:** Ken Hamilton reported we might want to change the layout of the tent next year to get more depth in it.

- Fair Queen:** Michelle Byram reported River Livengood did a good job at getting to the events and greeting royalty from other fairs.

- Garage Sale:** Michelle Byram reported applications went out in today's mail and email.

- Gates & Tickets:** Bob Dawson reported there were some challenges that will need to be addressed for next year. A second box in the booth when it starts to get busy is needed. Credit card use is up at the gates and grandstand. Michelle Byram stated that the beer tent and milkshake booth both used credit card machines this year and they were helpful. Mike Peplowski said he had some interest in individuals that would be willing to work the gates instead of groups.

- Golf Carts:** Dave Wilcox Jr. reported things went well.

- Government Coordination:** Joe Slansky reported the America 250 event went well.

-Grounds: Wade Crofoot reported there were no electrical issues. Wade also reported that Phillips Welding is adding another handrail to the steps in the grandstand.

-Draft Horse: Steve Ohmes reported there were 13 teams for the draft horse pulls.

-Insurance: Michelle Byram reported the payment went out in the mail.

-Jr. Fair: Dave Wilcox Jr. reported there was over \$17,000 in milkshake sales, where normally it is around \$15,000. There was a water pressure issue and not cold water in the milkshake booth. Jim Slansky reported they will be picking up the check next week for the grant they received for the copulas.

-Parade: Joe Slansky reported the parade went well. Edy, the Ohio Fairs Queen had a good time. The change in the parade route went well until getting into the fairgrounds, then it got backed up. The sheriff was happy and the churches were great as usual. Bob Dawson stated we are on top of the thank you's and suggested giving tickets to the clam bake to those that were a big help.

-Parking & Transportation: Mike Peplowski reported we are missing 12 cones. All else was good. There was a tire blow out on the people mover and the water truck. Convoy was quick to get these for us.

-Police-Safety-First Aid: Cindy Woodman reported fair went well. Thursday evening had problems with kids and there were two arrests made. There was another arrest one other night. The drone was great and the sheriff cars parked at the entrances were a great deterrent. The soft close for Sunday night worked well.

-Poultry & Rabbits: Kenna Covert reported everything went well. Kenna has some ideas for next year that she will share with Joe.

-Schools: Dave Wilcox Jr. reported that not many were in the school building. Dave plans on contacting colleges for next year. Kenna stated she may move the chicks into the school building for next year. Lisa Manning suggested contacting daycares to put up displays.

-Voice of the Fair – Natalie Pachinger reported all went well and thanked the Fair Board for their help and support. Natalie suggested looking into an interactive map of the fairgrounds. Asking where things were located was a common question received at the information booth. Joe also suggested a restroom sign for the main restroom.

4-H EXTENTION OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE: Lisa Manning reported all went well. The treasurer was out of town but will write a check for the cleaning of the building when she returns.

OTHER MATTERS: Michelle Byram stated that premium checks are on the desk outside of her office, if anyone has one or knows of someone that may have one to pick up. These are not mailed out.

Jeremy Hejduk made a motion to pay bills and adjourn. Seconded by Mike Peplowski, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle Byram
Secretary

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, September 3 @ 7:30 p.m.