

KENT COUNTY YOUTH FAIR BOARD MEETING  
September 12, 2007

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Sr. and Jr. Directors Present:**

Dave Bielema, Dennis Brown, Bruce Doll, Kay Grinage, Dawn Haase, Kevin Haase, Jason Hofman, Gary Jonker, Nicki Patterson, Dean Olin, Steve Vickers, Lindsay Bielema, Jim Crosby, Luci Shaffer

**Sr. and Jr. Directors Excused:**

Thomas Pfaller, Jessica Marks, Morgan Olin

**Areas Represented:**

Beef, Cavy/Rabbit, Dairy, Horse, Swine, Poultry

**Areas Not Represented (excused):**

Goat

**Areas Not Represented (unexcused):**

Dog, Sheep

**Others Present:**

Bob Wallington, Bill Bowers, Jim Steketee, Ron Wenger, Monica Burt, Sarah Crosby, Mary Crosby, Dianne Bieneman, Brenda Blough, Pat Mager, Cathy Clover, Jan Sebel, Rob Vonk, Julie Blodgett, Rory Kidder, Nancy Kidder, Dave Simmonds, David Pachulski, Paul Meyer, Diane Brown, Greg DeLeeuw, Seymour Gould, Gord VanLaan

**Call to order**

The September 12, 2007 meeting was called to order by President Jason Hofman at 7:30 p.m. at the King Memorial Youth Center and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll call was taken with 14 directors present and 3 members excused.**

**2007-09-1** Moved by Dennis Brown and seconded by Lindsay Bielema to accept the minutes of the July meeting as presented. Motion carried.

**2007-09-2** Moved by Lindsay Bielema and seconded by Dennis Brown to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried.

Current balances are:

Savings – \$3027.93

Premium Checking – \$13,959.06

Checking – \$105,568.72

Livestock Sale - \$273,286.10

CD's - \$10,000.00

**2007-09-3** Moved by Jim Crosby and seconded by Dennis Brown to pay the bills.

Motion carried.

**Extension:**

Upcoming 4-H Events:

**Fall Leader Kick-off** Meetings will be:

10/6 @ Extension, 10 a.m.

10/16 @ Sparta Public Schools Admin. Building, 7 p.m.

10/25 @ King Building (Pending official confirmation from Ron), 7 p.m.

**KSRP Ride-a-thon-** 10/6 @ Ionia State Recreation Area, 9 a.m.

**October Kett Center Workshops:** (Contact Renee for dates and to register)  
Fall Galaxy for Horse Event Committees, Visual Arts and Crafts, Clothing and Textiles  
**Leaders Recognition Night-** 11/15 @ New Community Church, 6:30 p.m.  
**MSU 4-H Senior Scholarship-** Info sent out to HS seniors this week,  
application for admission to MSU and scholarship application are both  
due to MSU by 11/1/07.

**Committees:**

The following had no report - Exhibit Building, Trophies/Ribbons, Camping,  
Parking/Shuttle, Publicity, Entertainment, Guest Services Office, Finance, Technology,  
Dog, Horse, Sheep

**Sponsorship/Commercial** – Monica Burt

Only one sponsorship is still outstanding. Satisfied with how everything went.

**Nominating** – Dennis Brown

Only 2 people are on the ballot for Seniors so far. They are Dennis Brown and Jessica  
Marks. Still looking for more people interested in running for Senior and Junior  
positions.

**Fair Manager/Buildings & Grounds/Midway** – Ron Wenger

There was a horse show scheduled for the weekend after fair but they had to cancel due  
to the conditions of the ring after the large amount of rain.

The Hover Craft group was here the weekend after fair.

The Amfest Radio and Annual Toy Run have also been here.

The Blue Grass Festival is this weekend, September 14, 15, and 16.

Time to start getting ready for storage to go in.

**Still Exhibit Judging** – Diane Brown

There is some concern when it comes to putting out ribbons after exhibits are judged.  
Different ideas have been talked about during the fairboard workshop and they will be  
relayed to Stephanie.

**Safety** – Bob Wallington

If people are going to be brought to the Guest Services Office for medical treatment, a  
new air conditioner needs to be put in. The current one is not keeping up any more.

**Livestock Sale** – Changes will be made to the load out sheets to make it easier. Numbers  
were down but better than expected.

**Beef** – Jim Steketee

Everything went well. The developmental committee is re-assessing where they are at  
and what they need to fine tune. Some rules need to be adjusted. The Cow Pie Bingo  
brought in \$494 and the silent auction brought in \$331. They made \$1715.25 with their  
fundraisers to help cover some of their expenses.

They would like to continue to have the Cow Pie Bingo and Silent Auction each year.

Approval does need to be obtained each year for these activities.

2007-09-4 Moved by Nicki Patterson and seconded by Jim Crosby to allow the Beef area  
to have the Cow Pie Bingo and Silent Auction for the 2008 Fair. Motion carried.

**Dairy** – Paul Meyer - Everything went well.

**Goat** – Everything went well. There are no major concerns.

**Poultry** – Dianne Bieneman - Everything went well except the weather related losses of some birds. Thank you to Ron and everyone.

**Rabbit/Cavy** – Bill Bowers

The barn was very full. There were 45 Cavies. Cages were borrowed from Mecosta County. If the numbers keep rising we will need to look into buying more cages. With extra judges this year the Showmanship was done by 9:30. The raffle brought in over \$700. Thank you Ron and crew for fixing the floor in the barn.

**Swine** – Gord VanLaan - Everything went well. They are having a meeting with the leaders on Monday, Sept 17. Thank you to Monica and the board.

### **Public Comments:**

Dave Simmonds with the West Michigan Blue Grass Music Association – The Blue Grass Festival begins Thursday with music in the King Building and is Free on Thursday. The regular shows are Friday – Sunday. The grounds are looking great. They had a good crowd for the Thursday night entertainment during Fair.

**Cathy Clover** – Asked if we had the average prices for each species from the sale. We do not yet but will get that information.

**Seymour Gould** – Thanked the board for letting the horse pullers come again this year. The bigger tent was nice. They do have one concern with the shuttles. There are kids that are jumping on and off the shuttle wagons while it is moving. This is very DANGEROUS!! They would like something put in the leaders packet asking leaders to remind their kids not to do this.

The Barnyard Horse Pull brought in 13 teams and everyone had a great time. There was a large crowd there as well. They would like to have the Barnyard Pull again in 2008 at the same time and on the same day of the week. There may be even more pullers in 2008.

**2007-09-5** Moved by Dave Bielema and seconded by Kevin Haase to have the Barnyard Horse Pull in 2008. Motion carried.

The board would like to thank those that help pull the shuttles all week. It is a huge help for us and our guests love it.

### **Old Business:**

**Grievance** – A grievance was received by the grievance committee following the 2007 fair. It was handled by the committee and their decision was appealed to the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA). A decision was made and sent to the complainant by the MDA and per MDA has therefore been resolved with no further action required.

**Lease** – A new proposed lease has been received from the City. The Executive Committee will be meeting to review the proposed lease and to make modifications to it.

### **New Business:**

**2008 Fair Theme** – Please bring suggestions to the October meeting so that one can be voted on at that time.

**Fair Book Changes** – Due by the October meeting or they will be late.

**Fall Zone Meeting** – The meeting will be on Thursday, October 4 with dinner at 6:00 and the meeting immediately following. It is being hosted by Ottawa County and will be at the Sparta Civic Center.

**Blue Grass Festival** – Pat needs volunteers to work in the food booth. Please let her know when you can help.

**Lowell Santa Parade** – The parade is going to be held at 6:00 p.m. this year. Instead of our annual pancake breakfast, we are going to have a pancake supper to coincide with the parade. Line up starts at 4:00 p.m. and will be on Saturday, December 1.

**Convention Silent Auction** – Do we want to donate a gift basket or other item(s) to the silent auction again this year?

2007-09-6 Moved by Dawn Haase and seconded by Jim Crosby to allow up to \$250 for the purchase of an item(s) to be donated to the Silent Auction at the 2008 MAFE convention. Motion carried.

Diane Brown and Kay Grinage will put something together.

**Correspondence** – The following were received:

A Thank you card for a planter from the family of Edrie Patterson. (Nicki's grandma)

A Thank you card from Diane Brown for a planter that was sent while she was in the hospital.

A Thank you card for the work put into the fair from Cody, Connor, and Kyle Acker.

A Thank you card for the work put into the fair from Sarah Silverman.

A Thank you letter from Wannetah Phelps for the memorial service in honor of our beloved E.L. Phelps who we lost at the start of the fair he loved so much.

E.L. – You will be forever in our hearts! May you rest in peace!

2007-09-7 Moved by Lindsay Bielema and seconded by Jim Crosby to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nicki Patterson, Secretary

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 10 at 7:30 p.m. at the King Building.