

Morton County Fair Board Minutes

May 4, 2026

7:00pm Morton County Fairgrounds

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm central time by board President Shawn Feiring.

Directors presented: Shawn Feiring, Trina Gress, Peggy Brandt, Luke Dukart, Brooke Kunz, Nathan Boehm, Mark Isaacs, and Annie Gartner. Directors by zoom: Barry Schulz

Associate Members presented: Amanda Noel

Guest: Don Lafleur-MCF Accountant (zoom) and Russ Voight- 4-H Council

Custodial Report: no report

Additions/Approval of Agenda: Luke moved to approve agenda, Trina 2nd motion passed

Secretary's Report: Luke moved to approve secretary's minutes as presented, Brooke 2nd, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: In the checking account per bank \$121,341.65, Savings Account per bank \$28,012.14. Loan balance is \$276,960.11, next payment due 12/26/2026 (\$27,498.81).

Luke moved to approve the treasurer's report as presented, Peggy 2nd motion passed.

4-H Report: Russ informed the Board that 4-H Council is going to buy a heavy duty canopy 10x20 for \$1100.00 to go over the bleachers, he asked the Board if we would be interested in purchasing a second one, Discussion followed, Luke moved to purchase a second 10x20 heavy duty canopy for the bleachers by the livestock shows for \$1100.00, with the expense coming out of the Competitive Committee, Peggy 2nd, roll call vote; Shawn-yes, Peggy-yes, Trina-yes, Luke-yes, Nathan-yes, Mark-yes, Barry-yes and Annie –yes, motion passed unanimously.

Bills to pay: none

Old Business:

Committee Reports:

Amusement & Youth Activities: Trina presented a bill for the labor and materials to build the wooden train, total bill was \$1214.81, and she will p/u the train on May 16th. Discussion on where to put the petting zoo, decided to have the petting zoo on the north end of the Rabbit and Poultry Barn.

Beer Garden: Shawn presented to the Board two bids for the beer garden during the fair;

1st bid was from Silver Dollar from Mandan ND, MCF will receive 40% of total sales, and vendor will retain 60% of total sales, will be selling long island teas and will be using cash as past years.

2nd bid was from Country Fest/726 Services, MCF will receive 40% of total sales, vendor will retain 60% of total sales, they will use custom made tickets for the event, will not be serving long island tea.

Discussion followed, Luke made the motion to accept the bid from Silver Dollar from Mandan, ND, Nathan 2nd motion passed.

Camping: no report

Capital Improvements/ Facility Maintenance: slide door on west side of Entertainment Building south end needs to be fixed, very hard to open and close.

Annie brought up the electrical upgrade for the kitchen that needs to get fixed before the fair, no action taken, tabled to June's meeting. She also brought up the ramp by the stage in Entertainment Building that needs to be fixed before someone gets injured. The concrete is busted, there are heavy mats over the ramp which is causing a trip hazard, and is especially hard for people with walkers and wheel chairs to navigate, Committee will have the contractor doing the concrete project take a look at the ramp.

Mark brought up the repair to the Horse Barn roof, the tarp is here, need to find someone to install, Peggy will make some calls.

Country Fest: no report

Gate & Parking: Nathan has scheduled printed for workers for the gate and the inflatables, will post in June.

Music & Small Acts: no report

Public Relations & Advertising: Sponsorships are coming in so far to date \$54,125.00. Discussion on who will design the book this year, Peggy will design the book for the fair this year.

Board will need to review the schedule of events and any items that need to be changed in the book and have to Peggy by May 18th no later.

Rodeo/Draft Horse Competition/Ranch Rodeo: Barry informed the Board that Peggy and himself went to the New Salem Civic Club to ask for a yearly sponsorship for the rodeo, draft horse competition and ranch rodeo, working on that. Did receive a sponsorship from them for \$10,000.00 for the rodeo, draft horse competition and ranch rodeo.

NDRA did not raise the added money this year, will be raised for the 2027 fair.

Power Pull: Shawn informed the Board that the contracts for the power pull and the antique pull are signed, Peggy will do the banners for them.

Competitive Events/Awards: Committee will meet to go thru the book and make any changes if needed.

Commercial Exhibits/Concessions/Vendors: no report

Security: no report

2027 Budget: Board went thru and finalized the 2027 Budget. Here is the final budget:

Amusement & Youth Activities: \$12,000.00, Beer Garden: \$50.00, Camping: \$500.00, Capital Improvements: \$65,000.00, a: interest: \$20,000.00, Commercial Exhibits/Vendors: \$50.00, Competitive Events/Awards: \$80,000.00, Facility Maintenance: \$20,000.00, Gate & Parking: \$8,000.00, Bands & Small Acts: \$30,000.00, Office Expense & Payroll: \$35,000.00, Power Pull/Antique Pull: \$16,000.00, Public Relations: \$25,000.00, Rodeo/Draft Horse Competition/Ranch Rodeo: \$30,000.00, Security: \$13,000.00, Donations: \$8,000.00 and Utilities: \$20,000.00. Total \$362,000.00

Brooke made the motion to approve the 2027 Budget, Trina 2nd, discussion followed, Annie presented to the Board a list of expenses for each committee, motion passed.

Selling shirts: Peggy presented to the Board pricing and designs for t-shirts etc. Discussion followed, Trina made the motion to sell t-shirts, etc. on a preorder sale as a fund raiser for the fair, Nathan 2nd, motion passed. Peggy will get the site to pre order online up and running on the website and Facebook.

New Business:

Hotel Rooms: Annie informed the Board anyone needs rooms for judges, etc. to let her know by June 1st.

Trina presented the idea to the Board members having one meal ticket for each day of the fair. Discussion followed, table for next meeting.

Next meeting: June 1, 2026 at 7:00pm at the fairgrounds in New Salem.

Brooke moved to adjourn the meeting, Trina 2nd motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm central time.

Submitted by Annie Gartner, MCFB Secretary: Signature Annie Gartner Date 8-1-2026