

## Morton County Fair Board Minutes

September 21, 2021

Call the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. central time by board President Shawn Feiring.

**Directors present:** Nathan Boehm, Peggy Brandt, Shawn Feiring, Melanie Gaebe, Annie Gartner, Kristine Koeplin, Karla Meikle, Barry Schulz, and Josh Valleroy

**Associate Members present:** Jackie Buckley, and Mark Isaacs

**Guests present:** Mary Doll

**Additions/ Approval of Agenda:** Melanie made the motion to approve the agenda, Josh second, motion passed.

**Secretary's Report:** Karla made the motion to approve the August 17th minutes as presented, Melanie 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed. Karla made the motion to approve the August 26<sup>th</sup> zoom minutes, Peggy 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.

**Treasurer Report:** In the checking account there is a balance of \$95,870.07, outstanding checks of \$267.25, savings account balance is \$14,000.00, online account balance is \$2,393.37, and a deposit was made on 9-22-21 for \$15,799.00 for an ending balance of \$127,795.19.

Beer garden income was \$14,200.00 profit to the fair. The Field Bar has been paid. Donations from the fair will be paid this week and all premium checks will be in the mail tomorrow.

Gate income for Friday was \$10,221.00, Saturday was \$18,544.65 and Sunday was \$2761.00 does not include the wrist band sales. Nathan made the motion to approve the treasurer report, Melanie 2<sup>nd</sup> motion passed.

**Bills to pays:** Hoesel Construction for \$910.00 for the removal of gate and all the hardware and posts and for the installation of gate in NW corner of fair grounds. Nathan made the motion to approve, Peggy 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.

**Custodial Report:** Have an ideal from a Morton County citizen for a message board out by the road. This individual knows of someone that is selling or may be giving one away. Still waiting on the duplicate contracts for renting of the building. No keys to be given to 4-H leaders and would like a heads up when the new stove arrives so they can clean where the old stove was.

## **Old Business:**

### **Committee Reports:**

Amusement & Youth Activities: no report

Beer Garden: no report

Camping: no report

Country Fest: Still working on contract and invoice for cleanup. Karla gave a heads up that Country Fest would like to come earlier and stay later then this year and they would also like a 10 year contract.

Facility Maintenance: Melanie will call Rik to get a time line for when the new stove will arrive. Rick said there are parts on the old stove he can sell, and the fair board will get a cut of the profits from the sale of these parts.

Shawn has been working on the hoop barns trying to get them closed up for winter, one door latch is broken, put hasps and padlocks on doors so they are more secured. All water hydrants, pedestals and electrical boxes are locked up.

Fair Dinner: no report

Gate & Parking: no report

Music & Small Acts Entertainment: We can put a bigger tent up on the east side of the concession building to have entertainment in. We can go another 20 feet to the north and possibly have sides put on the tent.

Public Relations: no report

Rodeo: no report

Power Pull: no report

Competitive Exhibits: Jackie presented Survey taken by the Exhibitors at the Morton County Fair:

### **Question asked**

1. Do you exhibit more than one species at the Morton County Fair?
2. Do you exhibit at more than 1 county fair in North Dakota? If so how many?
3. Did you use the online registration for Morton County Fair?

- Did you have any problem with registering on line?
4. How do you feel if Morton County went to an online ONLY entry system?
  5. Many of you Show more than 1 species of livestock. Would you prefer that the Morton County Fair show 1 species at a time?

Question 1

Yes – 15

No – 7

Question 2

Yes – 18

No – 6

Fairs exhibited in ranged from 1 to 18

Question 3

Yes – 19

No – 0

Comments

- Not user friendly
- Confusing for the breeding animal classes
- Hated Fair Entry!!! Pain in the !!!

Question 4

- Do not go this route
- Not good if it was online only
- Liked it
- Either way is fine
- Not good
- Good and Very good
- Would rather register in person
- Rather do online



- OK as long as someone is there to help with the problems
- Fine as long as it works
- Had to call in because I couldn't get it to work
- If the bugs are worked out it would be OK

#### Question 5

Yes – 13

No – 7

- Things move faster with 2 rings – but doesn't matter either way
- Fun show
- Wouldn't get as many entries
- Run multiple to shorten the day
- Can show as many animals as I want without being rushed or drop animals
- I almost missed my steer because I show pigs
- YES!!
- Goes smoother not running back and forth
- Doesn't affect me
- Feel like you are trying to limit kids to the numbers of species they bring
- More than 1 at a time makes it hard to jump from species to species

#### Cost of Judges

1 Judge

2021 - \$750 includes room Saturday

\$625 includes room Sunday

If you decide on 2 judges/day cost could double

Static: Have one name for the people's choice award, after we finish sending the premium checks out, then we will decide on a prize.

Commercial Exhibits & Concessions: Melanie is going to do some outreach to a couple of food vendors and commercial vendors that did not get into the fair this year, she is going to give them next year dates and see if they are still interested.

**Buckles/ Awards:** Hoodies for open class should be done by next Friday, everyone was happy with the buckles, a lot of good compliments.

**Security:** no-report

### **New Business:**

**Contract Rental Charges-** Karla made the motion to keep the rental charges the same for the upcoming year and add the proper language to the contracts. Renters will pay their fee up front and pay for the deposit when they get their keys. Nathan 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.

There is a start and end date on the contracts, need to make sure do not the key before the start of the event, receive keys the night before or on the day of set up.

**Parking of the hay trailers along north fence:** Karla moved to charge Dave Bueligen \$250.00 for parking along the north fence, he can park trailers from October 1<sup>st</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup>. Morton County Fair Board is not responsible for snow removal. Peggy 2<sup>nd</sup> motion passed.

**Term Lengths:** 1 year- Karla, Wayne and Shawn, 2 year- Melanie, Kristine and Annie, 3 year- Barry, Peggy and Tracy.

**2021 County Fair Notes:** presented by Jackie.

### **Northern Plains Equipment**

- Tractor Driver felt he was not treated very well by a Fair board member
- Did not receive 2 gate passes as he had in the past
- Did not get any beer tickets
- Probably will not drive the pullback tractor in 2022

### **Comment made by a Fair board member to a Morton County Resident**

- I am just a volunteer and if things do not go my way I will quit the Fair board

### **More volunteers are needed to help with gate tickets and beer garden**

- Fair board needs to recruit more Associate members
- Or there needs to be more members on the Board
- Fair board was spread way to thin
- There was no time for anyone to have any fun. We always made time to have a beer or two when we got done cleaning on Sunday night.



#### 4-H/Extension Office

- 4-H MUST have a way to let the Fair board know which animals are leaving Friday night so stalling can be completed on Thursday for Open Class
- No other 4-H animals other than pigs will be allowed to stall in the hog barn – We had exhibitors come in on Saturday night for Hog pens and there were none. Take care when stalling in the hog barn to make sure there are pens left open for pigs that may come in on Saturday night. 6-8 pens
- 4-H should try to stall animals together from the same family if at all possible. There were some animals that could have been penned together that were not.
- It would be nice to have some 4-H/Extension help on Sunday to take down stalls and clean pens. **We may not have to move all the pens in the future. Need to know this from the Country Fest Committee. Will Country Fest be using the hog and sheep and hog barn only for storage? If so, can we leave the side panels moves against the walls?**

#### Stalling

- No Fair board member, volunteer, associate member, 4-H member, leader, or parent etc., should ever move an exhibitor's animal or belongings without the owner's permission
- Fair board needs to consider purchasing some stall dividers for both the hog and sheep barn
- More stalls will need to be set up in the Dairy Barn. If Dairy Goat will continue to be shown in the main arena they should be stalled in the dairy barn.

#### Fair Entry

- Entries were not scanned
- 2 Fair board members stayed up all night to re-enter everything – I hope this does not happen next year
  - Entries come in Friday night at least until 8pm or later
  - Weigh-ins came in until at least 10pm
  - After check-in I assume that the entries need to be re-scanned
  - Someone will need to enter weights – unless there is a way that someone can enter weights as the animals are weighed – There will need to be a different set-up for weighing
- I was glad the I had prepared to enter all of the market classes on an Excel spreadsheet
- Some 4-Hers said they entered for the Saturday Show and we could not find their entries

#### Sunday Show

- New entries came in for the Sunday show on Saturday evening
- Some were not pre-entered – this will always be the case

#### Payout

As of September 21, the premiums have not been sent

- This needs to be done in a timelier fashion. In the past all premiums were paid out 15 days after the fair

#### **Custodian**

- Take good care of Mary and Kari – these people are very hard to find

#### **Past Board Recognition**

- A whole year has just about gone by, and nothing has been done to recognize the past Fair board members that put in many years of service to this board.

**Remember that these exhibitors are our customers. We need to treat them as such. If the Fair board treats them badly they will not come back. The open class exhibitors are a very close group. They talk among themselves.**

**Capital Improvements List:** Put hasps and padlocks on the doors on the entertainment building.

Tourism planning grant thru ND- grant will provide a min. of \$100,000.00 and a max. Of \$500,000.00 per plan. Opens September 13<sup>th</sup> and closes September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Awards will be announced on October 15, 2021. Melanie will take care of the writing of the grant. Items that will be included in the grant; picnic tables-24, portable bleachers- 2 sets, water and electrical upgrades, people mover, and concrete slab for the scale. See what we get from the grant and go from there.

Next meeting is October 19, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Morton County Fair Grounds, New Salem

Karla made the motion to adjourn, Melanie 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed. Adjourned at 8:57p.m. Central time.

*Annie Bentner*  
MCFB Secretary  
1-18-2022