



Regular Board Meeting
February 10, 2022

The meeting notification and agenda were posted in advance at the Custer County Courthouse, on the CCAS Website, the CCAS Facebook page and e-mailed to each board member.

Members present were Rodney Lamb, Blair Hartman, Kent Nelson, Charmayne Popp, Marla Stallbaumer, Steve Horn, Shane Ryan, & Casey Cooksley.

Members absent: Ira Spanel (**entered the meeting at 7:10**)

Others present were Admin. Michelle Nelson, Grounds Manager JJ Martin, Horse Committee Representative – Jake Rosentreader, KCNI-Emily Barnett, Jennifer Horn, Custer County Chief-Mona Weatherly, County Supervisor Dwain Bryner, Mid States Rodeo Association (MRSA) Representatives: Ginalee Sinner, Andy Knott, and Emily Finney.

AGENDA items:

7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Pres. Nelson.

NE Open Meetings Act

-Pres. Nelson informed those present of the location and availability of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act publication.

Minutes

- **Approve Minutes of January 13, 2022, Regular Board Meeting**

Minutes of the January 13, 2022, regular board meeting were reviewed.

Hartman made a motion to approve the minutes seconded by Ryan.

Roll call vote:

Voting Yes: Popp, Hartman, Lamb, Horn, Ryan, Nelson

Voting No: None

Abstaining: Stallbaumer, Cooksley

Absent: Spanel

Motion carried.

Financial Report

- **Approve to pay monthly bills**

Following are the account balances in the various accounts as of December 31, 2021.

Events Account: \$7,344.05

Livestock Account: \$12,473.96

Memorial Funds: \$7,195.03

Storm Damage: \$134,808.11

Capital Fund \$-29,370.60

General Fund: \$156,319.92

Savings Account: \$11,106.12

Horn made a motion to approve the financial report and pay the bills seconded by Stallbaumer.

Roll call vote:

Voting Yes: Ryan, Popp, Hartman, Lamb, Stallbaumer, Horn, Cooksley Nelson

Voting No: None

Abstaining: None

Absent: Spanel,

Motion carried.

Committee Reports

- **Extension Office—Presented by Pres. Nelson**

---Beef weigh in on Saturday, everything went well.

- **4-H Council**

---No report

- **Grounds Manager**

---Working on replacing wood on bleachers, spent ~\$700 at Mead Lumber. Also purchased metal from V-Bar to reinforce bleachers.

- **Administrator**

---UNL Rodeo fundraiser will happen Feb 12. March 19th starts the busy season. Admin. Nelson has received a lot of calls about fair camping spots. She would like to go back to a first come first serve basis. The cost will be \$125/week, come in on Thursday and go out on Friday. Admin Nelson will open the selection on the first Saturday of May.

Discussion was that we need to use the pedestals at the horse barn before renting a generator.

Lamb suggested that if you only have horses, stall at the horse barn.

Chris Miller from Kearney is going to work with the Architect to get a drawing of the grandstands to make it ADA compliant and submit a bid. Chris Meyers is going to help with the grant to support the project of the demolition of the buildings.

Admin Nelson said that the fair schedule is pretty well set. She asked for guidance on the vendors under the grandstands as they are not well supported.

Cooksley asked if moving static entries under the grandstands would help pull traffic under.

Admin Nelson wasn't sure that this would help.

Admin Nelson said that they asked Colleen about moving static exhibits to the grandstands and they would prefer to keep items close to the 4-H building for ease of moving projects back and forth but are not completely opposed to the idea.

Pres. Nelson said that if something comes along with being able to take down the buildings on the hill, we will need a plan b.

Popp expressed concern about having building sitters and how dirty the exhibits get under the grandstands.

The board agreed that Admin Nelson shouldn't spend a lot of time looking for vendors.

Admin Nelson is having troubles with the Viearo internet and has talked to Great Plains for a quote. The quote was for \$143/month, no installation cost, it would be more reliable internet also. The problem with this quote is that it does not include the indoor arena, Great Plains is working on a quote for the indoor.

Pres. Nelson asked what the problem is with the current internet, and it is an equipment and quality issue.

Jake Rosentreader asked if there was potential for advertising benefits that could lead to a discount.

Admin Nelson is looking into this.

OLD BUSINESS:

Disc/dec – Winter Ball 2022 Recap

---Admin Nelson is working on running a report from the Winter Ball. She is keeping track of income/expense. Gross was \$44,000, appears we will net ~\$24000.

NEW BUSINESS:

Disc/dec – Horse Committee – Jake Rosentreader re: horse release date at fair

---Suggesting a release of 5:00pm on Wednesday rather than 8:00am on Thursday morning. Would help the parents that work as well as the people who have animals on both ends of the grounds. The committee has voted on it but needs board approval. Committee would like to try the early release to see how it goes.

Horn moved that we approved the horse release to 5:00 pm on Wednesday of fair. Spanel seconded.

Roll call vote:

Voting Yes: Popp, Hartman, Lamb, Horn, Stallbaumer, Cooksley Ryan, Nelson Spanel

Voting No: None

Abstaining: None

Absent: None

Motion carried.

Disc/dec – State Audit Recap

--- Admin Nelson feels that the audit went smooth. The auditors asked about the mower that is currently being leased. Spanel thought that when the lease was up it gets returned. Martin thought that it was purchased. Nelson clarified that we purchased one machine and leased the other. Martin will check machines and Nelson will clarify with the board which machine was on the lease and will proceed. Tabled.

There are a lot of uncleared checks on the books that date back to 2011. Ethan said that we can create a liability account to clear them from the account but cover the checks out of that account. Ethan would like until after tax season to handle this. Admin Nelson and Ethan will investigate this further.

Audit asked about and suggested that something is pursued with the penalties and interests that we paid/are paying to the IRS and Department of Revenue per the Connie Ulmer Accountant issues. To date we have paid \$8636.18 in penalties and interest. Auditors' suggestion was to find a lawyer that is knowledgeable of the case and ask them to help us pursue it. The other suggestion was to ask for the accounting fees back. Spanel, Horn, and Cooksley do not feel that it is not worth the money to hire lawyers to pursue to.

Pres. Nelson said he has had taxpayers ask about what we are doing because they are upset. Admin. Nelson will get with Ethan to determine what we paid Ulmer and report back to the board for further consideration.

Disc/dec – Bidding for Mid States Finals 2022-2024

--- **Reported by Admin Nelson**--Jason called Admin Nelson and expressed concern about the comp'd RV spots and said that it will not happen again. He did not know it was happening. Admin Nelson suggests that we make the best of the signed contract for 2022. Going forward, Admin Nelson would like to not hire a funny man, Jason suggested to move the Calcutta to Friday night after the performance. One band on Saturday night. Don't hire an arena director—utilize the board members as volunteers. Explore other options for big screen and sound as she has had requests to be able to put a bid in. If we provide all of the volunteer help Admin Nelson does not feel that we need to provide the added money.

Andy Knott said that when you sign up to be on a board, you are signing up to volunteer for the events that you host also.

Ryan expressed that it was not the board members time, it is the outside volunteer help that we have to round up that is challenging.

Spanel said that finding volunteer help is hard to find and to find qualified help is even harder.

Sinner asked how we have \$18,000 in the Mid States account if we have lost money and Andy Knott asked about the sponsorship of the event.

Pres. Nelson clarified that we haven't lost money every year.

Admin Nelson shared that it is hard to find sponsorship because the local businesses are not willing to sponsor the whole event because they have already been asked by specific events.

Sinner said that she has not had any new sponsors and has had sponsors tell her they have not been asked for a few years, so she doesn't understand how we are not getting sponsorship and we are losing money.

Rosentreader expressed support for the work that the board has done to try to get sponsorship, he knows that it is hard.

Sinner said that Mid States Rodeo Association (MSRA) is very pleased with the location and the event, but MSRA Representatives said they have been hearing we want to get rid of it.

Admin Nelson said that it is not that we want to lose the event but that we can't be losing money.

Sinner supports the idea of moving the Calcutta to Friday and thinks it's a great idea to increase beer garden money.

Finney asked what can the MRSA do to help make this work?

Pres. Nelson said that the biggest thing is us not comping camper spots and removing the other benefits that are not written in the contract. Nelson is also concerned about the back penning and rough stock help from a liability and safety state.

Finney and Knott said that this was the first that they heard of comping camper spots. Knott said that Jason said that the MSRA will address comping RV spots.

Ryan said that he feels the back penning job should be a contractor job, not a volunteer job. He feels that pulling equipment is fine, but penning is not a safe option.

MRSA Representatives feel that is a fair thing to ask and they will address the issue.

Knott said that the board has made a huge impact on MRSA, but Pres. Nelson feels that the event has lost some glimmer and we aren't getting the attendance we used to get. He would like to scale things back a bit to make it work.

Admin. Nelson feels there needs to be more advertising but feels that MRSA needs to contribute to the cost of advertising.

Knott said that MRSA wants to make the event work and make it better.

Lamb said that we are cutting the frills and following the contract exactly to see how it goes in 2022.

Ryan said that he is not against renewing the contract, but we must make sure that it is working for both sides.

Admin. Nelson asked when we need to submit the bid for 2023 and 2024. Knott said that mid-year is the latest.

Admin. Nelson will get a big put together and the board will discuss it at the next meeting, and she will follow up with MRSA.

Disc/dec – Concert 2022

--- Admin Nelson is struggling to find someone to book. Every name that Adam Smith has suggested is booked. Nelson is comfortable spending \$15,000 on a main act because she knows that she can raise the money in sponsorship, however Smith suggested that she find an artist that is \$30,000, to bring the crowd and ticket sales, Nelson is hesitant to try. Nelson has found bands that are \$3000-\$10000, but Smith is concerned there will not be a crowd because they do not know the name. Cooksley says we might as well invest and give it a try with a big name. The rest of the board agrees that its worth the investment. Admin Nelson will proceed with offers for a larger named band.

Disc/dec – Overhead doors on Grandstands – Estimate from Overhead Doors

--- Admin Nelson is working with Overhead Door Company look at the doors under the grandstands and on the stall barn. To replace under the grandstands and reframe the far east door will be \$9660 for four doors. We can add chain hoist for another \$450/door. The doors will not be heavy with the functionality and quality of the door, and it was not recommended that we would need the chain hoists. The stall barn quote is still in the works because they will have to frame in some of the doors. Rosentreader asked if we needed all four spots to have garage doors? Mona Weatherly said from a ventilation standpoint it would be nice to keep the doors as open as possible.

Pres. Nelson asked about how closing off the middle section would affect fire code. Admin Nelson will look for a grant to pay for the project and will report back.

OTHER CONCERNS

---Admin Nelson talked to the parade committee and the parade will start at 6:00pm and concert will start at 8:00 pm on Saturday of fair.

ADJOURNMENT: At 8:14pm Horn made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Lamb.

Roll call vote:

Voting Yes: Ryan, Popp, Spanel, Hartman, Lamb, Stallbaumer, Horn, Cooksley, Nelson

Voting No: None

Abstaining: None

Absent: None

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Blair Hartman, Secretary