



Fair Board Meeting

Date: May 18th, 2026

Facilitated by Joan Kutchin, President

Recorded by Megan Byrne, Asst Secretary

Present: Chad Horling, Seth Hulst, Kevin Graftema , Maria Dunneback, Joan Kutchin, Jon Monroe, Karla Potts, Curt Visser, Mike Wells, Ken Zahm, Curtis Kruihoff, Michelle Seifert, Andy Pike, Teddy Omlor, Fred Karel, Lindsey Robach, Kristy Pike, Jessica Doddy, Brenden Visser, Brayden Monroe, Sydney Graftema, Noah Davis, Terri Graftema , Sam Kruihoff, Hope Wallinga

Absent: Dylan Visser, TJ Murphy, Curt Visser, Tom Killebrew

Topic	Discussion
1. Approval of Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motion to approve minutes made by Kevin Graftema second by Curtis Kruihoff. Motion passed.
2. Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received a letter from the Marne Lions Club, wondering if they can assist in any way for us allowing them to utilize the fairgrounds during Marne Fest.
3. Raceway Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will be scheduling an executive board meeting with the raceway shortly. They were not present during the meeting.
4. Treasurers Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Banks are reconciled through April 2026.
5. Committee Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive – Lamont Chicken Barn, will be sending over the final contract to Becky from Lamont. They are also wondering about hosting a drive through food event during fair week – discussed and this would not be a great idea with the traffic issues we already have. They also asked for some gate passes and event passes donated to help boost their Facebook. We decided to give 4 day passes and 4 truck and tractor pull passes.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>• Facilities – 5/19/2026 work will start on turn 4. They will be billing it all under us, and then we will work the bill out with the raceway once the bill comes (this will come from Plumbers Environmental). Brenden took care of the issues we were having in the restrooms (broken faucets and toilets). Power should be ready to go over on the King Property as of past Saturday (5/16/2026). Just had our sanitary review of the campground, went well. Received a letter from EGLE regarding the number of campsites (this comes from the monitoring of non-potable water from the state), we need to stick to 78 or less spots.</p> <p>• Commercial Vendors – We have 13 contracts out that have not been returned. We have 8 signed and paid deposits. 2 more contracts were sent out today for a total of 23. We are sitting at about the same amount we were last year this time. We also had scammers utilizing our commercial vendors application to pull people in to try and get their vendor fees. We have addressed this on our Facebook page and are working on getting this uploaded on our website as well. Joan will notify the police as well.</p> <p>• Still Exhibits – We will be ordering the small ribbons, other than that we should be ready to go. Discussion on considering reducing who is allowed to sell in the still exhibit auction – possibly reducing to only those who do not have market animals. Last year we had 52 items sold. We will also be notifying exhibitors that next year, the gate pass will be eliminated as a bonus for entering still exhibits.</p> <p>• Livestock – Open Beef show was held on Saturday May 9th. Weigh in went well, but we did run out of tag backs. Leader meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 6/16 at 7pm in the monthly meeting office. Parent meeting will be held Monday 6/22 at 7pm in the livestock show arena. Confirmed with Cindy Lindberg, she will do the after sales signs for livestock. She is also doing the super showmanship trophies as well. Blains offered to bring 5 gallon buckets to hand out at our parents meeting, we will request 100. Seth will have any outstanding livestock forms up on the website within the next day or two. 6/27 9-10pm will be heifer blood draws for pregnancy checks. If you know of any people who would like to be ring stewards, please let Seth know. Ribbon order and trophy order went in this week for production. We need to purchase gift cards for the livestock truckers, will double check on the quantity needed.</p> <p>• Winter Storage – We had 2 trailers get damaged either during putting it away or pulling it out. One was Brandon Nemi and he is going to fix his damage himself. The other person would like us to fix it and we did speak to the wife about getting this fixed. She requested an estimate; we obtained one at roughly \$700. We will move forward</p>

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	<p>with getting this taken care of.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking – Looking to post the Sign-Up Genius for parking attendants. Tents have arrived and are in the garage as well. All days for parking have been filled. • Adv & Promotion –. Social media is rolling and interactions are doing good. Had a couple issues with receiving checks without signatures but have that all taken care of. • Entertainment –. Reminded committee members to complete their TIPS certification online when possible. • Rodeo – EMS is booked. • Grandstand – Kevin Graftema made a motion to pay the \$1500 to have our fair name on the sled for the pulls that will travel throughout the states. Andy Pike seconded this. All were in favor, motion passed. Golf carts are \$3000 total for 10 of them for fair book, Jon will book them. Jon would like to us to put money towards incentivizing contestants for the derby. We will do \$2000 (last year we paid \$7300 so we would still be under what we spent last year) towards contestants who enter first as a bonus for competing. Prices for the grandstand events will remain the same as last year. • Horse – First few horse shows of the season have gone well (low attendance for our Wednesday night show due to temperatures). Next show is May 28th (Thursday) and June 5 and 6 (Friday and Saturday). We have already addressed the cleaning of the grounds with producers – to include manure pick up as well as checking the restrooms. • Camping – Due to the EGLE letter, we will need to remove one of the campsites down by the fuel barn. This will bring us to 78 lots. Someone had sent in the camping slip, do not have a lot, wanted to do the grace period, • Social Media – Sharing our events and posts and getting very good interactions. We have not spent any money on boosting events or posted. • Junior Fair board – We welcomed the 4 new junior fair board members.

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6. Old Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zone meeting May 12th at 4:30pm in Lake O Dessa – They did speak about a water grant that is open right now. Sounds like the timeline is pretty flexible but Chad is looking into it.
7. New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordy Stroven presented at the meeting tonight – he wanted to speak regarding a possible covered barn for antiques. This will help us in the long run regarding protecting the antiques as well as renting out booths to others (other fairs charge \$75 a booth and have about 100ftx300ft barn). He has 25 pieces that he is looking to put and would love to put them at the Berlin Fair. • Gordy also has a stump puller that was recently purchased by Lester Langeland, he has now taken over this piece and would like to use it as a display piece and sell it to the fair. He has about \$2500 invested into the piece.
8. Good of the Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to order more flags for around the grounds. Matt Kemp from Newyago is looking to work with another fair to split the cost potentially of a large order and then share them for their fairs. • Fred Karel – was wondering if we could look into opening up to heifer feeder calves. Livestock Committee will discuss. • Terri Graftema – would like to help out with any fair projects or paint jobs around the grounds, just please reach out. • Kristy Pike – Had a great turn out for the open beef show. People from Indiana even attended. There was a total of 108 registered contestants. The event paid out \$2300 total in cash and prizes. There is almost \$5000 set aside for next years event. • T-shirt order reminder – get them to Megan by the second week in June.

Next Meeting is Monday, June 15th, 2026 at 7:00pm.