

1. Welcome

Keri Bancroft called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

Present:

Board Members: Keri Bancroft, Nicki Brown, Shayna Conger, Faith Grose, Katrina Grose.

Specie Chairs: Lisa Ralph, Rick Tallieu, Greg Bancroft, Rick Tallieu, Lynn Henning, Alisa Forton, Mandy Dupuy, Haven Bouwens, Amanda Wilkins, Robin Gildner, Gretchen Sauvage, Kathy Easter, Clayton Porter, Jen Davis, Jodi Ortega, Beth Stephens.

Teen Reps: Ashley Folkersma, Holly Heuser, Collin Heuser

MSU: Allison Ballard, Sarah Bye, Kristy Oosterhouse

2. Communication from Fair Board, LC Members, MSU Staff, or Public

- We received 2 emails from council board members about the swine show changes:
 - Christina Matthews was concerned about the stress and safety of the swine.
 - Darcy White was concerned about the ethical and sustainability aspects of the swine.
- All emails were responded to. Thank you for your concern; this will be discussed with the council board. Further discussion will be under Swine Show Changes on the agenda tonight.

Sarah (MSU):

- Old Town Playhouse has offered all 4-H Volunteers the opportunity to attend dress rehearsals of their main stage shows, including The Addams Family at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, February 26, 2025. Watch for invitations to upcoming performances.
- Exploration Days – When registering, youth will need to pay \$50. If requesting a scholarship, please wait to pay the remainder until scholarships are applied. You can currently see what the courses are for this year, and Expo Days registration will open on March 20, 2025.
- Paper forms will be available at the March Livestock Council Meeting. These are available for anyone unable to register for 4-H Online electronically and are required for youth with disabilities ages 19-26. Sarah Bye must add older youth with disabilities because the system is set up to cut off youth registration at age 19.
- Groundwork – Flyers are available for the 2025 Building Resilient Communities program, which has a March 1st deadline for \$2,000 grants to increase locally grown food. It can pay for farm equipment, education materials, and more.
- Empty Bowls is a local event to raise money for local food pantries. They seek donations of handmade bowls as well as volunteers. Watch for more information to come regarding opportunities to make bowls with your club and participate in this wonderful community event.
- Ready Aim Shoot, 4-H Leaders Association, and the Teen Leaders are collaborating to help raise funds for our local shooting sports club. The Ammo Sorting Event will be posted on 4-H Online, and the event will be held from 5-8 PM on March 18th. To participate, youth must register in the Ready Aim Shoot club in 4-H Online to be at the

Sportsman's Club. Watch for more information soon.

- Paper Clover Fundraiser will begin on April 21st, 2025. Sarah has the goal to have volunteers sign up ready by the meeting on Monday so clubs can choose to set up their own fundraiser or promote the event.
- Wish List forms will be available at the Livestock Council Meeting for any club in GT county that has a need and has not received help in the past.
- The Leaders Association and the Teen Leaders are hosting a Scholarship Event called College Cash Craze at the Kingsley United Methodist Church on Friday, March 14th. This will be an opportunity for youth to learn what scholarships are available in our area, how to successfully apply for them, as well as other tips such as how to fill out a job application or create a resume. This event is for juniors and seniors and will be a lot of fun with pizza and games as well.
- Washington Focus flyers are available, and there are a number of youth showing interest in attending this event in 2025.
- Learning Lab Kits will be made available for check out at the upcoming Livestock Council meetings.
- Watch for the March Newsletter. It will have a new feature article on Club Best Practices. This month we will discuss how to properly transition a club to new administrative leadership. This may be relevant to clubs wishing to do so before the fair.

Updates

Registrations

- Registrations are due Monday, March 3rd, by 11:59 PM. Dairy Feeder, Lamb, Goat, Jr Beef, Poultry.
- Contact MSU for addresses when planning to tag animals.
- Kathy asked MSU, When should we contact you, and what are your business hours?
 - Kristy from MSU said to contact them whenever, and they will get back to you when they can.
- Kathy stated that the registration process has been very frustrating compared to years past.

Policy Books

- Kathy: MSU when will Policy Books be done?
 - Kristy/Ali: Almost done.
 - The Main Policy Book was revised, mostly for grammar, with MSU and Nicki. MSU is working on getting the formatting right.
 - Will send out once that is done.

Record Eagle Ad

- The error in the Ad was because the information was transferred 3 times to different people. Faith has a different (better) plan for this year, possibly a Google form.
- It was asked about sending the information to species chairs before sending it to Record Eagle.
 - We can try that, but it's a 24-hour turnaround.
- Alternatives for the Record Eagle ad since it's \$2,500 and most people don't get the paper anymore:
 - Radio advertising?

- TC Ticker?
- Smaller ad with a group photo of the winning youth instead?
- If we do change platforms, we should include in our last ad where to find the new platform in the future. This will go to the auction committee, and they will bring this to the membership.

Treasurer/Finances

- 4 outstanding invoices for buyers at the auction.
- 1 fraudulent business, last updated in 2022, with a bad email, phone number, and name.
 - The invoice was sent and viewed, but there was no response.
- We can take them to small claims court.
- The process for check-in at auction will possibly require an ID and letter for proxy; more to come from the auction committee.

Swine Show Changes

- This change was discussed with the Fair Board superintendent and Specie Chair meeting in the fall.
- This change was not because of the cattle program.
- Lisa R: Small animals do all their shows in one day, same with other fairs she has judged or attended.
- Swine Judges for years have asked us why we don't do all one-day shows.
- State vet was surprised we don't do all one-day shows.
- Amanda: Big shows run hogs all day.
- The Fair Board is working on a better ventilation system.
- MDARD is pushing for all fairs to only have swine on grounds for 72 hours; this is not a requirement yet.
- Beth: Could we have a rest time built into the schedule?
 - Jen: This would be up to the judge, but most swine would have a natural rest period due to how the shows fall for some youth. This could be something like 80%-90% have a break, where maybe 20%-10% might have back-to-back shows.
- Clayton: We need to be unified on this.

Committees

Friday Fun Classes

- Still need a club.
 - *UPDATE* BOOTS AND ROOTS

Auction Committee

- Meeting Thursday this week.
- We need a woodworker that would make the clovers, or we need to look for alternatives; we need at least 100 to cover this year.

5. Education Expo Recap

- Keri: Thank you to everyone; it was really great!
- We had to pivot due to a speaker that got confused on the schedule.
- Kathy: Great job; one thing that would be helpful for next year would be to have some rough numbers for the sessions.
 - MSU: That's a reasonable request.
- QR codes were great for check-ins.
- Amanda: Can we do one way to check in next year? It got confusing.
 - We have notes for next year.
- Collin: How many attended?
 - MSU: Still working on numbers, close to 400.
- Feedback on Expo will be emailed.
- Keri and Nicki have sent an email to the Grand Traverse Resort about dates and cost; will update once there is an answer back.

6. Barn Awards

- Do we want to do barn awards again? Same awards?
 - Holly: We should leave it up to Specie Chairs.
 - Specie Chairs, think about it, and we will give the budget info to you all at the next meeting.

7. Banners

- Keri will bring the banners that were missing for 2024 to the Council Meeting on Monday, March 3rd.
- For next year, we will do a max of 2 class banners: Grand and Reserve for each. For marketing species, this is Market and 4-H Showmanship.

8. Fair Schedule - Pushed to the next meeting

9. Load-in Times/Places - Pushed to the next meeting

10. Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 PM.

Motion by: Clayton Porter

Second by: Holly Hauser