Livestock Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 27 2026

6:30pm – Northwest Michigan Fair Grounds

1. Welcome & Call to Order

   Meeting started at 6:36

2. Pledges

   Pledges completed

3. Roll Call

   Roll Call completed

4. Additions to the Agenda

   - Mark Barley would like to see this fair ran without commissions taken from auction checks added to new business

5. Approval of the Agenda

   Motion to approve: Colin Heuser
   Second: Gretchen Sauvage
   All in favor: yes

6. Approval of the Minutes from June 22,2026

   Motion to approve: Laurie Ashley
   Second: Gretchen Sauvage
   All in favor: yes

7. Treasurer's Report

   - Current Balance and Current reports listed on Livestock Webpage
   - Most money coming in and going out right now is for project giveaways and fair preparations

8. Public Comment *

   - Kayce Kaw: Came to say thank you to the Livestock council families that stood together to get pens completed. Pig, goat pens are here and lamb pens will be delivered this week.

9. Fair Board News

   - 13 days until fair.
   - Looking for adults to help with info tent and grand stand events.
   - Registrations for camp site décor contest will be at the mandatory meeting.
   - Band app through the fair grounds is up and running.
   - Will be taking over calf giveaway. Information will be available regarding this by the end of the week.

10. 4-H Staff Spotlight
    MSU Extension Education/Events

    - Still exhibit auction will be held and buyers can enter for free for this. Friday August 14th at 8AM. Buyers need a pass to enter for free available at this meeting.
    - Grace Abring won 4H state award.
    - Swim school in the end of August, dates have not been determined yet.

11. GT County Leaders Association – Tanner Building Exhibits

- Coffee and donuts at the tanner building. Funds from this years mugs will go towards scholarships for the kids. Can purchase a cup from Gretchen.

12. Teen Reps
    - Finalizations have been made for fair. Babe for movie night and will also have face paint at the glow party. Children must bring a parent to ok this.
13. Old Business
    a. Final Fair Schedule - available at meeting and PDF is online. Check load in times, some load in times have been shortened. Everyone comes in Gate 4. No cars in front area until afternoon. Animals can not be walked in through the gate.
    b. Blood Drive – Tue 9-1 by calf barn, Friday 9-330 up by front.
    c. Barn Decorations – Can not go up until Wed 8/5, Thur and Frid. NO earlier than Wed. Must be up by Saturday evening. No lights, no electronics, no cameras on decorations.
    d. Appropriate Footwear – Leather footwear is required when working with your animals according to guidebook.
14. Species Chair Updates
    Goat – Watch email this week for pen assignments
    Dog – Arena set up 9am Sunday. 30 participants.
    Rabbit/Cavy – Set up Thursday evening
    Large Beef – Please let Haven know if you are dropping. Senior bios need to be turned in. White cards are available at meeting tonight. Please put starting weights on white cards. Load in 7-10 AM. Cedars will be placed in heifers after load in. Sunday there are 2 mandatory handling practices. Photos will be taken after auction. Grooming chutes, one chute per club. Monday afternoon setup.
    Poultry – Please read your emails. Market cards will be given out after check in and weigh in. Testing needed for birds who do not have appropriate paperwork including 2 health forms. Decorations thurs and fri only. Please dust for mites this week and next week.
    Dairy Beef/Feeder – Senior bios need to be turned in.
    Horse – Email will be sent to all clubs with details. Stalls will be marked this coming weekend. Please make sure stalls are ready and all tack is unloaded before animals are on grounds. 12-3 Load in time.
    Lamb – Please send senior bio and pictures to Shayna by Thursday. 100lb minimum weight. 10am in load in time. Scrapie tags are needed on animal to unload at fair. 2 health forms per lamb. Weigh in 1PM back of lamb barn. Grooming stands welcome but at own risk. Leather footwear is required.
    Jr Beef – Info is same as large beef. Be sure you bring enough food, hay and supplies and stall mat for the barn. Animals need both health record, RFID and NWMF tag. Weigh in 1PM. Market lottery drawing will be at weigh in
    Llama/Alpaca – Load in time 11-1. Shots, toes and grooming needs to be started now. 2 health forms needed for truck in. 2 tack rooms available, bring in all hay, grain and water before animals. Fans also are encouraged.
    Swine – 6-9 am load in time. Make sure ear tags are clean. Cloverbud show Sunday 11. Bring all supplies tp hook waterers up with hose clamps instead of zip ties. No self feeders with pcp pipe to keep pens nice. Bring enough food for the whole week and all supplies. Pens need to be ready before animals are unloaded. 4H needs to be present for weigh in. Looking for extra 4H for volunteer help. Picture day Wed, no morning feeding that day. Decorations wed,thur,fri.
15. Differently Abled
    - Please reach out to Beth if 4her needs special accommodations. Wednesday petting zoo is not a 4h event but a fair event and looking for volunteers to bring animals to petting zoo. No Steers and no large horses please.
16. Committee Reports
    a. Reporting Committees:
        Auction – Looking for volunteers for auction trailer. Thursday 1130-330 and 330-end of auction. Also looking for ring master backups. Replacement green cards are available in small quantity.

        Auction Refreshments – contact keri to give snack donations

        Buyers Lunch – Meal is 3 rib portion, veggie burgers and hotdogs. All market kids get meal any additional are $10.

        Cherry Festival Parade – was a great turn out

        Fun Saturday – all set

        Fun Classes – costume class, QR for registrations will be sent soon.

4H Dance – all set

Showmanship Showdown – all set

Photography – Winborne studios. Will need help lifting, helping and moving back drops.

b. Non-Reporting Committees: All set
Auction Ring Set-Up –
Cloverbud Fair Week Activities –
Fair Set-Up & Tear-Down –
Pizza Party -

17. New Business

- Mark Barley: questions the 4% Commission taken from 4h Auction checks. He would like to know if the % can be lowered for this year because of the use of funds being in question for next year. If by law can not be changed can there be a %2 rebate give back to the kids? A lot of people want to know where this money will go
- Tammy Nemenskal: asked where the money would go to be used if 4H is no longer involved.
- Randy Stockfisch: Understands the questions and discussion around this topic. States that just because fair is taking over shows and auction next year, that does not necessarily mean the livestock council will cease to exist. There are a lot of questions regarding this. The commission is driven by article 3 in bylaws. 4% capped out at $400 to be used for education, buyer photos, trucking, mandatory livestock and promotion fees, activities necessary to maintain livestock program. Explains ramifications of what it could look like if the commission was waved. We have not had a chance to discuss what the livestock council will look like or education moving forward.
    - Last years expenses 25,579.21. Added ten percent for inflation 28,134.13 for next year.
    - Last 3 years money that was not collected from buyers 2023: 28,000, 2024: 14,000, 2025: 3500. Explains how some money will need to be in the account to cover these possible checks that wont come in for 2026

Member asks: when would be a time to discuss this? Can we amend this bylaw?

Randy: Directs question to MSU

MSU: We have to consider bylaws in place and current rate of commission is within the bylaws.

Nicki Brown: Can MSU amend a bylaw at any time if it is in favor of the kids?

MSU: no

Member: If we take out 4% commission can we make a motion to give them 2% back?

MSU: Any type pf retro type adjustment cant happen. It can be done within the bylaw amendment process to decide what these funds can be used for moving forward.

Tammy Nemenskal: Why cant we bypass this bylaw, amendments were approved previously to try and fill board members, why cant we do it now.

MSU: that situation was different than now.

Tammy: but why can you pick and chose?

MSU: Jody Schultz: The reason that it was fundamentally different is because you didn't have a position filled that was fundamental to the functionality of the group. The commissions by law is not the same thing.

Randy read off bylaw 3

MSU Jody Schultz: Those by laws were voted on and agreed on and it has not changed for this fair.

Members: question but these are for next year

MSU: Group needs to look at budget and bylaws post fair.

Member: Will 4H education be used for kids to attend the fair?

MSU: States there are other opportunities for kids to use funds for. States we need to focus on what this bylaw states.

Kelly Stockfisch: In the bylaw it states for education purpose to help run and continue the livestock program. Will the funds be used for the education for the livestock program not other opportunities that are available universally through MSU? How do we know this money will stay with our local children and members?

Randy Stcockfisch: in good conscience can we even charge the kids the 4% commission knowing it will be spent appropriately?

MSU: The Livestock Councils money is often used for scholarship funds for outside MSU opportunities and discussion needs to happen on how money would be kept locally. Additional conversation need to be had.

Member: When will this be discussed?

MSU Jody Schultz: This has nothing to do with MSU and you need to focus on your bylaws in place. Any amendments need to happen according to how bylaws are amended according to active bylaws

Member: Can we suspend bylaw 3?

Gretchen: we don't have the method to do what you want because its not something the bylaws allow. We have to follow our guidelines regarding our bylaws.

Member: Account has been frozen once this year already and what is the guarantee that that wont happen again and that way we know that these funds will stay with our kids?

Randy: As long as the livestock council doesn't disband, money stays.

Sarah Youker: our last battle was trying to get our animals pens completed and back to fair in time and there was no time to mention the 4% commission at that time. Now is the time to talk about this.

Randy: Historically commission is taken after 75-80% of funds have already been paid so no funds go towards the following year.

Ayla: After this auction how will the program continue without addition funds?

MSU: Fundraising is where we would obtain new funds.

Stephanie Bugai: Where will the money go in livestock council disbands?

MSU Kristi: If group disbands, Money gets distributed across the local 5 counties in the area through the leader association through Leelanau, based on enrollment percentages

Lynn Henning: How do other 4H communities operate within youth fairs with the continuation of a livestock program? Why cant we get direct answers? Bylaws are due in Sep, discuss in October and vote on in November.

Crystal: When the fair decided to end 4H, the livestock board never stated they were going to be done, how do we get clarification on where this money will and can be utilized when our account was froze previously this year?

Randy: technically the account was not frozen but we were unable to spend funds on specific items.

MSU: Jody Shultz: This is not the first place this has happened between 4H and fair especially during covid. This leaves a lot of questions for our 4h groups. Fair is one opportunity that kids can participate in but that there are a lot of other places that 4H kids can participate. The fair has a goal to provide entertainment for the community but for 4H that is not the same goal. This threat that 4H was going to be removed from this fair has been rumored here for a while and now here we are. Once fair is complete we will have discussions regarding the commissions and the bylaws, education, livestock program ect.

MSU: regarding the previous account halt, states that it wasn't in the budget

Members: yes it was, it was voted on and added to livestock budget long before the pen project started.

MSU: we will have to move on from this topic.

Sarah Youker: Everyone is upset because we have no idea where this money will go or what it will be used for. Regarding the clubs because of recent events, if people leave 4H that leaves these funds not usable.

MSU: You need to be fighting for your bylaws and what it looks like moving forward

Member: Tell us how to fix it. Can we make a motion to rebate 2% back to the youth?

MSU: No.

Multiple additional member comments spoken out at once regarding all info above regarding commissions.

MSU: reiterates that we will try to address this moving forward regarding bylaws and what the future of this program looks like.

Member: asks that a meeting be put in place for this conversation immediately following the fair.

Keri: Would like to remind you all that there are a lot of children here and that we need to be kept under control.

There are no MSU people on the Livestock accounts.

Randy: Like mentioned earlier, as long as the livestock council does not disband, money stays local.

MSU Kristi: With the relationship between the livestock council and the 4H program. If you are a 4H group you fall under our policies and procedures giving oversight on how funds are spent.

Crystal: Again can we have a separate meeting to discuss this immediately following fair?

Randy: Being told there are no options to change this at this point.

Stephanie Bugai: I understand you can not go retroactive on bylaws. We are asking if you can research the refund idea. Also would like to have people research on how to change bylaws not just annually but as needed.

Jeff Dreves: We need to come to the October meeting and vote on this to amend this and move forward from there as long as the money is spent in the correct way. We need to move forward according to current livestock rules.

Keri: We will attempt to have a meeting following fair to continue the commission discussion.

a Health Forms – 2 Forms Required

- You can not unload animals without both forms

b 4H Wrist Bands

Saturday night, before mandatory meeting.

11-1130 before wash racks to replace wristbands

18. Public Comment *

Al henning is running sponsorship for rafters for poultry barn. Contact him for more information

19. Questions?

- no

20. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:29

Motion: Al Henning
Second: Shannon Baynton
All in favor: YES