NW MI 4-H Livestock Council

Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 14, 2026

6:30 pm – Redeemer Lutheran Church

1. Welcome
    - Meeting started at 6:36 PM
2. Pledges & Roll Call
    - Pledges and Roll Call completed
3. Additions to the Agenda
    - Education under new business
    - **Agenda Approved by: Colin Heuser**
    - **Second: Gretchen Sauvage**
    - **All in favor: YES**

4. Approval of the Minutes from July 27, 2026
    - **Approved by: Holly Heuser**
    - **Second: Tom Looks**
    - **All in favor: YES**
5. Treasurer's Report
    - Reports posted on Livestock Website
    - Any questions on financials sent out? Question on what will be paid out after everything is paid. Livestock Board: we are working on it. $253,953 has still not been paid, but payments are coming in everyday.

    a. Auction Update
        - Thank you ad: will go out in Record Eagle on Sunday 9/27

6. Public Comments *
    - No comment
7. Fair Board News
    - Tom Looks: 328 days until fair. Weve started planning for 2027 fair. Youth Fair page has rolled out on website. Nov 5th Annual meeting. Director applications are open due October 5th. There are 5 or 6 open positions.
8. 4-H Staff Spotlight – MSU Staff
    - Visioning meeting will meet at Redeemer Lutheran church tomorrow evening at 630 PM 9/15/2026. To help discuss what the 4H program will look like going forward with Northwestern Fair moving to a youth fair.
9. Old Business
    a. 2026 Fair Wrap up
        - Thank you to all the members, parents and youth for helping make a great 2026 fair season.
    b. Record Books Due
        - Turn in to specie chairs at meeting tonight.
    c. Bylaw Proposal Changes Due at 11:59 p.m. TODAY!
        - Send to Kbancroft223@gmail.com. Once received will be emailed out to membership, discuss in

October and vote on in November.

d. Photo Pick Up
   - Leaders to pick up photos at meeting tonight.

10. New Business
    - Education added per member request
    - Elaine: Education. Every year at fair 4hers help the younger kids with learning how to show and market. **Requesting to put a motion on the floor to increase our education budget by $50,000 to reimburse 3% of the 4Hers earnings from this year back to the 4Her.**
    - **Second Tammy Nemenskal**

      Kristy with MSU states the second half of the motion can not happen according to the Policies/ Procedures and bylaws. As discussed in July it was answered as a no, that we can not reimburse money to the kids.

      Discussion on what the education bylaw outlines can be used for.

      Member: What policy are you referring to?

      Kristy: Policy where this can not happen is through the 4% bylaws, but the money can not be given directly back to the kids like you are proposing.

      Keri: If a child fills out a education reimbursement, can this be a loop hole?

      Kristy: only if they attend an MSU ran 4H event, or show.

      Stephanie: Table 4 states that you may use funds from the council for an education trip, examples, animal processing, farms, orchard trips. My conversation with Sarah for liability, she stated Northwestern MI Fair can be deemed an education field trip in order for the groups to still be covered under Liability so if the 4H group brings there animals to the Northwestern MI Fair 2027, can this be considered a field trip or education experience to get reimbursed for?

      Keri reads education reimbursement requests form located on Northwest MI Livestock council page. Amount of funding is based on what is available in the Livestock Council Budget.

      Randy: If a 4Her was to submit a reimbursement for next years fair, to me that would follow the policy just read, up to 50% of total amount, pen fees, class fees, camping, photos ect.

      Member: Couldn't submit camping or hotels fees but could for registration fees and travel fees. So then camping would not be covered.

      Kristy: that is correct

      Member: Who will approve these requests?

      In the past the livestock board approved and paid for part and MSU approved and paid for part.

      Because of pre approval this can not be applicable for 2026 only for 2027

      Board: the visioning meeting will be help tomorrow evening to hopefully discuss these questions further.

      MSU: With a motion on the floor that can not according to MSU be fully passed it will need to be re-worded or amended.

      Keri: With a motion on the floor that has been seconded do we need to make an amendment to this motion?

      Questions about the amending policies:

Keri: Policies of the council board have to be reviewed, however MSU has the right to veto policies changes if they don't fall within the MSU Financial guidelines.

Kristy reiterates the visioning meeting that will be help here tomorrow.

4Her: Why is MSU pushy about taking the 4H money that we earned ourselves?

Kristy: At the July Meeting MSU covered this and per our financial guidelines, there are guidelines we have to follow through our federal guidelines, this group falls legally under MSU and that is why we can not change financial information as requested.

Ayla: How can MSU help the membership do what we would like to do for our children based on the motion on the floor?

Kristy: Giving the money back to the kids is not possible, however if a budget amount is increased for education, then seek more education so that you can be reimbursed for said education experiences.

Stephanie: Is there a way to reimburse commissions?

Kristy: No there is not.

Elaine asked to reword or amend her motion on the floor. However at this time she states she is going to rescind her previous motion.

Tammy Nemenskal: Seconds rescinding motion

Tammy Nemenskal: asks if she can make a Motion to reimburse current Fair years fees?

Kristy: states this can not happen because it is a prior event. It would have to be for the upcoming fair not a past date.

No Motion made.

David Dreeves: asks to show us were it must be for the following year in order to reimburse.

MSU: Looking it up.

Olivia: Asks if there is no way to get money refunded to the kids, please give us a direct answer.

Sarah MSU: At the July meeting Jodi announced that there will not be reimbursement. The Reimbursement will not be allowed, what I would encourage you to do is to come to the visioning meeting tomorrow to see where this program will go from here in order to benefit the kids from the livestock council.

Kelly Stockfisch: questions on why the minutes were not read back. Who has given you the right to sell things if the livestock council is still active? Why would our assets be suggested to be sold if we haven't discussed this at a membership?

Kristy: regarding the inventory, our understanding because of the shift of direction, that the majority of the councils physical assets are used for the livestock auction and the fair board has shown an interest in acquiring the assets. We are in the process of discussing this with them.

Randy: as a member of the executive board, We have not once been involved in any meetings involving assets between the livestock council and fairbaord.

Sarah asks Tom Looks, didn't we have a phone conversation regarding this?

Tom yes we did back in June, but that was it.

Kelly: but who gave MSU the authority to attempt to sell our items with the livestock council not yet being dissolved?

Sarah talks about how yes, these side conversations have happened and we will make sure moving forward the board and board members can be made as aware as possible.

Kelly: Has MSU signed off on any inventory given or not given?

Sarah: I don't disagree with you. An inventory was supposed to be had by the end of fair this year as with previous years.

Kelly: who is accountable as the fiduciary to be held accountable?

Sarah you are right however we have offered to help with what was needed for this inventory.

Keri discusses what the livestock board did in order to complete an inventory. Started from scratch and went through everything that was physically available and created an inventory to hand into MSU.

Kelly: any requests should be made in writing regarding all of this and the inventory and possible assets to be sold.

MSU: our authority is within the financial manuals that outlines the MSU authority of funds over the livestock council.

Kelly states that MSU told her that MSU did not have the authority to request an audit.

MSU: staff do have the authority to audit groups. And to uphold funds and inventory, located Under Financial review within the financial manual also located within the volunteer manual for 4H funds.

MSU: Page 4 of financial manual, last paragraph, second sentence, MSU extension reads this off.

Moving forward to return to agenda items

11. October Meeting
    a. Thank You Notes Due
    b. Checks Distributed
    c. Discussion of Proposed By-Law Changes

Back to previous comments:

In the July minutes a meeting was stated to be had after fair regarding getting the kids money back to them.

Livestock board meeting minutes are available online and when this was brought up, this is when the visioning meeting was discussed by MSU to be had to see what the future of this livestock board is.

It was made aware that multiple club leaders were not made aware of this visioning meeting tomorrow.

Kristy: discusses how MSU works as a team with in their organization and we have people who specialize in specific areas to help with these issues. So the things I'm saying are coming from that team

of people.

David: can you share 3 minutes of what the goal is for this visioning meeting in order for us to try to make the appropriate amendments to the livestock council board.

MSU we will be discussing the rewording of the bylaw proposals and suggestions in order to keep the program moving forward and how things could be ran in the future. Different education opportunities and workshops that can still happen.

David: asks how the livestock council will be ran with the fair board, if we want to suggest bylaw changes but we don't know how the board will look moving forward.

Randy: One of the bylaws requested to be updated would be to give the ability to amend bylaws throughout the year instead of only once.

Stephanie: regarding meeting tomorrow, is it education or will it be an action taken meeting able to vote on things.

Keri: Education on what this program looks like moving forward.

Heather: You and I Sarah had a discussion during fair, I had asked if we can do a mixed group with youth and 4h and you said no. You said we need to protect our 4H youth, who will we need to protect our kids from?
Sarah no, that was in reference of keeping a 4H club secure through the 4H guidelines, with a blended club there are mixed policies and procedures, which would not be allowed and that the gold level volunteers are background checked and only 4H members are invited to come to 4H ran events.

Heather: Can you please send out the procedures of dismembering 4h groups to the membership so that we can move forward for those who no longer want to be involved as a 4H group.

12. Public Comments *
    - no
13. Questions?
    - no
14. Adjourn

    Motion to end the meeting @ 8:14 David Dreeves
    Second: Shannon Baynton

*Audience Public Comments: The Board will twice invite your comments and concerns during tonight's meeting. First, you may address items on tonight's agenda. A second opportunity to speak will occur later, when you may address any issue. Though it is the board's usual practice to listen without immediate comment, your concerns are noted, and you may request follow-up. To address the board, stand up and give your name first before you address the board. Please limit your comments to three minutes.