Livestock Board Minutes
Tuesday August 25, 2026 @ 6:30PM
Grawn United Methodist Church

Meeting started at 6:43

Specie updates:

- Goat: Week went well.
- Llama: Week went well and no issues.
- Steer: Good week, great reducing load in time. Truck out went well.
- Swine: Everything went well with a calm week.
- DA: Everything went well. Petting zoo being fair ran went well.
- Dog: Week went well.
- Dairy feeder/beef: Week went very smooth with no health issues.
- Lamb: Went well with the exception of choke with a couple lambs. 1 had to go early to processing. Load out went quick.
- Poultry: A couple birds at check in had to be sent home from bug issues, other than that the week went well.

New by-law layout presented by MSU Extension in how to support a new Livestock Council Board. By law changes/ wording proposed to the Livestcok Council are recommended by the MSU States office Advisory council. Most of these changes are simply to take the Fair itself out and how a future 4H council would potentially be ran.

Article 2 changed to support a broader spectrum of 4H Youth.

Article 3 language changed to reference a different spectrum of 4H youth outside of Fair. The MI 4H financial manuals would require MSU to still be in charge of board guidelines.

MSU Attempting to understand how 4H used to be ran and how to make it a better experience today.

Lynn: Are there any other counties around who have gone through this transition where we can look at their by-laws and how they are ran?

Kristy: The person who reviewed these bylaws and who we would like to bring in to discuss further is our liaison at MAFE and her name is Janelle Stewart.

Haven: Can you keep explaining the proposed changes to the bylaws so that we can understand why.

Lynn: Who will run for livestock council in the future?

Rick: What purpose will the species chairs serve at the fair?

Sarah: what you can do during the year is further education for 4H kids who want to show at fair.

Keri: If education is not required for 2027 fair, then the attendance would not be great.

Sarah: This would be the point of a visioning session to discuss how we can move forward with this new board.

Sarah: When can we schedule a visioning session before November?

Council unsure of who will show up to this meeting because at the last meeting before fair there were no questions answered. People need questions answered and will not attend a meeting if questions can not be answered.

Lynn shares concerns about how there are many groups and people talking about dropping out of 4H because of all of this.

Sarah: States she is feeling attacked by this comment and states that if the Fair board had done this differently, it may have gone out different.

Lynn: States the fair has had the ability to end the 4H relationship but they had not instituted it until this year and the future is unclear to everyone at this time.

Randy: The relationship between MSU, Specie Chairs and Fair board is a strained, unhealthy relationship and MSU needs to acknowledge this and it doesn't seem like MSU truly cares if the Livestock Council continues or not. What can happen to renew and repair these relationships?

Lynn: Has to be repaired with the 4H membership because people are misinformed and they don't understand.

Randy: It seems like MSU has moved from what can we do to help, to this is what we are going to do now.

Shayna: My biggest question would be without a vision or plan of where the vision is going and terms being up soon, what guidelines do we have if no one runs for the board before we might have to disband?

Kristy: It has been talked about with our team and we recognize that there may need to be some flexibility with the elections. Nothing would change in the positions and we would stream line to try to help keep council active and seats filled.

Shayna: Not to long ago with an open seat we were unable to conduct business just this last year when there was nothing in the by-laws regarding this.

Kristy: this was because there was time sensitive situations and the situation was reverted back to Roberts Rules through bylaw recommendation. We are hoping this time will be different.

Shayna: What outlines a proposed disbanding of the Livestock Council?

Kristy: That's in the MSU Financial Manual

Can we get a copy of this to look it over and discuss so we can discuss what the new board could look like for people who want to step up to these positions? So that we can ensure that the funds in the LSC account are spent appropriately.

Sarah: No one is asking for the livestock council to disband so that we have access to the money.

Shayna: Asking if there is a time frame for these decisions to be made by?

MSU: We will look into it and get this information sent out.

Shayna: In the bylaws can it be amended to change the amount of LSC meetings attended in order to apply for positions?

Kristy: We suggest the meeting requirements be removed so that more people can apply for open positions and vote at meetings.

Keri: Bylaw 6 would be void because there would no longer be 11 Species chairs.

Sarah: asks why?

Haven: Because there would no longer be livestock to manage, that will be now up to the fair board.

Sarah: why cant this be for education?

Haven: because that is under a different article, not tied to livestock management.

Keri: Did MSU take 10% commission on sales of still life exhibits this year?

Sarah: Yes they did

Did the kids know this?

MSU: Yes they did and they signed their approval before their auction.

Gretchen: States that we were not involved with this commission. And this commission was given back to MSU extension and that we were not made aware of this.

Do the kids knows this money does not come back to the LSC?

MSU: It was in the forms that they signed in order to market their still life project.

Robin: MSU contacted multiple kids during a goat show and then these kids had to drop out of the still lifes they entered because they were told their projects had to be judged at a time that was not properly advertised. It was very unorganized.

MSU: Please talk to Sarah outside of this meeting because this meeting is about the LSC not the exhibit building.

Kristy: We are going to keep going. We were on the elections.

Keri: there will not be any elections because we don't even know what the positions hold IF there will even be positions to fullfill.

Kristy: That's what we need to discuss and figure out how the board will need to be ran and how many people need to be on a board moving forward.

Keri: We need to figure out how many people there needs to be on a board because we will not need 26 people on a new board.

Kristy: Recommends that this be proposed at the next meeting.

Kristy: This group could still move forward with specie clinics provided off fair property. Education will look different even if there are less kids that attend it will still be worth it for the kids.

Randy: Asks if there is anyone who wants to continue to be involved before we eliminate any positions?

Shayna: if this position stays open and then things can be full filled because of this? None of us want to see any of the specie programs fail.

Lynn: Can I be a superintendent at fair and also a member on the LSC?

Kristy: Recommend removing this from bylaw 6 because it would no longer be a conflict of interest.

Kristy: Article 7, 8, 9 recommending different wording and removing certain restrictions. Article 11 removing all but what happens to funds upon dissolution of the council board. Article 12, bylaw amendments recommended to updated.

Gretchen: I appreciate all the recommended by law changes however its hard to do now when we don't know where the LSC is going in the future.

Randy: I think the idea here is to open this up so that we can change some things to be able to make changes as we go in the future.

Kristy: We can do an open general meeting to discuss this further with the visioning meeting. This will help determine what the future of the board looks like and what kind of changes should or should not be made. We can invite Janelle up to discuss this and we can discuss dates that we can make this meeting happen. What does this group think about a path moving forward?

Haven: To keep a 5 member board for education opportunities, so that funds can be spent appropriately is what I think would be the best plan moving forward.

Randy: will anyone be willing to attend this vision meeting before we decide?

Board mostly agrees that they would.

Can club leaders be invited to this future vision meeting?

Council agrees, that would be a good idea.

Before the September 14th meeting, Livestock Council requests MSU to have the availability to be present to take down questions that the membership will have moving forward.

MSU will contact Board members on a possible date to discuss this further before Membership meeting.

Kristy: how do you want to approach by law amendments that the group can not make specifically regarding to bylaw removing MSU staff authority?

Board: If these amendments are requested it will be forwarded to MSU to answer

Can a proposal be made to reduce the commission?

MSU: No. It was made clear at the July meeting.

Please provide that to the board where that is stated in the financial manual that we don't have.

Kristy: Its page 17

Randy: We can not in good conscience take money from the kids without knowing where its going.

Kristy: We have a responsibility to uphold the bylaws and we have a choice with how we move forward on how to spend the money for the kids.

Council board: but we don't have an answer for this.

MSU: We will have to uphold the bylaws and hopefully be able to provide future education for species. There can be a whole new opportunity to bring this to the 4H membership.

Board: there is a lot of uncertainty, we are used to running this program with the structure from years past. Without this structure its hard to move forward without many answers. It's going to be very different without any access to help people transition when this will be completely up to the Fair Board.

MSU: In order to fully understand the future of the board and what finances can be spent on, a vision meeting needs to take place.

Again mentioned by MSU: dates will be discussed with MSU vision board in order to make this meeting happen.

Motion to adjourn: Rick Tallieu

Second: Beth Stephens

Meeting adjourned at 9:04

Attendance:

Sarah Bye
Kristy Oosterhouse
Randy Stockfisch
Keri Bancroft
Alyssa Tallieu
Greg Bancroft
Shayna Conger
Rick Tallieu
Gretchen Sauvage
Beth Stephens
Lynn Henning
Gwyn Carter
Kathy Easter
Haven Bouwens
Mary Lynn Robertson
Robin Gildner