ST. CLAIR COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Minutes of Monday, April 8, 2026 – Goodells County Park

1) ROLL CALL

Present: Colleen Provost, Tom Vincent, Linea Burch, Tim Warchuck, Kylie Veldman, Chris Ruemenapp, Rob Usakowski, Rick Ruemenapp, Alan Thueme, Lindsey Uppleger, Kevin Smith, Donna Wojtysiak, Linda Taylor, Liz Pennazoli.

Excused: Kent Renn, Robin Vigneron, Jake Sieloff, Bernie Dudek, Mike Tomasek.

Guests: Natalie Tesluck, Megan Klemmer, Kristy Hardy, Kyle Slifco, Melissa Wilson, Lois Po & Bob Podgorski.

2) AGENDA

Request to add under New Business the road closure. A motion was made to approve the agenda with the addition by A. Thueme, supported by K. Smith.

Motion carried.

3) SECRETARY'S REPORT

A motion was made to approve the minutes of March 11, 2026 by A. Thueme, supported by T. Warchuck.

Motion carried.

4) TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made to approve the treasurer's report by C. Ruemenapp, supported by T. Warchuck.

Motion carried.

5) HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Amber Patterson was unable to attend the meeting tonight, but Farm Bureau would like to do their coloring contest and requesting 58 daily carload passes as prizes. A motion was made by R. Ruemenapp, supported by A. Thueme to approve 58 daily carload passes for the coloring contest.

Motion carried.

The Farm Museum would like to borrow orange snow fence for Fall Harvest Days. They will store it in their barn, as well as horse benches. They will also borrow some t-posts and the t-post pounder. In exchange for borrowing these items they will let us use their trams during the farm. A motion was made to allow them to use our snow fence, t-posts, t-post pounder in exchange for using their trams during the fair by A. Thueme, supported by T. Vincent.

Motion carried.

Kyle Slifco did the maintenance on our trams in 2025, and he will perform the same inspection this year, expecting it to take 1-2 hours at $150 an hour. We may be able to negotiate a sponsorship to offset the cost. Suggested that we have a written policy for our tram drivers.

Bob Podgorski stated this would be his last year as the parking lot coordinator and his son Clint Podgorski will be taking over. Bob and Lois will be missed because of their service, but we look forward to working with Clint who has been working with Bob and Lois the last few years.

6) FAIR OFFICE REPORT
L. Burch has been working on the entertainment brochure and has completed the MDOT cards. Trophy donations are down from 2025.

7) MSU EXTENSION REPORT
Today was Colleen Provost's first day as the 4-H Coordinator. We all received her resignation from the Fair Board.

8) COMMITTEE REPORTS
   a) AG EDUCATION & ENTERTAINMENT
   Farm Bureau is going to have a spot in the historical area, using their canopy and will provide educational activities in the Kid Zone. They would need passes to get in to man the tent. The committee is going to do the fair trade cards this year.

   b) AWARDS
   The banners and trophies have been ordered. The trophy company will work on a design.

   c) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS
   MAFE announced a intra structure grant. R. Usakowski talked to Dennis at Parks and Recreation and they would propose a $65,000 project to update the water system on the south side of the park. The plan is to have Kim Harmer work on the application for the grant. Deadline for that is June 1.

   DTE will drop poles to redo the wash rack. Dennis and Alan met with Julie from DTE about doing more projects and she said get the info over to her and they would get started on it. Talked about doing poles along the north lot and putting a panel south of the ticket booth for permanent power for the ticket booth. If we did the bare minimum, when we have additional funds to run power to the poles and lights, the infrastructure would be there. It is a 5-year payback to do lights versus light towers. It would cost a couple thousand to sit on the long-term project. The plan is to set light poles in the old campgrounds to light up that lot. It's really dark at M-21 by the road, and we would like light poles there. Suggestion was to put light poles in the overflow parking lot as well.

   d) CRATER
   Superior Motorsports is doing the Armada Fair and Sanilac County Fair also.

   e) ELECTRONIC TICKETING
   Discussion held about what we're doing for in-kind ticketing. Currently there is a sales fee on tickets that needs to be removed.

   f) ENTERTAINMENT
   We need 25-30 chairs for the wood carver, 50 chairs for the family tent, for a total of 400 chairs.

   g) FACILITIES

We talked about purchasing additional trams. Featherlite has a tram for $45,000 with handicap features, and another model for $18,500-$20,000. They hold up to 28 people. No action taken.

h) HANDICAPABLE DAY – No report.

i) LIVESTOCK AUCTION
Workshops being held include goats and swine. Discovery Day first Saturday in May.

j) PARKS & RECREATION – No report.

k) PERSONNEL – No report.

l) PUBLICTY
The first Thumbcoast video was on llamas. They are going to do an additional spotlight for a banner at the fair. John Fleming suggested doing a video about 4-H. Can do a spotlight on the fair warm up show, state qualifying show. Megan Klemmer put 15 barrels in the horse barn for use for garbage cans.

m) SPONSORSHIP
Committee working on getting additional sponsors and firming up the existing sponsors.

n) EARTH FAIR
Need additional volunteers for Friday.

9) OLD BUSINESS
a) 501(c)(3) – No report.

10) NEW BUSINESS
a) BEEF CHANGES
There is a conflict in the rules from General Livestock Rules to the Beef project rules. They were discussed in committee, but the changes never got made to the fair book. The rule that Fair Board has endorsed is under the General Livestock Rules and that will be substituted into the beef project guidelines. The goal is to reduce and/or eliminate subjectivity in applying the rules.

b) PROVOST RESIGNATION
M. Tomasek sent out an email requesting that the person who fills the seat would be able to also step into the treasury role since Colleen Provost was his co-treasurer. Natalie Tesluck has expressed an interest in the position and would be willing to step into the co-treasury role.

A motion was made to appoint Natalie Tesluck to the open board seat by R. Ruemenapp, supported by T. Vincent.
Motion carried.

c) ROAD CLOSURE

R. Usakowski stated that he was contacted regarding Wales Township in terms of the potential of denying a request to close County Park Drive. They are scheduled to have the road resurfaced and they have concerns about the area where the west gate booth sits and perceived road damage. This area was inspected and photos taken tonight and there does not appear to be any damage to the roadway. They have a meeting on May 5th at 7 p.m. where this will be addressed and board members are encouraged to attend as well as anyone who may have an interest in the road closure.

d) APPOINTMENT OF CO-TREASURER

A motion was made by C. Ruemenapp, supported by R. Ruemenapp to appoint Natalie Tesluck as the co-treasurer and to place her on all St. Clair County Agricultural Society bank accounts, as well as St. Clair County Junior Livestock accounts at Huntington Bank and Fifth Third Bank.

Motion carried.

11) ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:14 p.m. by A. Thueme, supported by R. Ruemenapp.

Motion carried.

Chris Ruemenapp, Secretary