ST. CLAIR COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Minutes of Monday, August 10, 2026 – Goodells County Park

1) ROLL CALL

Present: Kylie Veldman, Linea Burch, Natalie Tesluck, Mike Tomasek, Chris Ruemenapp, Rob Usakowski, Rick Ruemenapp, Alan Thueme, Lindsey Uppleger, Colleen Provost, Donna Wojtysiak, Linda Taylor, Bernie Dudek, Jake Sieloff, Kevin Smith, Robin Vigneron.

Excused: Tim Warchuck, Tom Vincent, Liz Pennazoli, Kent Renn.

Guests: Jolee VanTroostenberghe, Peggy Gregg, Melissa Wilson, Crystal Jurczyszyn, Barb Hurley, Kristy Hardy, Megan Klemmer, Bruce Affelt, Dave Goretski, Chris Knapp, Amy Podgorski, Clint Podgorski, Yvonne Markel.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2) AGAENDA

A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented by M. Tomasek, supported by R. Ruemenapp.

Motion carred.

3) SECRETARY'S REPORT

A motion was made to approve the minutes of June 8, 2026, July 13, 2026, July 20-25, 2026 by R. Ruemenapp, supported by L. Uppleger.

Motion carried.

4) TREASURER'S REPORT

M. Tomasek reported we are within $2,000 of 2025 gate receipts, but still working on netting out fees paid to fairs.com. We raised our prices in 2026 to account for fees paid to fairs.com.

A motion was made to pay Lenox EMS, parking personnel, tram drivers, support staff, consistent with payments in 2025 by R. Ruemenapp, supported by R. Vigneron.

Motion carried.

5) HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Bruce Affelt was the Fair Board's electrician for 18 years, building the original two panels. Affelt gave a history of the electrical panels when he served as electrician. When the St. Clair Kennel Club asked to use the electrical panels we asked Affelt to set them up and tear them down. However, as the years have gone by the electrical panels have been rebuilt for ease and we have acquired additional equipment and several years ago Fair Board directed that when the panels get set up that Matt Liebetreau is to be contacted and do that set up and tear down since he's the fair's electrician and the one who handles all that equipment. The Kennel Club was notified of that when that change was made. But with the new leadership of the Kennel Club, apparently they went back to contacting Affelt. The Kennel Club was notified several weeks ago that they were to contact Matt Liebetreu to set the panels up, and they are responsible for payment to Liebetreu for his time.

Crystal Jurczyszyn asked for the fair book changes prior to January 1so their family can decide what projects to show and whether they continue showing at this fair. C. Jurczyszyn stated she had an encounter and text with R. Ruemenapp during the swine show, described the encounter, and indicated she wasn't happy with the way she was treated. There was

some confusion going on because classes were being called and they weren't heard in the barns, Clover Sprouts missed their classes and they had to add additional classes.

Chris Knapp made a $500 donation to the beef project. Those funds will be deposited in the livestock account.

Jolee VanTroostenberghe said she has an exhibitor that showed in the fiber project and received a "brown ribbon, a D" for her project, and has no interest in showing in that project area again. Kristy Hardy stated there were no D or brown ribbons awarded, those ribbons don't exist. The projects at issue were not prepared according to how fiber projects should be exhibited which is why they received lower ratings.

Yvonne Markel from the Farm Museum thanked the Fair Board for allowing them to work in the sponsor tent, everything went well and the sponsored enjoyed their meals.

Amy and Clint Podgorski reported parking went well, under the difficult circumstances they were placed in. They would like more and new fencing for the north driveway and more t-posts for next year.

6) FAIR OFFICE REPORT
L. Burch is putting the results in the computer so that checks can be handed out the end of the month.

7) MSU EXTENSION
C. Provost reported that everything went well for her first year as the program coordinator. Lake to Table was held and there were 17 participants out of 24 signed up. The Happy Day Fishing Camp is used for that event, a beautiful facility. Re-enrollment will be taking place in October. Anyone requiring assistance or wanting C. Provost to re-enroll you, please let her know.

4-H Open House will be Saturday, October 17th. C. Provost expressed an interest in having exhibitors do record books for their livestock projects. This may be a focus of hers this year. Record keeping is important, uses critical thinking, financial management skills. She may want to hold a contest next year.

8) COMMITTEE REPORTS
   a) AG EDUCATION & ENTERTAINMENT
   The Kid Zone was a huge success this year. The climbing wall was broken, someone snapped the frame. There were over 200 kids participating in Fair Trade. Everyone loved Discovery City. The Ag trailer got washed out on Tuesday due to rain. We would like to re-sign Agri Golf and First Bite Fishing. The car show donated $402.

   B. Dudek will reach out to the pony pullers and draft horse pullers to get contracts. Both events were well attended and went well.

   b) AWARDS
   Everything went well, kids like the banners, and a lot easier than trophies. Crystal Jurczyszyn asked if kids could be allowed to design the banners next year.

c) AUDIT – No report

d) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS
Still waiting to hear about the water grant submitted.

e) ELECTRONIC TICKETING
Board members met with Shane and Harlee tonight. We need to get a committee together to talk about what we want to do, lock in a strategy as far as ticketing. We would like to move to only ticketing through fairs.com in 2027, no one to be handed a weekly admission pass, just a QR code. They are easily trackable, easy to generate and worked well at the gate.

f) FACILITIES – No report.

g) HANDICAPABLE DAY
The day went well. C. Provost would like to do a Fair Trade with the handicapable day for 2027.

h) LIVESTOCK
The sale was a record $647,000. The fair had 6,532 entries, 667 exhibitors. The fair was up about 300 entries over 2025, and about 30 exhibitors. Poultry project is growing with a 20-30% increase. Add on's using the QR code provided brought in $8,700. Charity hog was sold for $10,000 to Jason Hillis. Checks will be handed out to exhibitors August 29th at the fair office and August 31st at Goodells County Park. Sweepstakes showmanship jackets will be handed out then. On a negative note, poultry processing did not go well. The processor showed up 2 hours late with the birds. The representative from Munsell's showed up ½ hr. early, waiting for the truck. Munsell's were sold out to Detroit Processing. K. Smith will be in contact with them and looking to resolve any issues for 2027. We were notified today we are missing a pig. It was shipped to Johnston's, physically got on the trailer, don't know what happened, but a 2 weeks after the fair it's hard to figure it out if the processer is now notifying us. We will reimburse the buyer for the pig.

Caterer took a lot of notes and they had some different expectations. We will reach out to them after the fair to see how everything went. There is currently outstanding $175,000. A motion was made to borrow the livestock account enough money to cover checks being distributed in three weeks, if needed, by R. Ruemenapp, supported by A. Thueme.

Motion carried.

i) PARKS AND RECREATION
Working with the Parks staff all week was fantastic, they were very responsive, and the park looked amazing as always.

j) PUBLICITY

There is one more 15-second promotional opportunity with Thumbcoast that we will give to 4-H. Thumbcoast went above and beyond what we paid for. Camelot did a drone video of the fair, again went above and beyond and it looks amazing.

k) SAFETY
We had a reduction in police force on Thursday-Saturday due to the boat races. Reduction in the amount of incidents. Jake will make sure he has a back up person to handle safety concerns when he's not on the grounds. One fire extinguisher was used during the fair. The fire department inspected the vendors, said they were okay.

l) SPONSORSHIP
Thank you cards were ordered.

m) STILL EXHIBITS
The cake decorating superintendent is resigning, her daughter has aged out of 4-H.

9) OLD BUSINESS
a) 405(c)(3) – Nothing.

10) NEW BUSINESS
a) ANNIVERSARY YEAR
It may be fun to do something for the anniversary year. May need a committee to work on incorporating that into the fair. Can reach out to alumni.

b) EQUIPMENT
We need new chairs, at least 400. The chairs rented this year, several broke while being used. No one was injured.

c) VOLUNTEER AWARDS
Nominate people for the awards to be given out at Leaders' Banquet.

d) TEAR DOWN COMMITTEE
May need a committee to decide how to handle tear down to eliminate exhibitors packing up on Saturday night and leaving. We need to ensure that exhibitors are coming back on Sunday to clean up project areas.

11) ADJOURNMENT
A motion was made to adjourn at 8:43 p.m. by A. Thueme, supported by K. Smith.
Motion carried.

Chris Ruemenapp, Secretary