UPSF Department Advisory Committee (DAC) Minutes

November 23, 2024

**Members present:**

**Dairy**: Melissa Gatien, Kris Havelka **Sheep & Goats**: Lindsey Kronemeyer , Scott Sundberg **Swine**: Tammi Hill (Zoom)

**Beef**: Veronica Wallace, Connie Wells, Jan Streiter, John Stapleton, Steve Palosaari **Draft Horse**: Crystal VanElsacker (Zoom)

**Poultry/Rabbits**: Andrea Sorenson, Pete Kleiman, Jr. **Community Arts**: Kate Oman, Jacqueline Beach

**Equine**: Jesse Willour, Judy Nelson **Skillathon**: Sandy Gill **Junior Rep’s**: Alexa Axtell

**Management**: Vickie Micheau, Kelly Zellar

**Others**: Ed McBroom, Ann Harrington, Lori Dalgord, Dave Radloff

23 voting members present **Public:** Abby Axtell, Marissa Axtell

1. **Introductions**
2. **Public Comment:** none
3. **Adoption of Agenda:**  Connie moved; Veronica supported a motion to approve agenda. Motion passed unanimously.
4. **Approval of meeting minutes from October 5, 2024.**  Veronicamoved; Sandy supported a motion to approve minutes. Motion passed unanimously.
5. **Member Representative elections:**  Veronica moved; Jan supported a motion to nominate Scott Sundberg for goat representative and cast a unanimous ballot. Motion passed unanimously. Lindsey nominated Heather Black and Connie nominated Chrissy Campbell for sheep representative. Lindsay read a letter from Heather and Connie spoke about Chrissy’s history with the fair. A secret ballot vote was taken, and Heather was chosen to represent the sheep department. Jan nominated Alexa Axtell for the 2-year Jr. Representative position and Dave nominated Bridget Paidl for the 1-year Jr. Representative position. Letters of interest & recommendations from both Jr. Representatives were received. Alexa spoke about her interest in serving on the DAC. John moved; Jan supported a motion to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot. Motion passed unanimously. The swine department representative position remains open, Ann will email all swine exhibitors.
6. **Management Report**: Vickie provided a written report. Lindsey Kronemeyer has accepted the sheep/goat Superintendent position and Tammi Hill has accepted the swine Superintendent position. Karen Paidl had applied by the due date for the Queen Coordinator position and was appointed. Kris will work with Karen to help her get started. A copy of the Management’s planning document was provided and asked everyone to review. Management will be reviewing staffing needs and compensation for each department. An article in the Daily Press discussed details from DAC recommendations. Discussed Chamber’s Sleigh the Deals Christmas promotion. Would like departments to consider getting volunteers for 2025 fair set up as there will be a lot of activities on the grounds 2 weeks before & after the fair. John suggested earlier livestock release times would allow earlier barn cleaning for upcoming events.
7. **Building & Grounds report**: John. Last meeting was on October 17th and there was not a quorum. The Authority approved adding Jan to the committee. A new architect engineering firm, Dynamic Design was selected for the campground bathroom project. Matt had provided a comprehensive cost savings breakdown on the sheep/highland barn switch. There was an approximate $5200 savings. The sheep pens would not need to be taken down each year as that barn is not used for anything else. The racetrack will have a new digital scoreboard paid for by the Escanaba Speedway. Matt is also working to replace the outside outlets on the speed barn. He has also tried to contact Amish builders concerning replacing the sheep barn roof. Lindsay would like to help determine where the office will be in the new sheep barn. John suggested emailing Matt to schedule a walk-through meeting and suggested the sooner the better. Recommended to all to communicate with Matt about anything your building needs whether big or small.
8. **Chairman’s remarks: Ed-**Congratulated and welcomed the incoming Superintendents and Representatives. Ed updated the DAC on the Authority decisions from the October 25th meeting:

-all elected members were approved -it was approved to add Jan to the Building & Grounds committee -the changes to the late entry and judge rule were approved

-The exhibitor age change was approved as follows: Junior Exhibitors can now enter all departments at age 8 through age 20 as of January 1st. Open show exhibitors can now enter all departments at the age of 8 as of January 1st.

-change in showmanship & recordkeeping premiums was approved -Jesse's horse department changes were approved

-the Highland barn change was approved. The Highlands will now be in building #10 & sheep & goats will be in building #15. Included in the approval was the understanding that maintenance would build a new office in building #15 and tear out the old office. It was also agreed that Matt would work with the new Superintendent to improve the building as much as possible for the sheep & goats. A designated path possibly using bicycle racks for the sheep & goats to get to the beef arena was also discussed.  This would be similar to Jesse's proposed bridle path for horses.

-The Junior Market livestock sale was approved to become a department of the UPSF.  This motion was for a one-year trial. The current junior members would become an Advisory Committee. Lori will continue as leader but will now become a fair Superintendent.  This will also align with moving all market animal departments to a separate department in the fair book.   No changes are planned for the sale at this time, but this will alleviate the stress on the junior exhibitors and allow them to concentrate on their projects during the fair. It was also moved to add the Junior Market Livestock sale Superintendent to be a member of the DAC.

Ann had previously sent an email to DAC members advising them of the Authority’s decisions and included documentation which the Authority considered when making the changes. There was also public comment at the Authority meeting in favor of a lower age for showing. Dave questioned if the age change will affect the maximum capacity in the swine barn and additional record books. John stated we need to be prepared to implement a plan if swine pre-registrations are over capacity. John hears families requesting less essay questions in the record book. Ann reiterated the Jr. Market livestock department will utilize junior exhibitors on an Advisory committee. John asked about adding a buyer to the Jr. Market livestock advisory committee.

Scott addressed the barn switch: He stated he felt there were some factors that were not considered when deciding to switch barns, he felt the exhibitors should have been consulted and had input. Concerned about exhibitors having to move their animals across the fairgrounds to get to the arena. Buyers won’t have as easy access to those exhibitors. The barbeque stand currently blocks the visibility of the barn. Exhibitor numbers are growing, and this is a small barn. Sheep & goats must stay the entire week, they need to be kept cool. Concerned amount animal welfare. Ed stated many of those items were discussed. Ed apologized that the decision was made prior to that department having any representation. He also stated there were serious safety incidents with the Highland being in that barn. He also stated this is not a long-term solution and is not ideal as the fairground needs new buildings. He also stated the Highlands have committed to occupying the barn for longer during the week. Management can change the Brisket Barn barbeque location if needed. Dave suggested the Brisket Barn remain at that end of the fairgrounds, just it a different location. Lindsay stated exhibitors are upset about the change. Vickie stated we are trying this to give us an opportunity to see what works and what doesn’t work. The Authority is working on a longer-term vision for building replacement. John stated Matt had gotten quotes to replace that building but the cost was higher than expected and not feasible at this time. Ed asked if anyone knows of people who are willing to help and donate their time and talents to the fair to let Matt & Vickie know.

1. **Exhibitor Department Report:** **Kelly-1)** 2025 Deadlines have been updated, all of the fillable online pre-registration forms will be online by January 3rd. The lamb/goat/swine pre-entry deadline was moved up to May 15th to avoid conflicts with Memorial Day. Lindsey and Tammi asked that they receive an email list of last years exhibitors for them to contact, Kelly will provide that. Premium book changes are needed by February 28th. **3)** Within the next couple of weeks, she will be emailing the facility improvement plan, TSC wish list, maintenance, sound, and barn set-up requests. Vickie asked her to send past lists to the new Superintendents and Lindsey will need the list from the barn she will be moving to. **4)** Judge contract has been sent to one judge for jr. beef, jr. goat, jr. sheep and jr. swine. He is from out of the state. He has not judged this far north and has no associations with anyone. One horse judge has a contract sent. Waiting for confirmations from judges for Highland, Open beef, Poultry, Rabbits, Open Horse & Dairy. Holding off on hiring a draft horse judge. Judges will be posted online July 1st.  Kelly asked Dave & Kate to provide her with the names of their community arts judges by July 15th. **5)** Reminder that Paylean is banned for use in all animals as per fair book livestock health requirements rule O. **6)** Livestock Health requirement a: injection and /or insertion including drenching of any material into an animal for medial or non-medical purpose without examination and approval of the UPSF Veterinarian. There has been some questions about using show calm. This rule prohibits anything that is inserted in the mouth. Eliminates the use of anything that cannot be fed in a feed pan. John stated show calm has been used for years and would be okay to allow that as an exception. Jan stated he has no problem with it and there is another product that can be put on the foreheads of animals. Tammi stated it is all natural. Lindsay stated any rule change needs to be across the board. Ed warned this may lead to other items being touted as natural. Lindsey stated there needs to be a list of specific products that are approved. Lindsey stated there are exhibitors that travel to different shows and carry their drenching guns with them. Connie stated it is up to the exhibitors to know our rules. Ed requested each Superintendent provide a list to Kelly of products that they feel are acceptable. This list would then be provided to the Fair veterinarian for his input.This will be on the agenda for the next meeting. **7)**  Barn themes: Beef, sheep, swine, goats-Halloween, Dairy-Board games, Horse-Disney, Poultry & rabbits-Candyland. Kelly asked Steve the Highland theme he will let her know. **Ann. 1)** Finishing ribbon inventory and cleaning up the ribbon room. **2)** Will be forwarding the most recent by-laws for everyone to review and discuss at the January meeting, to hopefully adopt in March. Ed suggested that everyone review them before the January meeting and bring their suggestions for changes to that meeting. **3)** Festival of Trees-Helping Lori with decorating the Fair’s tree for the Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital Festival of Trees raffle. The Fair & Jr. Market are funding the tree. Our theme is U.P. State Fair Blue Ribbon Holiday. The tree’s value with all of the donations is over $1700. The festival is open for viewing from December 7th to December 14th. Thank you to everyone that donated items. **4)** Asking everyone that would like to add an agenda item to future DAC meetings to provide some background information and reasoning for the action to allow other members to review prior to the meeting. The information can be sent to me, and I will forward to everyone. Hopefully this may help to shorten the length of our meetings. John suggested that departments meet ahead of the DAC meeting to have their plans laid out.
2. **Old Business**
   1. **2028 Fair Centennial Celebration ideas-** The committee members currently are Andrea, Connie, Kris, Kelly, Missy. Ed appointed Alexa and Bridget and he will call Diane Hanson from Farm Bureau and Ann Jousma Miller and ask them to be on the committee. John suggested a regional Farm Bureau representative. Ed discussed it at the most recent UPCAP meeting. Judy Nelson has donated a belt buckle which she won at the 50th U.P. State Fair. Everyone thanked Judy for her donation. Andrea requested that we set up a place on the fairgrounds to store any donations received. Ann discussed ideas other fairs have done for the anniversaries: Memory Walk through a building with displays of past fair queens, past trophies & awards, exhibits, newspaper clippings, timeline of the evolution of the fair, videos of past fairs, recognizing past contributors, board members, superintendents, exhibitor’s managers, etc. The Poultry Superintendent whom Andrea replaced was with the fair for 48 years and recently passed away, she suggested to his family to contribute something for the centennial. Sandy Grouleau’s family probably has mementos which may be used. Kris suggested a design logo contest for the Centennial to be unveiled at a prior years fair. Vickie suggested researching to find the theme from the first fair to see if that could somehow be used. Connie volunteered to go to area schools art teachers and have a logo contest be part of their curriculum for that year. Kris stated they do that for the Menominee county fair. Missy stated at one time, the top fifteen entries were turned into a coloring book. Missy will work on getting old fair book covers. Kelly has Ryan Rasch on her list to contact to be a livestock judge for that fair. Vickie has requested the Budweiser Clydesdales.
   2. **Beef department rule change proposals-Veronica** Proposed new Dept. 3 & 4 rule (Open & Junior Beef, excluding Highlands)

Registered and commercial animals must be entered in the name of the actual owner or immediate family (parents, children, step-children, siblings, spouse, grandparents) and this must match the registration paperwork if registered animals. The exhibitor must be the owner of record for 90 days (April 15th) prior to the fair entry deadline of July 15th. Kelly moved; Tammi supported a motion to approve the proposed rule. Motion passed unanimously.

Lindsey felt 90 days was too long and not fair. Veronica completed research and some other fairs require ownership from the beginning of the year. This will eliminate exhibitors showing an animal that was shown under another person’s name at a previous show. Tammi felt the 90 days was acceptable.

1. **New Business**
2. **Lori Branstrom Improvement Grants-Ann**  Recommending no changes. Continue 2-$1,000 grants due April 15th. Notify winners by May 15th. Will be posted on the website.
3. **Junior showmanship ages:** Market departments should be the same. Everyone agreed to add the 20-year-olds to the Seniors. In the beef department the 8-year-olds will added to the beginners. Tammi suggested a novice class for the 8-year-olds. Veronica didn’t feel she would have the numbers in the beef department to implement that. Kelly moved; Connie supported a motion to change the age of market (beef, lamb, goat, swine, poultry, rabbit) showmanship classes to Beginners 8-10 years old, Juniors 11-14 years old, Intermediate 14-16 years old, Seniors 17-20 years old. Motion passed unanimously.
4. **Sheep/lambs-should they be required to be trimmed down to 1-1 ½ inches before coming to the fairgrounds-Kelly** Dr. Averill had suggested this would be a good idea, most other shows require, and it would be easier to see ringworm and reduce grooming time at the fair. Lindsey moved; Scott supported a motion to require all sheep to be trimmed down to 1 to 1 ½ inches prior to checking in at the fair. Motion passed unanimously
5. **Draft horse pull proposals-Crystal** Currently UPSF requires drug testing for a lot of drugs including bute & banamine. Draft pull numbers have been declining. Talked with previous exhibitors and others and response was 50% for and 50% against drug testing. Should we eliminate drug testing? Crystal would like to move to no drug testing with Superintendent and judge discretion We currently follow the Michigan horse pulling association rules. Ed stated the majority of shows have done away with drug testing. Steve asked if we would lose pullers as the response was 50/50, Crystal didn’t feel we would. Steve questioned the Superintendent discretion. She said if a horse is out of control that’s when the discretion comes in. Jesse felt it is difficult to determine if a horse is medicated when they are only on the grounds for a short period of time. Jesse also feels we need a moral compass as to what we want our shows to be about. As an equine representative she doesn’t feel it is moral to allow a horse that can’t pull unless it’s on pain meds. Crystal stated there is a pull that morning at another fair and some horses may be a little sore when they get to our fair. Jan is worried about animal welfare, if you must drug an animal to perform because they pulled earlier in the day, then they need to choose which show to attend. Ed felt Crystal’s proposal was a little confusing in that she is ok with some pain meds but not necessarily steroids and if we don’t drug test how do we know? Ed suggested tabling the draft horse proposals until Crystal can attend a meeting in person.
6. **Department reports-Summaries only**
7. **Community Arts:** Bonifas Art Center has a new Executive Director. Working on new shelving with Kelly. Will be working on cleaning up the vegetable and floral departments in the book. Confirming judges. Kate suggested the fair have stickers available for those that carry around water bottles. Ed questioned the judging of canning. Dave has additional criteria to be added to the book for canning. They are looking at sponsors for additional prize money. 500 people participated in the door prize competition. Ed thanked them for all their work.
8. **Dairy:** Requesting vendor trailers be moved away from the barn to improve airflow. Would like earlier release times. No avian flu cases since October 16th. Lindsay asked if the cement in the walkway could be roughed up so it’s not so slick. Ed suggested additional rubber mats. Steve said Houghton County had a paste put on the cement and he will try to find the information on that.
9. **Beef:** Working on new rules for the next meeting, including family fit. Would like other market departments to consider having fitting rules. Connie stated will be applying for the LBMA grant to add dividers in the wash racks. Holes would be put in the cement, t-posts put in to keep the animals from swinging around.
10. **Highland:** Steve asked if the dairy show ring is used on Saturday. He needs to have a place for a junior show.
11. **Sheep/Goats/Overall showmanship:** Lindsay will walk through the new barn today and meet with her group to determine their needs for the next meeting.
12. **Swine:** Tammy thanked everyone for the opportunity to be the swine superintendent and is looking forward to working with all of DAC the members and exhibitors. The swine representative position remains open.
13. **Skillathon:** none
14. **Poultry/Rabbits:** Andrea stated they will be meeting to discuss changes, possibly join the junior market sale, early release. The Brisket barn location was an issue because they had 2 additional trailers that blocked the fire lane. Ed suggested moving them to one of the 4 corners. Judy brought up that fire lanes need to be around all barns.
15. **Horse:** Jesse would like the DAC to consider adding a junior representative from the horse department. Ann stated there was an exhibitor that expressed interest in a junior equine representative position. This will be discussed at the next meeting when by-law revisions are discussed. Working on bridal path, has a lead on a generous donation for the items needed. The path would go from the speed barn to the arena barn along the road. Keeping the horses and public safe. Would like a late fee for any Coggins tests not turned in on time. Exhibitors should be able to easily email their Coggins. It was a headache she hopes to avoid next year.
16. **Draft Horse:** Steve questioned the payout discrepancy between the draft and pony pulls. There were 3 entrants in each. Possibly spread the prize money more evenly between the 2 different pulls.
17. **Queen Contest:** Kris is working with Karen Paidl the new coordinator. Becca is working on a timeline to give to Karen. Steve asked them to consider allowing county fair exhibitors to qualify as we are a State Fair. It continues to be a challenge to get entries.
18. **Jr. Market Livestock:** none
19. **Youth Representatives:** John suggested the junior representatives think about fitting rule changes.
20. **Recordkeeping:** Will be moving forward now that the ages have been established.
21. **Public Comment:** Sue Streiter questioned if the July 1st date for posting of judges, was time enough for someone to appeal before the July 15th date. Scott asked if there is any process to withdraw if they don’t like the judge, there is no refunds after entry. Kelly will post the judges as soon as she has them, no later than July 1st. Sue suggested using the centennial fair book cover contest entry as the backdrop for pictures. The winner should get a good prize. A prize could be donated to the winning schools art program. Dave suggested adding a department in community arts for the centennial logo.
22. **Next meeting:** Next meeting date January 25, 2025 @ 10:00 am in the multipurpose building. Next Authority meeting January 31, 2025

**13) Adjournment** at 12:40 pm.

Yellow highlights motions

Green highlights motions which need UPSF Authority approval