

UPSF Department Advisory Committee (DAC) Minutes

May 18, 2024

Members present: Dairy: Melissa Gatien, Kris Havelka

Sheep & Goats: Carol Quist (Zoom), Sally Ebsch, Rochelle Sundstrom, Lindsey Kronemeyer

Beef: Veronica Wallace, John Stapleton (Zoom), Steve Palosaari (Zoom), Jan Strieter

Swine: Sue Baumler, Jodi Spaude, Lee Marciniak **Draft Horse:** Crystal VanElsacker

Poultry/Rabbits: Andrea Sorenson **Community Arts:** Kate Oman (Zoom), Jacqueline Beach

Equine: Jesse Willour **Skillathon:** None

Junior Rep's: Bridget Paidl, Sydney Ebsch **Management:** Vickie Micheau, Kelly Zellar

Others: Ed McBroom, Ann Harrington, Dave Radloff, Lori Dalgord 22 voting members present, 5 zoom

Guests: Gary Dubord Sr., Sue Strieter, Elizabeth Westphal, Greg Sharon, Crystal Mellgren

1) Introductions:

2) Public Comment: None

3) Adoption of Agenda: Veronica moved; Kris supported a motion to adopt the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

4) Approval of meeting minutes from March 9, 2024: Jan moved; Kelly supported a motion to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

5) Buildings & Grounds report: John & Vickie reported. The last building & grounds committee report was provided to everyone. John stated that everyone needs to contact Matt directly for any needs in their barns, don't 'assume' he knows your needs. Camping applications are being reviewed to verify exhibitors. Greg & Liz are looking at the sites to be sure how many there are. Completing pro-active maintenance to the sites. Increasing awareness of campgrounds online. There will be a permanent CAMPGROUND sign added to the marquee. Liz has been working on building clean-up including preventive maintenance and deep cleaning of all bathrooms. The maintenance crew did a great job remodeling the beef & dairy bathrooms. Greg stated we have a multimillion-dollar facility and we need to look like it. Sheila has been reviewing camping applications with Kelly & Ann to verify exhibitors and club leaders to be sure they receive priority on sites. Liz followed up with previous campers that did not respond to the mailing to be sure of their intentions before they were crossed off the list.

6) Management Report: Vickie provided a written management report. The \$100,000 MDARD grant was received for improvements to the beef arena, this will be a very positive visible improvement to the grounds. We are still being considered for a \$1 million Senate appropriation grant for rehab of the Ruth Butler Building. Still being considered for the \$100,000 MDARD community development grant to fix the Ruth Butler leaking roof. Working on the campground bathhouse project. Reviewing events to determine when fair set up can begin. Matt & crew will NOT start any barn set-up until he has contacted the Superintendent to be sure they are involved in the set-up process. MAFE zone meeting was attended, and updates were received from MDARD. Thanks to Jan for volunteering again to remove manure during fair week. Saykly's will have their big trailer near the barns this year. Puzzle theme this year, there will be earrings, t-shirts, hoodies, and a puzzle available for sale. Sponsorships are now coming in more quickly. The Dagenais Foundation and First Bank will be sponsoring wristbands for ALL Junior market livestock exhibitors. Congratulations to Jodi and Sue for raising \$9,125 to purchase new swine pens! LBM grants were issued to the beef department to purchase an RFID reader and the equine department to purchase a timer for speed events. The 2024 planning document is continuously reviewed to be sure nothing is missed for the fair. A schedule of events was presented and asked for everyone to review for accuracy. WZMQ will again sponsor the Queen contest.

- 7) Chairman's Remarks:** In March Michigan cattle were detected with avian flu. It is not fatal to cattle but affects their milk production. Poultry farms have been infected with the same strain as the dairy cattle (which is a different strain than what they were getting from migratory birds). 15 dairy farms have been infected all downstate at this time. MDARD is meeting with the 5 dairy farming Senators to update them weekly. USDA has gotten involved and implemented movement restrictions and guidance. Michigan has the 2nd strictest movement restrictions in the country. There is now a 60-day window of no new positive cases in Michigan before dairy cows can be exhibited. Poultry has a 30-day window of no new positive cases. The poultry industry is much more advanced in their bio-security measures than the dairy industry. The virus is present in the milk, but pasteurization kills the virus. Non-lactating dairy and all beef cattle can still be infected, but it does not affect their marketability, so they are not restricted in the orders. The Senators will be sending a letter to all dairy farmers encouraging them to cooperate with MDARD & USDA during this outbreak. Andrea stated that the UPSF has had surveillance avian flu testing in the past. If she does it this year, she would schedule a time for the testing to be completed and close the barn to the public. Wisconsin has the wild bird flu, but not the dairy mutation at this time.
- 8) Exhibitor Department Report:** Kelly-**a)** banners & ribbons have been ordered **b)** Still working on the Band communication App. She has been sending invitations to everyone to join their group, some individuals will be in more than 1 group. Everyone will need to download the app on their phone. Each department will be in a group and they will have a QR code for exhibitors to access for emergency communications. **c)** Still working on judges. There are 3 commitments for next year. **d)** Reminder May 31 is the pre-entry deadline for market swine, lamb & goat. **e)** will be meeting with Superintendents to sign their contracts and determine their staff before July 15th. **f)** Reminder to Supt.'s to be available for barn set-up, talk to Matt. **g)** We need to always use the word 'isolation' for animals moved from the fairgrounds. It is not a 'quarantine' situation until an MDARD vet has made that determination. Sue asked who will be the Isolation liaison this year? There is no one in place at this time, but Ann will incorporate that into the Emergency Management plan. Sue requested that her and Jodi view the isolation area that has been prepared before the fair. Matt is working on getting water to that area. Jesse inquired whether the prepared area would be large enough for a horse, and yes it will be available for large animals. Ann-**a)** Working with Kelly to proof the premium book, it is now printed and available. There are a few corrections which will be posted on the website. There are numerous changes to the book: rules rearranged, deleted repeats of rules in each department, consolidated in some departments, special contest are all under department 9, division 1-Skillathon, division 2- showmanship, division 3- queen, division 4 -team fitting, updated exhibitor checklist to include changes when entering online, consolidated some paper entry forms, all peewee showman & community arts that register with paper forms will need to complete a fee form to pay the \$3.00 manual processing fee. Dave stated he will be hosting sessions for community arts exhibitors to come into the MSUE office and have a volunteer help them register online. **b)** Worked with Sheila on new stall cards for market livestock exhibitors they will be pre-printed using the YQCA template and will have the exhibitor's name & county already printed on them. **c)** working with Supt.'s to determine their preferences for printing backtags using showworks. **d)** Showworks has been updated and online registration will be set to go live June 1st. **e)** Will be working on a fair emergency management plan **f)** MAFE region meeting met new MDARD vet for our area, Anne Satkowiak from Cheboygan. Brought to her attention our issues with their response to us last year. **g)** Working on fair maps for livestock entry and exit for the fair. They will be posted on the website and emailed to all market exhibitors prior to the fair. Vickie suggested camping should also be included. **h)** The Authority will be appointing a finance committee to review the fair's financials each year to help determine the availability of funds for capital improvements and purchases. **i)** Fundraising report reveals over \$37,700 was raised by departments for their shows, this is in addition to all of the fair sponsorships. This shows the great support the UPSF and all of our departments receive from the community. **j)** Working on gathering the information for the Superintendent books which will be distributed at the August meeting.

9) Old Business:

a) By-laws update: (Proposed) May 18, 2024 AMENDMENTS: Article III: Membership, Section 1- Delete sentence 'The membership of the Advisory Committee shall consist of a maximum of 39 members.'

Article III: Membership, Section 7-No members are allowed more than one vote.

Remove Department 29 Auto show as a voting member.

Change verbiage from Milk house Representative to Milk house Superintendent.

Article V: Meetings, Section 1- Members are required to attend the August and October meetings each year.

Article V: Meetings, Section 2-Change verbiage from 'mailed' to 'mailed electronically'.

Article V: Meetings, Section 3- A quorum shall consist of 50% of the voting membership. A quorum must be achieved by in-person meeting attendance.

Article V: Meetings, Section 4- If a quorum is achieved, members are allowed to vote via zoom. If a quorum is not achieved, members are not allowed to vote via zoom.

Article VI: Committees Section 1-Delete sentence 'The DAC chairperson shall serve as the chair of the formal protest committee, unless there is a conflict of interest'.

Article VIII: Amendment Procedure, a.-Change verbiage from 'mailed' to 'mailed electronically'.

- 1) Ann asked Carol Q. if she would prefer to have her representatives for goat & sheep elected in alternating years for consistency? After discussion the consensus was that the goat representative will be elected in even years beginning in 2026. This will result in the sheep rep. being elected in 2025 for a 1-year term and another election for a normal 2-year term for that position in 2026.
- 2) Article II section 4 shall read: The committee has the ability to review Department Representative member meeting attendance and may choose to appoint a new member for that position if there has been no attendance.
- 3) Ann questioned the 50% quorum. With a total of 38 members that would require 19 members to attend. Is this too high of a bar? It was previously at 25%. Consensus was 40% quorum is acceptable.
- 4) Ann questioned the special contest leader titles. As per management they are Coordinators not Superintendents as they do not have contracts with management. Because we have restructured the special contests into one department in the premium book what do we do with their vote? The consensus was that the special contests would have 1 vote among them.

Ann will update the by-laws with today's proposed changes, and we will again review at the next meeting.

b) Overall Showmanship Code of Conduct-Lindsay A handout was provided. It also addresses cheating with removal from the competition as a consequence. Sue asked that the exhibitors be directed to talk to the Superintendents. Lindsey suggested having a meeting with all exhibitors and Superintendents, so she knows they all have the same information about how to properly treat the animals being shown. Dave asked for a definition of cheating-asking someone on the sidelines and using phones are 2 examples. Lindsay is proposing that the exhibitors will be required to stay within the raised area next to the beef barn office between showings and are not allowed to talk with anyone. They will be required to give her their phones for the show. Ann suggested having the meeting asap to allow kids time to practice. Lindsay would like Superintendents to be with the exhibitors to keep an eye on things. **Jesse moved; Jodi supported a motion to accept the Overall Showmanship Code of Conduct. Motion passed unanimously.**

10) New Business:

- a) **Junior Representative posting-Ann** a handout was provided. During the fair each Supt. will receive a posting of the DAC openings for the coming year. There isn't anything that informs a Junior what they would be required to do if elected and how to get elected. This posting describes the responsibilities and qualifications needed. Lori suggested posting this on the website. **Kelly moved; Missy supported a motion to adopt the Junior Representative position posting. Motion passed unanimously.**

b) DNA repulls-how many allowed-Kelly There has been a problem with DNA pulls. Several exhibitors have required multiple DNA cards to provide an acceptable sample. This costs money as the cards are \$1.52 each, postage, and time. She is proposing to allow only 2 repulls. Ed suggested a \$5.00 charge if a 3rd pull is required. It was agreed there is no excuse for faulty pulls. Sue moved; Sydney supported a motion to charge \$5.00 for any additional DNA samples required after the initial sample, beginning with the 2025 fair. Motion passed unanimously. Kelly will inform exhibitors at the 2024 fair. There will not be a limit on the number of pulls.

c) MDARD Dairy order-Missy A survey was sent to all dairy exhibitors asking if they were still willing to bring animals to the fair. Most everyone said they would still be willing to bring animals if the MDARD order was still in place. Two or three were unsure about bringing lactating cows. Out of the total of 97 head last year, 27 were milking cows. She is requesting that if the order is lifted after our 7/15 deadline that farms be able to enter lactating cows without late fees. Also, would like to enable a refund to be given after 7/15 if the disease is still spreading and they become uncomfortable with bringing their animals. They would still need to register young animals by 7/15. If any positives are discovered after June 13th, lactating cows would not be able to be at our fair. Ed felt that the Director may lift if no new cases in July. Ed felt if late registrants don't get trophies they would understand. Ed stated that if the disease has spread to the UP, he doesn't feel comfortable even bringing his young stock, most farmers are unable to quarantine animals when they come back to the farm. The last case reported was May 17 and as far north as Gratiot County. The order affects milking and dry cows. Missy moved; Veronica supported a motion to allow the dairy department flexibility with entry dates for cows only. Motion passed unanimously. Andrea moved, Dave supported a motion to allow entry refunds for both dairy and poultry if it is needed due to the influenza outbreak. Motion passed unanimously. Subject to UPSF Authority approval.

11) Additional CVI requirements-Kelly Out of state exhibitors are already required to provide a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection within 30 days of showing in Michigan. She is asking should we require this for lower Michigan exhibitors? Ed stated we required in the past when there was a TB outbreak downstate, his phone calls to those exhibitors were not pleasant. He didn't feel we should do it unless things get worse. We can establish any rules we want. Sue stated the swine barn is already taking extra precautions and didn't feel this would be needed. Ann stated that other fairs do not allow exhibitors to bring animals if they have been shown at another show in the last 14 days. Dickinson put that rule in place with the addition that if the fair you are coming from had a 'hot' case. Lee suggested should also include if a case within the county they reside in. This should be included in our Emergency Management plan. No change at this time.

12) Department reports-Summaries only

Junior Market Livestock-Still looking for volunteers to help at the sale. Next meeting is June 13. Buyer letters & tickets to previous buyers will go out then. Sue asked about thank you cards. Lori stated new ones are being ordered and they will be picked up from the Superintendents on Sunday. Jodi requested a list of buyers with addresses for the kids.

Youth Representatives-no report

Recordkeeping-all books have been posted.

Community Arts-Kate-working on judges. Dave-Late June or early July, MSUE will be offering times to help people register their CA exhibits online. He will let us know the date. Ann volunteered to help. Dave suggested changing the signage on buildings 4 & 5 to have the correct departments listed.

Dairy-Donations coming in. Did not receive LBM grant, but still looking for gates. MDARD announced can get free PPE.

Beef-69 steers. Received the LBM grant to purchase a RFID reader which is a long wand. Much easier & safer for check-in. The beef barn will fund the remaining cost as they are very expensive. This will be available for use by the dairy & highland Superintendents. Veronica expressed her appreciation for the grant.

Highland-Asked if it was okay to allow a hoof trimmer to come in for a day, a private situation. Ed stated a precedent has been sent that it is acceptable.

Sheep/Goat-none

Swine- Funds have been donated for new hog pens in the show arena. They plan to use 2 of the newer pens for Grand & Reserve in the barn to show them off. All the pen donations are coming into the Authority and a check is being sent for the downpayment on the pens. Lions Clubs donating include Wells, Bark River, Stephenson, Vulcan-Norway-Loretto & Powers Spalding. Also received donation from Mid County Sportsman Club. The Lions Clubs are still fundraising for the remaining \$2,000 that is needed. Vickie stated they already have signage planned for acknowledging the pen sponsors. Everyone congratulated Sue for her great job in getting the new pen donations! Vickie discussed naming the Beef arena after the improvements. There are some funds that were donated for a Sandy Groleau Memorial and never used. Sandy was the Exhibitors Manager for years with the state and during the transition. Vickie is suggesting the name Sandy Grouleau Memorial Pavilion. Pen donation & Groleau funds can be used as match dollars. Plans are to have a ribbon cutting at the beginning of the fair. Ann suggested a formal dedication of the scale house to Lori Branstrom as she was instrumental in getting it built & LBM grant funds were used to finish it. Vickie will schedule a dedication during the fair. Vickie asked Sue to meet with Matt about pen set-up.

Skillathon-no report

Poultry/Rabbit-Andrea will continue planning until a final decision from MDARD. She will be flexible. She will implement any bio-security as needed. Birds can be processed prior to the fair to be auctioned off. Can have a virtual show.

Horse-Jesse is thankful for the LBM grant received to purchase a timer. Hoping for additional donations to purchase a digital display. Very excited about the amount of donations coming in. There will be awards for many different things in the horse department this year. She has her own Facebook page (UPSF Equine Department) where she thanks her donors and announces new awards that will be given. She asked Sheila for some signs. Matt has been working on the arena. It was found that the outside was 2 feet deep and the inside was only 4 inches. It has been leveled out to a foot across. The outside panels have been straightened. Gravel was donated to improve under the pavilion. At this point she is satisfied with the improvements made this year. She is planning a work bee to clean up in and around the barns, power washing, painting as needed. New sound system is great. Jesse's friend Chelsea Martin of Maple Ridge Photography will be helping in the horse department this year and has volunteered to donate her time to take pictures of all the Grand & Reserve Champions for the fair to use. Ann will put together a show list for her, asking all Superintendents to provide times. Everyone congratulated Jesse on the work she has done so far!

Draft Horse-Ordered special award for UP Draft puller class. Sent questionnaire about prize preferences, 50/50 answers on plaques versus trophies. Metal signs was suggested. Crystal asked how many horses are needed to hold a draft horse show. Kelly suggested there would need to be at least 3 horses but will be reviewed after registrations are received. Requested a list of last year's pullers so she can contact about coming and if stalling is needed. Asked Lindsay if she would inquire about Bell's showing.

Queen Contest-Kris-would like an announcement on FB for contestants. Would be looking for a minimum of 2 contestants per division. Jesse will be having a costume class in the horse department and asked if the queen/princess winners would judge. Asked if a winner could be provided with a banner for their use throughout the year. Ann suggested including this contest with the photographers schedule for pictures.

Overall Showmanship-Lindsey has sent requests for donations and has only received one return. Ordered nice coolers for winners. She will add UPSF stickers on them. She has reached out to Skerbecks for ride wristbands. Horses will be shown in the horse arena, dairy will be in the dairy arena and the remainder in the livestock pavilion.

13) **Public Comment:** None

14) **Next Meeting Date:** August 3, 2024, 10:00 am EST @ multipurpose building conference room. Next Authority meeting October 25, 2024.

15) **Adjournment** at 12:30 pm.

Yellow highlights are motions

Green highlights are motions that required UPSF approval

