

Benton County Agricultural Society

PO Box 118

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Benton County Agricultural Society

Regular Meeting Minutes

Date: September 16, 2025 – 7:00 PM

Location: Benton County Fairgrounds

The regular meeting of the Benton County Agricultural Society was called to order at 7:08 PM by President Ted Prom. No voting was held until 7:30 PM due to the lack of a quorum.

Directors Present: Ted Prom (President), Ken Bemboom (Vice President), Erich Rothstein, Jennifer Dingmann, Jody Prom, Vince Thiel, and Sam Morris

Directors Absent: Jimmy Zanardi, James Trantina, Scott Morris, Adam Scapanski, and Karen Sakry

Guests Present: Ashley Willenbring and Jenny Dierkes

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Ken Bemboom to approve the agenda, second by Erich Rothstein. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the August regular meeting were reviewed. Motion by Jennifer Dingmann to approve, second by Ken Bemboom. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Ted Prom will correct bank balances as of September 30 to begin the new fiscal year on October 1.

Motion by Jody Prom to table the Treasurer's Report until the October meeting, second by Jennifer Dingmann. Motion carried.

Groundskeeper Report

Noted that garbage and beer cans remain on the grounds from SAE.

Secretary's Report

Ken Bemboom will contact Anna Lyon to see if she is interested in taking minutes for the next two meetings.

Old Business

- **Rental House:** Discussion was held regarding increasing rent. Jennifer Dingmann presented a cost analysis of utilities and upkeep. Executive officers are authorized to limit the increase to \$75/month in cases of hardship. Motion by Jody Prom, second by Ken Bemboom. Motion carried with one nay vote (Vince Thiel).

New Business

- **District 6 Meeting:** Scheduled at the Little Falls Ballroom on Sunday, September 21 at 3:00 PM. Cost is \$28/person, and each county is asked to bring a door prize. Motion by Jennifer Dingmann to approve up to \$100 for expenses for door prizes. second by Vince Thiel. Motion carried. (Attending: Jody Prom, Ted Prom, Ken Bemboom, and possibly Karen Sakry.)

Reminders

- **Annual Convention:** January 15–18, 2026
- **Annual Meeting:** November 18, 2025, at 7:00 PM
Jody Prom will check availability with Coyote Moon, Jack & Jim's, and Mr. Jim's.
- **Director terms expiring:** Ted Prom, Karen Sakry, Jennifer Dingmann, Adam Scapanski, Ken Bemboom, and Vince Thiel. Jody Prom and Jennifer Dingmann will prepare information for membership.

Committee & Area Reports

4-H: Discussion on adding hog/sheep pens. Ted Prom noted that grant funding may cover this project.

Activity Area: Jennifer Dingmann reviewed Jurassic Kingdom's pricing. She will contact them to secure a reservation for Wednesday–Sunday during the 2026 fair.

Ag Craft Building: No report.

Beer Garden / Beer Garden Stage:

- Jody Prom reviewed 2026 production costs. Motion by Ken Bemboom to approve up to \$10,200, second by Erich Rothstein. Motion carried.
- Bands are already contacting for 2026. Motion by Jody Prom to maintain the \$25,000 budget from 2025, second by Ken Bemboom. Motion carried.

Buildings & Grounds:

- Off-season rental: Benton Ecumenic Partnership requested a walkthrough to consider hosting Taste of Benton County. Jennifer Dingmann will arrange a visit.
- Steve Ellson will blow out the water lines.
- Ted Prom and Ken Bemboom will coordinate concrete barriers for winter parking.

Discovery Building: Sam Morris suggested hosting model trains in 2026 and will follow up.

Fall Festival: Ted Prom contacted Randy to cancel. Randy agreed and the City of Sauk Rapids will refund the security deposit of \$500.00.

FFA: No report.

Finance: No report.

Food Vendors: Erich Rothstein reported that he and Jimmy Zanardi will remove the food row lights.

Grants: No report.

Grandstand: No report.

Heritage Square: Ted Prom will contact the Sportsmen's Club regarding a new contract.

- Discussion on pulling shades in the Heritage Building; Ted Prom will work with Steve Ellson before winter storage.

Insurance: No report.

Livestock/Poultry:

- Vicki Molitor informed Sam Morris about a new "Showman App" for open class shows, cost \$450. Sam will continue research.
- Board brainstormed ways to increase open class participation and attendance.

Marketing / Advertising: Erich Rothstein discussed midway vouchers and new advertising strategies for 2026.

Social Media / Website: Jennifer Dingmann is updating the logo with 2026 dates.

Midway: No report.

Military: Meat Raffle scheduled for Friday, September 26.

Parking Committee: Need additional free-standing panels, signs, and A-frame message boards for directing traffic.

Policy & Procedures: No report.

Premium Book: No report.

Sanitation: Republic bill was higher than expected. Jody Prom will follow up.

SAE:

- Ted Prom and Vince Thiel met with George Vadies. Further action pending additional documentation.
- Vince Thiel noted SAE is pursuing other options to repay the tar loan.

Sponsorship: No report.

Vendors: No report.

Winter Storage: Jody Prom is contacting those who have not replied to the August email. There is a current waiting list for campers. Directors are permitted to store one item each.

Other Business

No additional business.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Jody Prom, second by Ken Bemboom. Meeting adjourned.

Sincerely,

Jody Prom