Northwestern Michigan Fair

Board of Directors Meeting

September 10, 2026

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Joe Hubbell at 7:00 pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Tom Looks.
3. **Roll Call:** By Laurie Ashley

   Note: (V) indicates the attendee was attending virtually.

   a. **Board Members Present:**, Carolyne Woodhams, Clarissa Johnston *(V)*, David Lane, Erika Sprenger, Frank Guerin, Jill Duell (v7:11), Joe Hubbell, Karen Zenner *(V),* Laurie Ashley, Lilly Garno, Milt Lewis, Molly Hartsell*,* Nicki Brown, Tammara Sanchez, Tom Looks, and Tyler Honeycutt

   b. **Board Members Absent:** Breann Kern, Jack Hubbell, Stephanie Bugai and Sonya Youker

   c. **Visitors' Present:** Amanda Wilkins, Kathy Easter, Erika Brown, Sherri Forton, Kelly Stockfisch, Al Henning, Mary Lynn Robertson and Danny Schaub
4. **Review Agenda**

   a. **Motion 10.9.25.1** The Youth Committee was added to the Committees list. Erika Sprenger and Molly Hartsell made a motion to approve the September 10, 2026 Agenda. M**otion passed.**
5. **Correspondence:** Milt has been added to the list of those reporting correspondence because Laurie is running in the upcoming election and will not be collecting mail during that time. We received an anonymous letter titled "Facility Feedback" asking us to improve our bathrooms and to move/add them in the Midway area.
6. **President's Report:** None.
7. **Treasurer's Report:** by Tammara Sanchez reviewed the report and there were no questions.
8. **Presentation & Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

   a. **Motion 10.9.25.2:** On section 13 Committee Reports letter f for Bylaws all five positions of the Executive Board were added as needing to be moved to a 2-year nomination instead of just the President, and Vice Presidents. Nicki Brown and Molly Hartsell made a motion to approve minutes from the August 20, 2026 meeting as adjusted. **Motion passed.**
9. **Public Comment:**

   a. None
10. **New Business:**

    a. None
11. **4H Livestock Council:**

    a. No Update
12. **Unfinished Business:**

    a. Poultry Barn update: Al Henning reported that all the rafters have been sold and one purchased via the QR Code and loved it. When asked about things left in the building he reported that there were some 3x12 beams in the rafters and old fair lights that would have to come down. After this weekend's rental those need to be removed. Joe reported that he spoke to three builders regarding the project. Kellogg, who did the rabbit barn, quoted about $196,000 to do it including building supplies and labor and the other two builders would not bid in courtesy to Kellogg. By the time spring roles around that may go up to $200,000. Al spoke up and said that he had materials and things donated to help with that cost. He was

asked to make a list and send it to Joe for discussion with Kellogg. The plan is to take the building down at the end of September/early October.

b. Danny Schaub from MSU handed out a document reviewing events/activities that happen on the 4-H side that they would like to continue if possible. These included things like a presence in the Tanner Building, Cloverbud activities, educational activities, and still projects, etc. Tom let them know that it would be discussed at the Youth Committee meeting, and Joe told him it would be at least next month. Danny said to ask and report to Sarah Bye on the results.

13. **Committee Reports:**
    a. Clarissa: Info Tent/Senior Day – Clarissa wanted to clarify what we charge for Seniors on Senior Day. The trifold said Seniors were free for the whole day and then some were charged to get in. VASA said they thought they had been charged $3 per person. Tammara reported that they had only been charged for the 1,500 or so that came during the 10a-1p they were supposed to be. VASA may have to change the way they support Senior Day because the cost has gotten to be too much. They will likely stick to providing the meals, but may not be able to provide the entry anymore. Queens – Alia participated in the Manton Harbor Parade this last weekend. She won't be able to attend this weekend's event on the grounds with Red Dresser, but Erika said she would be there. After Red Dresser Clarissa will take down the flags and clean up the Vets Memorial in preparation for cleanup in 2027.
    b. Karen: Nothing to Report
    c. Jill: Nothing to Report
    d. Lilly: Working on merchandise for next year and starting to edit the Premium Book with the 4-H program removal. If you have updates to your department, please send them.
    e. Erika: Red Dresser is here this weekend. Ebels has reportedly told people that they can come to the grounds this Saturday and pick up their meat. They need to do that at the back end of the parking lot. There is a Horse Show next weekend and then the stalls will need to be taken down. We will separate out the pegs as we take them down so they can be powder coated in different colors so tops and bottom pegs can be identified quickly. Winter Storage will start on the 3rd.
    f. Dave: Working with Tom
    g. Tammara: We are registered for Convention. You will receive a $6 per room charge per day for parking. Carolyn let us know that the charge is actually $8 per room, but that MAFE is paying $2 per person for the entire Convention. We need to schedule a Budget meeting either 9/24 or 10/1. She's in the process of finalizing 2026 and she needs everyone's receipts now. Once that is finished Tammara will put together the 2027 budget. There is a possibility that we only made $5,000.00 out of the 2026 Fair. Meeting was scheduled for September 24th at 7pm at the office.
    h. Tyler: Nothing to Report
    i. Nicki: Youth Programming information is on the Website. It includes policies, specie books for Beef and Dairy Beef and registration for both those projects.
    j. Milt: Museum is good. I have gotten a couple of the window boards up, but I still have several to go. Winter Storage is in good shape. I have a couple cancellations, but those spots are already filled.
    k. Carolyne: Advertising is good. I received the bill from the radio stations and it was $10,000. We won't do WJZQ next year because I don't think it was worth it and changes will be made for next year. Convention- Communication Awards are gathered and she's going to redo the boards. Pancake Breakfast is good. Social Media is good. Carolyne will bring policy changes to the October meeting and By-laws are tonight – please see the document. Both by-law changes were unanimously voted onto the ballot for the November meeting. See the document attached at the end of these notes for the bylaws and edits made. This led to a discussion on

the terms of office that are on the Board of Directors Contact List at the moment. The new Board members have some errors. Lilly Garno should be 2026-2028, Nicki Brown should be 2026-2027, and Tyler Honeycutt should be 2026-2026 and run in November. David Lane and Stephanie Bugai are correct as written. Tyler stated he wanted to stay on, so he was told to fill out another application for November's election. The Contact List will be updated.

l. Molly: Working on the Annual Meeting, but I will need help as I am running. Carolyne and Milt are helping with collecting the Director Applications. Laurie is ordering the donuts/cider. The church has been booked by Molly for the event. The postcard needs to be ordered and sent out using the Lifetime membership list and the Annual membership list. Must be mailed by October 5th. Needs to state that there are two bylaw changes and 6 open positions. Laurie will do the postcards and provide the lists.

m. Tom: Youth Committee met on the 31st and worked primarily on the Cattle Program because it's due dates were the most pressing. Working on contacting the Species Chairs to see if they want to move over. Sonya spoke up and said that the Steer Barn stanchions need to be taken down. That has been a Superintendent responsibility in the past, a workbee needs to be set up to get them taken down. The Specie Chair application is on the website and is closing on October 1st. We are looking at which software applications we will be using for pre-registrations since there is a lot more sensitive data than we are used to handling. Swine is the next specie on the list to be placed on the website. We will be turning in changes to the Premium Book and working to replace the term for the children that qualify as Cloverbuds. Lots of names have been suggested. Super Senior age is being discussed for 2028. There will be no changes in that for 2027.

n. Frank: Had to do one recollect for a vendor this year, which is complete. Otherwise Vendors are all wrapped up.

o. Laurie: Grants – I am going to try and apply for the Consumers Energy Foundation Grant which is due September 15th. It could be worth $50,000. The announcement would be made on October 31st. They specifically ask how we will celebrate receiving funds. I would like to say we do a ceremony at our Annual Meeting and invite the press. If everyone agrees. Which they did. Non-Animal – we only have 18 unclaimed premiums which is dramatically better than the past. Erika gave out the premiums to the Barn Superintendents which dropped the number of unclaimed.

p. Joe: Cherry Festival has approached us to collaborate on a multi-use building. They need storage space for barricades and various equipment and office space, possibly an event space. Joe is bringing this up to see if the Board is interested in pursuing this with them, and it was supported. He will continue to talk to the Cherry Festival. Buildings & Grounds will be doing winterization very soon. Food Booth needs help this year and the Campground bathroom will have every sink faucet and showerhead replaced.

It was announced that it was Amanda Wilkins birthday today – Happy Birthday, Amanda! Tomorrow is also Karen Zenner's Birthday – Happy Birthday, Karen!

14. **Adjournment:**

a. **<u>Motion 10.9.25.5:</u>** Erika Sprenger and Tom Looks made a motion to adjourn at 7:54 pm. **Motion passed.**

Bylaws

Article IV:
Sec. (6) TERMS OF OFFICE:

1. Directors shall hold office for the term of three (3) years, unless resignation or removal
2. Election of Directors shall be staggered so that ~~**five (5)**~~ seats on the Board of Directors shall come for election yearly.
3. Additional seats left vacant by the removal or resignation of a Director prior to the natural termination of his or her term of office shall be filled. (2/2017)

New:
Article IV:
Sec. (6) TERMS OF OFFICE:

1. Directors shall hold office for the term of three (3) years, unless resignation or removal
2. Election of Directors shall be staggered so that **seven (7)** seats on the Board of Directors shall come for election yearly.
3. Additional seats left vacant by the removal or resignation of a Director prior to the natural termination of his or her term of office shall be filled. (2/2017)

Motion to place it on the ballot: All agreed, none dissented.

Article VI:

Sec. (1) OFFICERS: The Board of Directors shall select the following officers: President, Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Secretary and Treasurer, respectively, may each select a deputy from among Board of Association Members, to assist them in their duties. Officers shall be elected at the meeting of the Board held after the Annual Meeting of the Membership. ~~**The term of each Officer shall be one (1) year, or until their successors are chosen.**~~ All Officers must be Directors in order to hold office. No Director may hold more than one office simultaneously.

New:

Article VI:

Sec. (1) OFFICERS: The Board of Directors shall select the following officers: President, Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Secretary and Treasurer, respectively, may each select a deputy from among Board of Association Members, to assist them in their duties. Officers shall be elected at the meeting of the Board held after the Annual Meeting of the Membership. **The term of each Officer shall be two (2) years, or until their successors are chosen. The President, 2nd Vice President and Secretary will be in their office for a two-year span together with the Vice President and Treasurer alternate the years. (For the 2026-27 year it will be two years for President, 2nd Vice President and Secretary and one year for the Vice President and Treasurer.) If a person who is nominated for a position with a two-year commitment is nominated in their last elected year, they may take the position in the good faith that they will run again and if they are voted off the Board than a successor will be voted in for the remaining one year of office at the meeting of the Board held after the Annual Meeting.** All Officers must be Directors in order to hold office. No Director may hold more than one office simultaneously.
Motion to place it on the ballot: Yes – all agreed, no one dissented