

# Northwestern Michigan Fair

## Board of Directors Meeting

February 12, 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:** Breann Kern, Carolyne Woodhams, Erika Sprenger, Frank Guerin, Jill Duell (V), Jack Hubbell, Joe Hubbell, Laurie Ashley, Milt Lewis, Molly Caminata, Sonya Youker, Tammara Sanchez, Tom Looks, Clarissa Johnston, Karen Zenner
  - b. **Board Members Absent:** None
  - c. **Visitors Present:** Amanda Wilkins, Greg Bancroft, Keri Bancroft, Al Henning, Nicolette Brown, Tyler Honeycutt, Lilly Garno, Sarah Bye, Dean and Gary.
4. **Review Agenda**
  - a. **Motion 10.9.25.1** Tammara Sanchez and Clarissa Johnston made a motion to approve February 12, 2026, Agenda as amended. **Motion passed.**
5. **Correspondence:** None
6. **President's Report:** None
7. **Treasurer's Report:**
  - a. Tammara reviewed the treasurer's report and check register. There were no questions.
8. **Presentation & Approval of Meeting Minutes:**
  - a. **Motion 10.9.25.2:** Erika Sprenger and Sonya Youker made a motion to approve minutes from the January 15, 2026, meeting as written. **Motion passed.**
9. **Public Comment:**
  - a. None
  - b.
10. **New Business:**
  - a. None
  - b.
11. **4H Livestock Council:**
  - a. Randy Stockfish is now the Livestock Council Treasurer. Marylynn Roberson is the Swine Species Chair and her assistant is Maryann Wilsee
  - b. Two registrations are closed. We have 90 Large Beef entries, 7 Dairy Beef, 191 Swine
  - c. March 2<sup>nd</sup> is the next big registration deadline and that will include Dairy Feeder, Junior Beef, Goats, Lamb and Poultry.
  - d. We'd like to invite you to our Education Expo on March 1<sup>st</sup> at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa. The event runs 9a-4p and we could use help with getting kids where they need to go and set up.
12. **Unfinished Business:**
  - a. Director Applications – We have three candidates at the moment, and the application will stay on the website until we either get the additional two or decide to stop looking.  
Here are our candidates:

Nicolette Brown – comes to us from a 4H and Livestock Council background. We all know her and the skill set she brings.

Tyler Honeycutt – Is a volunteer firefighter for Kalkaska, his kids all show and he'd like to give back to the organization that has been supporting his family

Lilly Garno – has been helping out with the Fair with her mom for the last couple years, was a 4-H Leader for one year and is our 2025 Homemaker. She's excited to contribute to our organization.

Because these positions are appointed and not voted in the term each one will serve will have to be staggered to accommodate the way our Board is voted in each year. The candidate with the highest amount of votes will get the three year term, the next the second and the lowest votes will get the one year term. Joe does not vote as President.

Results:

Lilly Garno received 13 votes and gets the three year term, Nicolette Brown received 12 votes and gets the two year term and Tyler Honeycutt received nine votes and will receive the one year term.

Welcome to our new Board members!

b. Poultry Barn updates

Al and his team is working hard to solicit funds for the barn. They have worked up a letter and a flyer with a QR code that sends you directly to where a donation can be made. He needs approval to use them and has received it.

He's also been working with Kingsley lumber on a bid, and has volunteers lined up to move dirt after the barn comes down, do the drain work, etc.

They'd like to do a poster during Fair to continue to solicit donations as well.

Their initial quote for the cost of the barn was \$175,000.00 and the new one says \$210,000.00.

Al needs to work through Molly when soliciting so poster orders all go through one person.

c. MSU Updates:

Would 4-H be able to host a ½ day length day camp for a week during the summer. We would be happy with any space you can provide us without charge but would like that space to have access to inside and outside and possibly near the bathroom. The only cost the Board would be concerned with for an event like this would be the bathroom cleaning, since we pay someone to do that. Sarah stated that they would clean the bathrooms for the space to get it for free. Sarah should work with Erika to schedule it.

Challenge Island STEM Camp is also interested in scheduling a day camp this summer. She has the budget to pay for the spaces she needs. She just asked that I see if the Board is open to it. She was also directed to talk to Erika.

The MSU Alumni Organization would be interested in coming to the Fair and having a recruiting tent set up. They would also possibly be interested in having an "Alumni Day" if they could schedule a day were Alumni could get a \$1 off or something. Would you be interested. They need to contact the Fair Board to schedule something like that in the months of January through March which is when we are able to prepare for events like that during Fair week.

Regarding the Poultry Barn fundraising Sarah clarified the rules governing 4-H clubs fundraising on behalf of Fair owned projects: A 4-H club can raise money for a Fair owned project if the event they hold is only fundraising for that project and that is made clear during their fundraising activity. The money can be deposited into the club's bank account and given to the Fair. They just cannot hold an event that combines fundraising for the club and for a Fair project.

The theme inside the Tanner Building is planned to be "Vintage Fair" to help celebrate the Fair's 50<sup>th</sup> year at this location. Joe asks that we coordinate with the 250<sup>th</sup> year of the US theme.

We will be holding a campsite decorating contest with that theme.

**13. Committee Reports:** Committee reports were reviewed.

- a. Carolyne – Quite a few sponsorships have already come in and she's working on new sponsors. Banners will be done for the 2026 season through Molly so one person is ordering. There is a Zone 5 meeting on April 12, 2026, in Gaylord at the Alpine Tavern at 1pm. Please attend if you can.
- b. Erika – has been talking to McCarry's and Two Fools to try to bring Draft Horses back to the Fair. They are willing to talk about the possibility. An Equine Vet has reached out to hold a drive through Equine Vaccine Clinic on the grounds twice this year, with the first event being held in March. Just need to make sure we can clear a path of snow if we book it. Joe stated with the right amount of warning, snow clearing can be done. Erika has received a lot of rental requests for this season, so get your dates to her for events. Don't forget the plans for the Golf Cart decorating contest. Joey said he would judge when we meet for dinner, or whenever we can all gather.
- c. Clarissa – The Queen/Homemakers are looking for volunteer opportunities that they can attend. They are talking about packing lunches for J&S and Clarissa will be checking with PACE North. Sarah Bye suggested Empty Bowls event that is coming up in May, it has a Farm to Table theme. And the Education Expo was suggested, but both the Queen and the Junior Homemaker are already scheduled to attend that as guests.
- d. Laurie – Most premium books updates have been sent in. Laurie will hold a meeting with the committee before the end of the month and start updating in March. There will be no advertising in the book, so Carolyne will be reaching out to them to see if they'd like to sponsor something else.
- e. Jack – Soil erosion permit will be applied for tomorrow for across the road. The stakes need to be marked to make a better visual at the property line. Brian has said that he is willing to take the old horse barn down when he's on the grounds but lead and asbestos remediation must be completed first. We need to discuss purchasing racks to hold the pig pens. It will cost about \$9,000. We are also looking at \$15,000 for new doors on the Commercial building.
- f. Tom – Website update is underway. Previews are coming. Tickets will be on sale on the new website on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Working to make the sponsorship signs digital instead of banners along the fence by installing a TV at the corner and setting up a slide show. Possibly update the grandstand banners as well.
- g. Sonya – I have superintendents in place but nothing to discuss this meeting
- h. Molly – Lake Ann Lions Club has agreed to do Bingo again this season. Elmer's picnic will be held 7/21-25 and they will teardown 26/27<sup>th</sup>. Their two tents will stay in place and wait for Fair. Please provide Barn Superintendent information as soon as possible so she can order the signs. Molly will be out of town July 15-24, 2026 and unreachable. If you need help, she's available, just not that week.

- i. Breann – The Grandstand events are all booked. Northern Power Racetrack is the only one left needing a contract, which they asked Breann for. Everyone else provides a contract, so we will ask them to do so as well.
- j. Milt – Museum is in good shape. He had planned some work during the 2026 season, but that will be postponed. The website update is underway with Tom. We are taking photos tonight to add our pictures with our names on the website. Milt would like pictures of our Queen and Homemakers as well. Please give any updates/information you would like on the new website in the next two weeks so they can get it updated by March 15<sup>th</sup>.
- k. Karen – Nothing to report
- l. Tammara – I still need groups to help with Gates on four days – Mon/Tue/Wed/Thur. The group must cover the whole day which is split into shifts of 8-12, 12-4, 4-8 and three people who need to stay until 10. Pays \$1000 and 4 passes. 1099's went out. Sydney is coming back to manage gates and tickets.
- m. Frank – Lots of vendors requests – more that we have space for.
- n. Jill – It's confirmed the woodcarver is not returning for the 2026 Fair.
- o. Joe:

**14. Adjournment:**

- a. **Motion 10.9.25.5:** Sonya Youker/Jack Hubbell made a motion to adjourn at 8:08 pm. **Motion passed.**