

Gratiot County Fair for Youth
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 6th, 2026
Bill & Grace Vanderbeek Fair Office, Alma, Michigan

Members Present: Jennifer Dickman, Keegan Humm, Matt Jorae, Larry Richards, Brent Skinner, Shanna Smith, Martha Stellow, James Weburg, Adam Wood, Brayden Bonga, Raegan Falor

Members Online: Chuck Efaw, Mackenzie Crumbaugh

Members Absent: Jason Lombard

Fair Office Staff: Hannah Reeves

Guests: Brian Bloomquist, Ben & Alyssa Chaffin, Kristi Davenport, Megan Downham, Ryan & Jacklyn Hutchinson, Becky Hirschman, Ellie Martyn, Dana MacLaren, Helen MacLaren, Matthew MacLaren, Emily Fisher

Brent called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Keegan moved to approve the agenda as presented. Adam second. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Shanna presented the meeting minutes. Martha moved to accept the meeting minutes. Adam second. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Martha presented the financials and announced the annual budget meeting will be held September 22nd at 5:30pm in the Fair office. Adam moved to accept the treasurer's report. Matt second. Motion carried.

Fair Office Report:

- Fair Week Wrap Up
- Siefka Barn ideas
- Report on sales and carnival incomes comparative to year prior
- Donkey Bash check
- Parking pay out. Marth moved to increase the payout for the parking volunteer groups to \$625. Jamie second. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

- Ellie Martyn: Addressed concerns with having the goats, poultry and rabbit show all happening at once. Recommended starting the rabbit show at 8am. Clay Mills asked her to speak on his behalf regarding a new processer and possibly needing more cages.
- Megan Downham: Brought up concerns with heat and smoke and that the fair continued to have Kids Day. Later in public comment, she asked where to find what committees are available to join and how to get involved. She also recommended sharing a map of the grounds that listed First Aide, cooling stations, water, bathrooms, etc.
- Brian Bloomquist: Addressed having a screening process for dogs before entering the dog show due to his daughter having a concerning experience.
- Ryan Hutchinson: Thanked the Board and Fair Office staff for a great week. Asked to consider changing small animal show day times and that more help is needed for small animal load out. Raised concern about animal well-being for the animals used in sweepstakes before they load out that day. Noted that champions receive a lot of awards, but maybe if we cut back, we could add in awards like banners for the top 5 showman.

- Dana McLaren: Consideration for a Dairy Beef Crossbred division in the steer show.
- Ben & Alyssa Chaffin: Thanked the Board for the work of putting on fair week. Suggested having clear protocols and procedures regarding sick animals. Ben is willing to work with Clinton County Veterinarian to have them assist with check in if needed.
- Emily Fisher: Spoke on behalf of her duties as photographer. Having the pigs photographed in the barn, and small animals in the covered arena worked well. Some wait times were due to breeding stock animals being used in Showmanship and exhibitors needing to swap out. She recommended giving exhibitors a 15-minute window after showmanship concludes to bring their market animal to be photographed.
- Becky Hirschman: Commended the board on a great week. Emphasized the importance of educating the public on agriculture. With animals loading out Saturday there were concerns about animals sitting elsewhere and not getting the care they would if they were still at the fair. She also brought up concerns regarding small animal schedule issues.

4-H Office Update: None

Committee Reports:

- **Awards Committee:** None
- **Building and Grounds:** Chuck presented report and proposals for heating and cooling in fair office. Matt moved to accept Weatherby's bid for replacing heating and cooling in fair office. Adam second. Motion carried.
- **Upcoming Ground Rentals:**
8/15 – Alma All Class Reunion - Pavilion

Old Business:

- **Rural Urban** – No report

New Business:

- **Fair Recap and Suggestions:** Hannah compiled a list of recommendations during the week and through the drop box. List was reviewed and additional items added to further review.
- **Annual Meeting:** December 3rd and the Thompson Home Public Library Basement. Nominating meeting will meet to discuss.
- **Winter Storage:** October 17th
- **Fair Book Deadline:** Deadline is December 1st. Asking for recommendations to be sent in so board can vote prior to the deadline on approved changes.

Adam moved to adjourn the meeting. Jamie second. Motion carried. Adjourned at 9:18pm.

Next meeting – Thursday September 3rd, 2026, at 7pm – Bill and Grace Vanderbeek Fair Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Shanna Smith

GCFFY Secretary