

Gratiot County Fair for Youth
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 2nd, 2025
Bill & Grace Vanderbeek Fair Office, Alma, Michigan

Members Present: Chuck Efaw, Becky Hirschman, Keegan Humm, Kent Humm, Matt Jorae, Jason Lombard, Brent Skinner, Shanna Smith, Martha Stellow, Raegan Falor

Members Virtual: Angie Lake

Members Absent: Adam Wood, Jack Butcher, Andrew Lombard

Fair Office Staff: Hannah Reeves

Guests: Ryan Hutchinson, Hannah Hutchinson, and Larry Richards.

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

Secretary's Report: Shanna presented the meeting minutes. Chuck moved to accept the secretary's report. Kent second. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Martha presented on the financials. Chuck moved to accept the treasurer's report. Matt second. Motion carried. Martha discussed proposed 2026 budget. Chuck moved to accept the proposed 2026 budget. Keegan second. Motion carried. Martha discussed sale invoice that has not been paid. We are working with the company to get this payment. Matt moved to release the exhibitor checks that are currently unpaid. Shanna second. Motion carried.

Fair Office Report:

- Winter Storage is being worked on.
- Reviewed suggestions from emails.
- Dinner Dance is booked for Marth 14th and the Youth for Christ in Alma, looking into options for food.
- New proposed registration dates were reviewed and accepted to avoid conflicts with Fair Entry.
- Alma College reached out regarding a scholarship they would like to award GCFFY exhibitors. Hannah will work with contact to help establish this opportunity.

Public Comment:

- Larry Richards stated that Barn B has not been cleared out yet for winter storage. This task will be completed as soon as possible.

Committee Reports:

- 4-H & 4-H Council – No report.
- Horse Developmental – Becky presented rule change for fair book. Chuck made a motion that for horse exhibitors to be eligible for large livestock sweepstakes, they must compete in regular showmanship. Keegan second. Motion carried.
- Large Livestock – No report.
- FFA – No report.
- Small Animal – Meet and discussed schedule and awards. Martha moved that all new exhibitors in the dog programs must be a member of the Wags and Wiggles 4-H Club and attend 5 of their work sessions. Jason second. Motion carried.

- Building and Grounds – Work is in progress. The grounds will be winterized next week. Posted scope of work due Oct. 27th.
- Schedule Committee- Meet and brought proposed changes to the board.
 - Angie made a motion to move Livestock Judging to 4pm on Monday. Shanna second. Motion carried.
 - Kent moved to approve the presented 2026 schedule. Becky second. Votes cast. Keegan called Division of House. 5 in favor of accepting schedule. Angie, Chuck, Matt and Shanna against. Motion carried.
- Martha moved to pay \$2150 for Saturday's Donkey Bash. Jason second. Angie against. Motion carried.

Upcoming Ground Rentals: None

Old Business:

- GCFFY Property: No updates. Will continue to table.
- Winter Storage – October 18th
- MAFE Convention & Scholarships – Scholarships due 11/3. Convention registration is open. Discounted price until 12/1. Convention will be held Jan. 8-11.

New Business:

- Winter Storage Price: Price increase discussed.
- MAFE Zone 4 meeting – October 20th at Saginaw County Fairgrounds.
- Carnival Contract and Prices: Carnival will be set up starting Tuesday at 5pm, wristbands \$25. Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at 2pm, wristbands \$30. Thursday at noon, wristbands \$30. Weekly wristbands can be prepurchase online for \$80 or at the fair for \$100.
- Lost Fair Checks – 1 family has reached out stating they never received their fair check. Checks were mailed almost 1 month ago. Chuck moved to issue a new check that they can physically pick up and sign a contract that if the original check arrives, they will not cash both. Martha second. Motion carried.
- Angie verbally submitted her resignation from the Fair Board.

Kent moved to adjourn the meeting. Matt second. Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Next meeting – November 6th, 2025 at 7pm – Bill & Grace Vanderbeek Conference Room

Respectfully submitted,

Shanna Smith

GCFFY Secretary