

Gratiot County Fair for Youth
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 7th, 2025
Bill & Grace Vanderbeek Fair Office, Alma, Michigan

Members Present: Chuck Efaw, Becky Hirschman, Keegan Humm, Kent Humm, Matt Jorae, Angie Lake, Brent Skinner, Shanna Smith, Martha Stellow, Adam Wood, Raegan Falor, Andrew Lombard

Members Virtual: Jack Butcher

Members Absent: Jason Lombard

Fair Office Staff: Hannah Reeves

Guests: Katie, Kacie and Maggie Allen, Kristi and Lydia Davenport, Ashley Foster, Leann Grace, Erica Grover, Ryan, Bryce and Hannah Hutchinson, Sarah Jorae, Seth Lake, Emily Fisher, Larry Richards, and Kayla Wiseman.

Brent called the meeting to order at 6:59pm.

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

Treasurer's Report: Martha presented on the financials. Chuck moved to accept the treasurer's report. Adam second. Motion carried.

Fair Office Report:

- Positive feedback with carnival. On the schedule for 2026.
- Hannah reported outcomes from sales.
- Phil is willing to help with the lawn for the remainder of the season. Chuck moved to hire Phil Lombard for lawn maintenance for the remainder of 2025 at the hourly wage of \$20. Kent second. Motion carried.
- Peewee Dance was a success.
- Processer confusion at check out. Will be updated correctly for 2026.
- Hannah would like Award Committee to disband. Discussion was held.
- Chuck asked about a survey. Hannah would prefer people to email her instead; no survey will go out for 2025.
- Applications for Sheep and Rabbit superintendents were posted again via social media. Hannah will reach out to let prior applicants know that their applications are still valid if they are still interested.

Public Comment:

- Kacie Allen – introduced herself as the new St Louis FFA Advisor. She also asked where funds collected from the cancelled Old Timer Showmanship went.
- Kayla Wiseman, Erica Grover, Sarah Jorae, and Katie Allen all reported incidents that concerned them in the beef department.
- Emily Fisher – reported on fair pictures and recommended changes. She would like the Dairy photo time adjusted. Pigs are a struggle to capture, and she is open to doing these in pens during check in. Peeweews would like their photos too. She encouraged all species to start with showmanship first.

- Bryce Hutchinson – Made suggestions on schedule changes due to skills test conflicting for many exhibitors.

Committee Reports:

- 4-H & 4-H Council – Ashley Foster reported Ag Olympics, and the 4-H Breakfast were big hits. She stated the Exchange club would be happy to help with the Peewee parade but were not asked this year. A 4-H frenzy will be soon with more info to come.
- Horse Developmental – No report, meeting in September.
- Large Livestock – No report, meeting this month.
- FFA – No report
- Small Animal – No report
- Building and Grounds – No report, meeting this month to work on list of projects.
- Vendor Committee – No report

Upcoming Ground Rentals:

8/16: Alma All Class Reunion - Pavilion

Old Business:

- GCFFY Property: No report and has not moved forward yet.

New Business:

- 2025 Fair Suggestions and Concerns: Hannah received 2 emails she shared with the board. One was further concerns in the beef department. The second thanking Becky for her assistance handling a tough situation in the horse department.
- 2026 Fair Dates: July 11th- July 18th
- GCFFY Pork: Purchased pigs were donated back to the fair at the auction sale. Hannah will offer it available via social media for purchase.
- Archery: Looking to make schedule changes to start on Monday instead of Sunday. Possible interest in holding their own awards ceremony.
- Annual Meeting Location: Hannah will book the Ithaca Library for December 4th.
- Winter Storage – Saturday October 18th.
- Dinner Dance: Looking to possibly bring in a live band and holding the road sign auction at this event. Discussion held on if we continue the Dinner Dance and Golf Outing.
- Committees: Committees were discussed and the possibility of making changes to signing up in the future.

Chuck moved to adjourn the meeting. Adam second. Meeting adjourned at 9:02pm.

Next meeting – September 4th, 2025, at 7pm – Bill & Grace Vanderbeek Conference Room

Respectfully submitted,

Shanna Smith

GCFFY Secretary