



**Maryland
Department of Agriculture**

Office of Marketing, Animal Industries and Consumer Services

Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Kevin M. Atticks, Secretary
Steven A. Connelly, Deputy Secretary

Agricultural Fair Board

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Maryland Agricultural Fair Board

November 1st, 2024

Matt's Fish Camp, Fenwick Island, DE

*6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Minutes

Present:

Connie Palmer
David Cavey
Rob Moxley
Danny Mast
Linda Brown
Becky Stem
Carl Hobbs
Dawn Stiles

Absent:

None

Guests:

Sarah Campbell
Sean Clougherty
Bill Stem

Call to Order:

- The November 2024 Maryland Agricultural Fair Board meeting was called to order by David Cavey, Chair, at 6:12 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

- Motion to approve the March 2024 Maryland Agricultural Fair Board meeting minutes was made by Becky Stem, second by Connie Palmer.

Presentation to Fair Board

Non-Traditional Youth Engagement with Fairs and Shows, Sarah Campbell

Executive Secretary Report

- The Executive Secretary gave an update to the board on the fiscal status of the board projecting towards the end of the calendar year.
- Applications for Calendar Year 2025 will be published on November 20th, 2024 and due on January 20th, 2025. The proposed transition from the Wufoo software to the OneStop platform has taken significantly longer than anticipated and will not be ready to go live for the 2025 grant cycle.
- Through extensive cross-collaboration with the MDA Animal Health program the State Veterinarian and Animal Health team discussed with the Executive Secretary an opportunity to incorporate the “Notification Form for Livestock/Poultry Exhibitions and Rodeos” data into the MAFB grant applications, as well as the “After Action Report” into the MAFB After Activity Report. Much of the data is duplicative and would reduce the administrative burden of fairs & shows needing to fill out additional paperwork. The board discussed the proposal, highlighting that the notification form had significant overlap with the MAFB grant applications and would be feasible to include to streamline efforts on the fair & show side. The After Action report, however, contained more pressing information after an animal health incident at an event and should be handled separately. The motion to adopt the “Notification Form for Livestock/Poultry Exhibitions and Rodeos” data into the MAFB grant applications was made by Rob Moxley, second by Danny Mast, and approved unanimously.
- The Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation will be pursuing their calendar fundraiser again in 2025 and is interested in including the bulk sponsorship from MAFB to represent all fairs & shows in the calendar. Rob Moxley motioned to allow up to \$2,500 to be spent in sponsorship, the motion was second by Danny Mast and approved unanimously.
- The Executive Secretary provided an update from MAEF on the new showcase trailer that the board sponsored in 2024.
- The Executive Secretary reviewed the successes of the collaboration with the Animal Health program at MDA, citing a unified effort to offer education and training to fairs and shows. Through this partnership, MDA AH and MAFB hosted a joint Animal Health Training at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds on April 21st for fairs and shows, and pursued accreditation with the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to offer incentives for veterinarians and veterinary technicians who receive training and volunteer to check-in livestock at the Maryland State Fair. The check-in program trained 38 veterinarians and vet techs, provided 72 continuing education credits to those who participated, and logged over 200 hours of volunteer work at the Maryland State Fair.
- The Executive Secretary reported that there were a handful of phone calls during the 2024 Fair & Show season that cited situations that arose at events throughout the state. Most of these situations were ethics concerns or perceived ethics concerns that should have been handled at the local board level. The Maryland Nonprofits organization offers extensive board leadership training that would be extremely valuable as a tool for individual fair boards across the state to bolster their own protections from ethics violations and perceived conflict. The board requested that the Executive Secretary pursue more information about a pricing scheme from the organization and opportunities to put on this training to support the industry.

Chairpersons Report

- David Cavey, Chair, reported that he has been on the board for 10 years and is optimistic about the future of the board. He highlighted specifically the Junior National Shorthorn show that was hosted at the Maryland State Fair and the significant impact that it had on the industry.

New Business:

- David Cavey, Chair, identified that the uncertain and declining funding has plagued the MAFB for at least the past decade. He identified that there are opportunities from partner organizations that can support legislation to guarantee full funding at the current level of funding in the Horse Racing Special Fund.
- The board recognized opportunities for stronger regional communication to support spring shows and cross collaboration.
- Meetings were set for February 20th and March 20th, 2025.
- The board discussed the Fairs & Shows brochure and postcard effort in 2024. Connie Palmer motioned to cancel the postcard and only pursue the tri-fold brochure, this motion was second by Dawn Stiles and unanimously approved.
- The board discussed the possibility of extending grants or otherwise supporting the industry through expanded discussions about judges in the state. The board recognizes that judges are continuing to be harder to find and are more expensive every year, and requested that the Executive Secretary collect data to further the discussion in 2025 on how to best support the industry.

Becky Stem motioned to adjourn the meeting, second by Carl Hobbs.

Respectfully submitted,

Harrison Palmer
Executive Secretary