

Mission- To promote the diverse agricultural and cultural heritage of Marion County through active participation of its citizens.

Marion County Fair Board Monthly Meeting

Floral Building State Fairgrounds

July 9, 2025 5:35 PM

Meeting Convened: 5:35 PM

Call to Order/Introductions

In Attendance

Board Members: Joseph Billington, Dana Castano, Brandi Crandall, Amy Goulter-Allen, Shannon Gubbels, Greg Martin, Pam Zielinski

Staff: Denise Clark, Carley Jenkins (Fair Office Temp), Kelli Weese

Guests: Scott and Jill Ingalls, Melanie McCabe

I. Public Comments- None

II. Approval of June 4 and July 17, 2025 Meeting Summary Notes- Greg made a motion to approve the meeting summary notes; Amy seconded. Motion passed.

III. Financial Report- Brandi Crandall

- Revenue received is from commercial/food vendors and sponsor fees
- Actuals are highlighted in yellow.

Amy made a motion to accept the Financial Report as presented; Greg seconded the motion. Motion passed.

IV. Items of Special Interest

Security Contract Amendment- Denise Clark

Krista Ulm, Contracts Coordinator, is suggesting that the fair security contract be increased from \$75,000 to \$100,000, amending it to cover the potential additional 2025 security costs. Scott said that the current security schedule is within budget.

Dana noted that she is willing to support an increase but doesn't feel the full \$100,000 is needed. Brandi made a motion to amend the security contract, increasing the full amount from \$75,000 to \$85,000 to cover additional potential costs; Greg seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Fair Foundation 4H Premiums Payment Request- Denise Clark

Joel Conder, President of the Fair Foundation (FF) is requesting that the fair board (FB) share the costs of 4H premium payouts equally. Currently, the fair budget allots \$3,000 for 4H premium payouts and \$2000 for FFA premiums. Joel indicated that the forecast is for more premiums potentially being paid out this year. He thinks the potential \$14,000 total figure should be split equitably between the FF and the FB. This would increase the fair board's responsibility to \$7,000.

- Both 4H and FFA premiums are paid out the same during the fair by the Fair Foundation. (FFA is no longer paid out separately by the county.)

- The total payout between 4H and FFA is currently \$5,000.
- This would not increase the dollar amount associated with each ribbon that the students are receiving.
- The question was raised will the match increase in the future?

Brandi made a motion to increase the 4H premiums from \$3,000 to \$5,000, matching dollar-for-dollar what the FF is putting in. The motion also included asking the FF to reach out to the FB sooner in coming years, not right before the fair opens. Dana seconded the motion. Motion passed.

V. Other:

Greg said that he would like to see every fair board member receive a challenge coin. Dana suggested waiting until after the fair opens to see if there is enough left over after giving them out at the gate to military personnel.

Budget Change Requests- Jill

Jill indicated that the Lodging for Acts costs increased from \$99 to \$150 per night using Laquinta Inn and Suites. The reduced Arena Act line item will cover the increase. It was asked why the increase in rates? Answer- there are no longer any sponsorship rates available, and prices have just generally increased.

National Acts fulfillment- backline, catering, etc. has increased by potentially \$2,000. This was budgeted prior to knowing we would have three big name acts. The group "Lit" needs a limousine service. The money is available in the Big Name Entertainment line item as we didn't spend all of that.

Camp Host- There will be approximately 50 campers with flyball and cornhole participants plus vendors. The costs should be covered by camping fees (stay and power.) We need additional funds for a camp host who will develop the camping area, check-in people as they arrive, coordinate any electricity needs, etc. The host will be present overnight for emergencies and to mitigate risk. Bob Olin, with the Ingalls team, is willing to be the camp host. Next year, we may consider having security do this.

State fair has indicated that we can do whatever we choose inside the fence; we don't have to reimburse them for camping.

Budget Change Request- Denise

The state fair has indicated that we need to provide our own dumpsters, we can no longer use theirs. Krista is currently developing a contract with Republic Services. The cost for delivery and pick-up will be \$1351.20. This will come out of carry-over.

Greg made a motion to accept all of the budget change requests; Amy seconded. Motion passed.

VI. Meeting Adjourned: 6:00 PM