



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Office of Marketing
Animal Industries and Consumer Services

Larry Hogan, Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Joseph Bartenfelder, Secretary

Julianne A. Oberg, Deputy Secretary

Agricultural Fair Board

The Wayne A. Cawley, Jr. Building

50 Harry S. Truman Parkway

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

www.mda.maryland.gov

Agriculture | Maryland's Leading Industry

410.841.5770 Baltimore/Washington

410.841.5987 Fax

800.492.5590 Toll Free

Maryland Agricultural Fair Board Minutes April 14, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Diane Geary, Chairperson at 6:00 PM via zoom meeting.

Attendance

Board- Linda Brown, David Cavey, Diane Geary, Daniel Mast, James Moxley III, Connie Palmer, Hal Spielman, Rebecca Stem, Denise Streeter

Staff- Jessica O'Sullivan

Minutes of February, 2021

Motion to accept 1st by Rob Moxley and seconded by Connie Palmer to approve.
Motion Passed.

Reports by the Executive Secretary

Sent a copy of the 2021 draft brochure. Some locations say TBD and those that are cancelled have been updated. The brochure is going to remain virtual and will be on our MDA webpage. If any locations change and updates need to be made, please let me know. Most fairs and shows are still up in the air and are playing it by ear. There was an error and I over paid the MAEF foundation. They were only to receive \$3,000.00 and I accidentally sent them \$4,000.00. It was decided that instead of asking for \$1,000.00 back that we would send \$2,000.00 this year instead of the \$3,000.00. Although the vans did not go out to the fairs, they did have a lot of virtual classes and activities that schools could use. They produced online activities Monday through Friday for the 8 weeks they were shut down and they also doubled their followers on Facebook by posting videos online and Instagram. They used the funds to help with online programming. Some updates were made to the budget sheet to move the mandated funds section over, so it was less confusing and everything is spread out more. We ended up spending more in FY20 then received because of when COVID hit and how it affected calendar year vs fiscal year. We will have a lot of carry over for FY21 because most of the fairs were cancelled. We had \$1.3 expenses but only got \$1.2 in because most of the fairs and shows occurred prior to covid hitting. We are hoping that the revenue coming in will still stay around \$1.2. It usually takes around 1 month after the fiscal year closes to determine what our revenue will be. We had enough in the account to pay all the funds and still had \$57,000 carry over. We lost \$150,000 in revenue due to

COVID. It makes it hard to assign funds to fairs when we are unsure what revenue is coming in. It was written in bold and red lettering in the grant agreements.

Updates

We started with a fairs discussion which was a carryover from the last meeting. Denise Streeter and Linda Brown met with the five fairs and shows via zoom and gave an update on how each fair plans to proceed with the current COVID restrictions and if they plan to have their fair/show virtually or in person. Most fairs were having trouble getting exhibitors and knew they were going to have to cut back on a few things this year. Everyone has great hopes and positive attitudes for having their fairs/shows this year. We were having some connection issues with Hal Spielman and decided to call him on the phone so we could hear him and he could hear us. Rob gave an update on the Howard County Fair and that they decided to have an in person fair. He also gave an update on the dairy goat show and they plan to occur in person this year and feel attendance will be good. Connie gave an update that Thurmont and Emmitsburg has canceled their show but will still have their auction. They felt that Frederick County School would not allow them on the property. We are waiting to hear about other community shows if they will occur and if so where they will be held. Most of the fairs are planning to have fairs but they are taking it one step at a time to determine locations and what restrictions will be in place. Linda had an update on Talbot County fair on working with the 4H and how their fair will take place. They are planning a 4H section not open to the public and then try to have an open fair for the community and then push other activities to September. It was decided to leave everything as status quo meaning that what was promised for FY21 is what will be promised for FY22 with the stipulation that if we do not receive proper funding their grants are subject to change. We also have new members joining the board once Hal and Diane's terms end.

Upcoming Board Meetings

The next meeting will be in person as the Maryland Department of Maryland on November 17th at 10:00 A.M. where we will decide after activity reports and the grant application for FY23.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Rebecca Stem and seconded by Danny Mast.
Chairperson, Diane Geary adjourned the meeting at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted by Jessica O'Sullivan Executive Secretary