

Association of Iowa Fairs

North Central District Meeting Minutes - Sunday, September 21, 2008

The AIF NC District fall meeting was held on September 21, 2008 at the Story County Fairgrounds in Nevada, Iowa. District Chairman Alan Brown called the meeting to order.

Roll call was taken with the following fairs present: Boone, Butler, Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Franklin, Grundy, Hancock, Hardin, Humboldt, Kossuth, Marshall, Mitchell, Story, Tama, Webster, Winnebago, Worth and Wright. At roll call each fair reported on how their state funding was spent for 2008.

Grundy County made motion to approve the meeting minutes of the 2008 spring district meeting with note to date correction. Wright County seconded motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The District has a balance of \$269.40 with 4 counties owing \$5 dues for 2008.

Election of District Officers:

District Chairman: Grundy County nominated Alan Brown. Mitchell County made motion nominations cease and cast a unanimous ballot be cast. Webster County seconded motion. Motion carried.

District Vice Chairman: Cerro Gordo County nominated Jerry Hopperstad. Grundy County made motion nominations cease and cast a unanimous ballot be cast. Wright County seconded motion. Motion carried.

District Secretary/Treasurer: Butler County nominated Deb McVicker. Cerro Gordo County made motion nominations cease and cast a unanimous ballot be cast. Grundy County seconded motion. Motion carried.

Election of AIF District Director:

AIF Executive Director Tom Barnes conducted the election. Tom reported Chad Oldenburger, current AIF Director, is not seeking re-election to the AIF Board and Jerry Hopperstad, Worth County, has contacted the AIF with intention to run for the AIF Board. Tom called for other nominations. With no other nominations made, Mitchell County made motion nominations cease and cast a unanimous ballot be cast for Jerry Hopperstad as AIF NC District Director. Webster County seconded motion. Motion carried.

Iowa State Fair Report:

ISF Director James Romer gave a report on the 2008 Iowa State Fair. The ISF saw record attendance of 1.1 million people, exceeding the 2004 record year. County Fair Day was another great day with the largest number attending since it has started. He also reported the re-construction of the Elwell Food Center will be in phase 2 by next March. The new livestock show arena is scheduled for completion by the 2010 Iowa State Fair. James also reported the purchase of a 7 acre tract near the fairgrounds campground. James said he will be seeking re-election to the Iowa State Fair Board this year and thanked everyone for their hospitality as he visited the fairs this past summer.

Association Report:

AIF District Alan Brown commented on his travels visiting fairs this summer, and that he noticed the improvements fairs have been making using state funds. He said he wasn't able to attend some of the fairs due to several being held the same time as his fair. He expressed his gratitude to all fairs for their support and hospitality.

AIF District Director Chad Oldenburger thanked everyone for their support of him during his time on the AIF Board. Due to family and business commitments he must step down from the AIF Board.

Tom Barnes, Executive Director of the Association of Iowa Fairs, reviewed state funding reports for the NC District. All fairs have met the requirements for state funding. Wright County made motion to approve state funding expenditure of the member fairs in the Southeast District for 2008. Grundy County seconded motion. Motion carried.

Tom reported on state funding for 2008. \$10,000 will be distributed at the Conference. \$5,000, per fair, will be put in a pool with matching funds required (minimum of \$5,000 to a maximum of \$50,000) to be distributed by the State Treasurer's office. All corresponding paperwork needs to be at the State Treasurer's office by December 1, 2008. He encouraged all fairs to apply for money from this fund. Chad also stressed the need to apply for money from this fund, and to make sure all fairs applied by the December 1 deadline.

Tom reviewed the upcoming AIF Conference and Annual Meeting which will be December 5, 6 and 7 at the Des Moines Airport Holiday Inn. Consumer Protection Workshop will be Friday of Conference. Friday afternoon will feature Barb Hensinger, Michigan Department of Agriculture, speaking on board development, and a Vision Iowa meeting will be at 3:30 p.m. for those fairs interested in applying for funds. A Holiday Tour will be Friday afternoon with the Awards Banquet Friday evening. New this year will be a – non-stage’ showcase (grounds type acts) on Friday evening after the Banquet. Workshops, showcasing and auction will be featured Saturday. Sunday morning will included church service, workshop and the Annual Meeting of the AIF and Iowa State Fair. Tom also reported that Iowa is number one for training of the Consumer Protection Workshops.

The new smoking ban in Iowa was discussed. Tom reviewed the law as it relates to smoking at county fairgrounds. Tom also stated the AIF is working on forming an insurance pool for member fairs.

Alan Brown reported the Winnebago County Fair is the 20089 Blue Ribbon Fair for the NC District. Both Alan and Chad congratulated the Winnebago County Fair for this accomplishment.

Story County asked how other fairs how they work with their Extension Service. Some discussion was held on this topic, with most fairs stating some issues have come up, but for the most part things were going well.

Old Business: None presented.

New Business: Alan reported the next NC District Meeting will be March 22, 2009 and Tama County is scheduled to host the meeting. Humboldt County made motion to hold the Spring NC District meeting on March 22, 2009 and Tama County is to be host. Wright County seconded motion. Motion carried.

Grundy County made motion to adjourn meeting. Cerro Gordo County seconded motion. Motion carried.

Minutes submitted by Deb McVicker, District Secretary