

Association of Iowa Fairs

Northwest District Meeting Minutes – March 21, 2009

The spring meeting of the NW District of the Association of Iowa Fairs met on March 21, 2009, with Clay County hosting.

President Dave Hoffman called the meeting to order at 6:50pm with all 17 fairs of the NW District answering roll call. Also present were Bill Neubrand, Darwin Gaudian, Tom & Sue Barnes. During roll call a member of each fair introduced those representing their counties & gave a short report on their upcoming 2009 fairs.

Minutes of the fall meeting were read by Lynnette Soden. O'Brien County made a motion to accept the minutes and Dickinson County seconded. Motion carried. No Treasurer's report was given.

Bill Neubrand reported on behalf of the Iowa State Fair. He stated the construction was behind but the footings were in for the new building. Work was being done on several other buildings. A couple of entertainment acts needed to be booked. Barn Quilts will be placed on buildings from each fair. They will be displayed in December at the conference. A major overhaul of the 4H program is coming. Counties need to be prepared to help support the 4H programs. Dave suggested contacting congressmen & representatives to stop the overhaul. County Fair Day will be August 14.

Dave Hoffman reminded everyone about the 2009 AIF Conference. It will be December 11-13, 2009, at the Airport Holiday Inn in Des Moines. Dave encouraged all fairs to encourage other fairboard members to go to the conference.

Association Report: Tom Barnes briefly commented on the 2008 AIF Conference. He reviewed about the Extension Task Force session. He stated overall it was a good session. Due to projected budget cuts the Extension Service as a whole will be greatly affected. They were hopeful it wouldn't affect the youth programs. He encouraged fairs to step up if their County Extension needs help.

Tom remarked the 2009 State Legislators Breakfast Social, held this past week at the State Capitol, saw great attendance by legislators and the event was very good. At this time Tom wasn't sure where the count fair funding stood. There was broad support in favor of some type of funding but pretty sure it won't be the usual \$15,000 but hopefully the \$10,000.

The "Pool Funding" of \$530,000 had 89 fairs apply, totaling 2.4 million in requests. Fairs have to apply in order to receive funds from the Pool. Make sure to keep track of what was on the application. The State will do follow-ups fairs receiving funds. Applications will be scored in 4 categories: matching funds, how permanent, feasibility, how the project will enhance or promote the fair. Matching Funds can't be public funds.

State Vet will be checking Avian Flu, 2008 county fair tests were all negative. Fairgrounds now must have a Premise ID number. Registration is easy and there is no cost to do so.

Tom reviewed the new legislation that allows fairs to purchase insurance through the Iowa Community Assurance Pool. ICAP is a private pool of insurance. Coverage offered includes general liability, work comp, property and dram. ICAP has no limit on Agricultural coverage. Tom encouraged to further review for individual fairs. No time limit on spectator coverage, fungi and bacteria coverage (ICAP doesn't exclude), lots of other things covered which would other wise be excluded. Do not have to buy from a specific agent. After 6 years ICAP will pay back a portion of contribution. Of the trial fairs there was an average of 26% savings off premiums. Fairs will be getting further info on ICAP.

No Old Business was given.

Fairs are encouraged to get email addresses of fair board members to help with communication.

Pocahontas County offered to host the fall meeting. The date will be Saturday, August 29, 2009. Ida County made a motion to adjourn, O'Brien County seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynnette Soden".

Lynnette Soden,

District Secretary/Treasurer