

August 28, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 by Amy Hein. Nathan Jamroz, Claire Donaldson, Anna Neal, and Garrett Neal lead the pledges.

Roll Call: Present were: **Connie Brittingham, Lin Wozniowski, Christi Long, Linda Dillon, Lynette DuBord, Amy Hein, Nathan Jamroz, Rebekah Lamb, Julie Ziese, Lisa Bubala, Debbie Nieman, Judy Dawson, Kristen Donaldson, Claire Donaldson, Amber Johnson, Patti Nichols, Maggie Server, Amber Miller, Reed Miller, Justine Gatlin, Rachael Bult, Aubrey Bult, Michelle Humbert, Amanda Woodworth, Stephanie Neal, Anna Neal, Garrett Neal, Kris Reed, Tom Reed,** Austin McNeill, Nicole Kasperian, and Jennifer Haynes.

The secretary's report for July has been on-line. Patti Nichols moved to accept the secretaries report. Connie Brittingham seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report Deposits for August were \$9248.50 and withdrawals were \$22,908.50, leaving a balance in the bank of \$39,342.88. Connie Brittingham moved to accept the treasurers report. Linda Dillon second. Motion carried. There was no endowment report.

Correspondence: Lots of Thank You cards were received from 4-H members for the awards County Committee sponsored. Thank You notes were also received from two of the food banks who received food from the Stock the Trailer

Special Discussion: Annual rule change requests for animal rules are due to Jennifer by September 1, 2025

Sub Committee Reports:

Auction: Nicole Kasperian, Janet Kraynik: Nicole Kasperian indicated the auction results would be reviewed after the September meeting. Thank you notes have been sent out. There were lots of new buyers at the auction. There were a total of 103 buyers at the auction.

Horse and Pony. Christi Long, Megan Bush, Kristina Shupryt: Christi reported everything went well, although there was some problem on the checkout of the horses because it overlapped with the Goat Show.

Junior Leaders: Elaine Berrones and Nathan Jamroz. Nathan Jamroz reported that the Junior Leaders had held elections and were busy getting a call out meeting together. They are also discussing the completion party. The Junior Leaders had a record year on Ice Cream sales.

By-Laws: Rachel Bolt, Rachel Kohler, Patti Nichols. None.

Finance: Julie Ziese, Amy Hein, Jennifer Bisig, Jackie Gerner: No report

Nominations: Julie Ziese, Amy Hein, Nicole Kasperian. No report.

Standing Committee Reports

Achievement Night: Amy Hein, Janet Kraynik, Debbie Nieman. Amy Hein announced that the Achievement Night would stay on the Sunday before the Fair in the Show Arena for next year. While attendance appeared to be down a bit this last year, a lot of it was blamed on having to move so many times and having the incorrect date in the 4-H manual. There will be another concert on Sneak Preview night next year, so it has been decided to try it one more time where it is with better publicity.

Awards: Lisa Bubala, Linda Dillon, Rebekah Lamb, Judy Dawson, and Connie Brittingham. Another vender has requested the opportunity to bid on trophies. They will be given last years order and asked to bid on that to determine if it is worthwhile to pursue.

Ambassadors: Lin Wozniowski, Lynette DuBord, Michelle Humbert. Lin Wozniowski reported that all of the Ambassadors did an excellent job of helping out around the fair and representing Lake County 4-H. Everyone agreed that they "killed it".

Banquet/Annual Meeting. Linda Dillon, Judy Dawson, Christi Long, Lynette DuBord: Linda Dillon announced the date for this year's volunteer banquet would January 22 at the 4-H building at the Fairgrounds.

Geranium/Fundraising: Lin Wozniowski, Lisa Bubala. Lin Wozniowski indicated there was nothing to report

Memory Books: Connie Brittingham, Patti Nichols, Rachel Bult. Connie Brittingham indicated there was nothing to report

Trophies/Sponsorships: Linda Dillon, Lisa Bubala, Rachel Koehler, Judy Dawson. Covered under awards.

Promotion: Lynette DuBord, Lisa Bubala, Christi Long. Lynette DuBord reminded everyone that the 4-H Kick Off will be Sunday October 5th from 1-3. The theme is One Size Fits All. Anyone having any 4-H T-Shirts is asked to loan them to the county to use as decorations. Be sure to have your club members come because there will be a lot of information on many of the 4-H projects. Come explore something you have never tried before.

Saturday September 20th will be the annual Griffith Safety Day at the Griffith Central Park. Come help promote 4-H from 12:30-2:00.

Welcoming: Linda Dillon, Lin Wozniowski Amy Hein thanked Linda and Lin for the food provided for the County Committee.

Stock the Trailer: Jackie Gerner, Nicole Kasperian, Julie Ziese. Amy Hein reported that last year (2024) Stock the Trailer had taken in ~150,000 lbs of food and Lake Counties contribution was 18,000 lbs. This year (2025) Lake County collected 79,200 lbs. Of that 3,200 was food and the rest was drinks. The food and some of the drinks were split between two food banks (St Edwards in Lowell and St. Mary's in Crown Point. The drinks were spread among 16 food banks in Lake County. It is not known yet how we fared in the contest, but Amy

indicated she was contacted by the National Farm Credit Office for an interview and camera crew. Anna Neal was complimented on the interview she gave.

Old Business:

Completion Pin Purchase. No completion pins were purchased in 2024 and only \$700 was budged for 2025. Pins had to be ordered in 2025 and the bill was for \$1,930. Debbie Nieman moved to authorize payment of the overage. Linda Dillon Seconded. Motion Passed.

New Business:

New Project: Lin Wozniewski announced that in cooperation with Mr. Skinner, principle of Gary Middle School, Lake County would like to try some workshops on building bridges and breaking them to test efficiency. The tests would be conducted during the 2026 Lake County Fair. The workshops would be held at Indiana University Northwest in Gary, IN on Saturdays in the spring. The workshops are open to all Lake County 4-H members. We are building on a project started in Porter County, that they would like to take state-wide. We are only asking permission for the workshops for this year. If it is decided to move forward with this, we will ask for permission for what our new plans might turn out to be. Lin Wozniewski made the motion to be allowed to pursue these outlined plans, Judy Dawson seconded. Motion passed.

Fair Review: Amy went around the room soliciting comments from everyone. She postponed her remarks until the end.

Julie Ziese thought the fair went well. She heard a lot of compliments on the program.

Lin Wozniewski thought the STEM center went well. There were still a lot of people seeing it for the first time. The Ambassadors and Junior Leaders both did very well, helping where ever needed all during pre-fair judging and during the fair. There were lots of compliments on the new shelving for the 4-H building.

Rebekkah Lamb indicated everything went well in the building. She related that things were so nicely arranged that a guy picked up one of the projects and wanted to purchase it.

Lisa Bubbala indicated the fair went well every time she was out.

Linda Dillon said she was pleased with the way set-up went, but noted there were days when there were no club members in the 4-H building to help out. She indicated that taking down the projects went well with plenty of help, but was disappointed with the amount of help available to take down the building. The maintenance department was tasked with putting the display cases away, but we still only had a couple of families left by the end of dismantling the building.

Judy Dawson thought what she saw of the fair went well, but was not able to be out as much as she would have liked.

Amanda Woodward was generally please with the fair, but not happy about the rabbit judging.

Anna Neal indicated she thought the fair went well

Claire Donaldson also felt the fair went well

Garrett Neal concurred that the fair went well

Michelle Humbert also was not pleased with the rabbit judging

Christi Long thought the fair went well

Justine Gatlin also was pleased with the fair

Connie Brittingham indicated the poultry barn went well

Patti Nichol also felt the poultry barn went well but noted that there will need to be some changes made to the animal poster judging next year. They did not have enough space or judges to handle the volume of posters they got.

Debbie Neiman indicated the fair was good the times she was there.

Maggie Server indicated the Beef Barn went well

Kris Reed indicated the new arrangement of the barns worked well and the barns worked well together

Tom Reed indicated there was a problem with some of the panels with the goat barn. In the discussion that followed Amy noted that the best solution she heard was to get some high school group that needed service hours to come in and help with setting up the barns.

Amber Miller noted that some judges were better than others.

Reed Miller thought the fair was OK.

Amber Johnson noted that more help was needed for the food for the Barn dinners and breakfasts. She indicated that the Barn food was helping families financially.

Kristine Donaldson said that everything went great. She like the "Show your animal" feature and found the Farm Bureau moving to the barns was a nice addition. She did also note the problem of having Horse and Pony move out and the Goat Show at the same time was a problem

Stephanie Neal indicated the fair was very fun

Lynette DuBord indicated that the number of meat goats was up

Nathan Jamorz thought the fair was good.

Aubrey Bult liked the new look in the 4-H building

Rachael Bult thought it was an awesome fair

Austin McNeill indicated the fair was great

Jennifer loves the fair and thought it was great weather during the first weekend of the fair. She likes seeing the kids and families she does not always get to see during the year

Then it was Amy's turn again. Amy moved that the \$12 that the goats paid into the scale fund be given back to the goats since no one else paid into the scale fund, but Amy moved on to the next item so fast there was no second or vote.

Amy indicated the dance had to be moved into the Dairy Barn at the last minute, but worked out well there.

There was a problem with the sound system again in the barns. Amy and several other people had expressed concerns to the sound contractor before the fair started about the sound system and were told that there would be no problem. The sound system was worse than ever this year.

There had been some questions about moving the milking parlor out, and the fair board does not want to do that because it is needed for the open show. There was also some question about getting concrete in the Beef and Dairy barns and the county has made it plain that is not high on their priority list.

There is apparently the need for another goat wash stand, and the problem is being worked on. The "Ask me about my animal" went well. Depending on when the schools start next year, they would like to extend the hours. Obviously this will not be possible if 4H members are in classes.

Amy apologized that there was not a Barn Battle picture this year. She promised there would be one next year.

There were some problems/complaints about dirty pens. This needs to be looked after. There were also complaints about families advertising family farms above the animal pens. This is not permitted. The name of the animal can be put above the pen as well as the name of the 4-H member, but no advertisement of family farms.

It was also determined that a bit more rearranging of the pens and isles was needed. There was tack and things in the fire lanes and the walkways for the public. Amy was questioning if it would be possible to have more than one animal in some pens to free up some space. She also indicated that she had a plan to allow everyone to fit into the allotted area.

Amy asked if it would be possible to have County Committee be allowed a debit card so that so much money did not have to be paid on our personal credit cards and then reimbursed. She did not feel it looked good on an audit. Since County Committee is technically a totally separate entity from Purdue, it is not clear how they can dictate economic policy. Jennifer did not have a ready answer. Amy is going to push Purdue hard to get permission. Nicole Kasperian wanted every part of County Committee with a separate bank account to have the same privilege as she runs into the same problem with Auction. She would also like to have permission to take credit cards for the auction as not being able to take credit cards delayed the deployment of checks to the 4-H members by at least a week while checks came in.

Educator Comments:

Jennifer reminded everyone to get in their animal rule changes, if any. She also reminded everyone to check the 4-H calendar. There is a volunteer development opportunity coming up on Monday September 16th.

Good of the Order:

The next meeting of the County Committee will be at the 4-H office on Wednesday September 24. There will be an election of superintendents.

Judy Dawson moved to adjourn the meeting. Patti Nichols seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45

Respectfully submitted,

Lin Wozniowski