MINUTES of EXPO-ICE CENTER BOARD MEETING

Amended

Held Wednesday, October 7, 2026

Location: Expo Merchant's Building – 4921 Expo Drive, Manitowoc WI

Present: T. Dvorak, S. Schuette, K. Behnke, S. Binversie, J. Hawig, M. Hoffman, R. Kohlbeck, M. Lentz, R. Manzano, N. Newberg, S. Pinkerton, M. Plate, C. Schleis, B. Ullman, R. Voss, R. Zipperer

Absent & Excused: K. Kohlmann, T. Loritz, P. Strouf

County Board Supervisors Present:

Others Present: J. Shelton, C. Breit, Barb Palzewicz

Pledge of Allegiance

Called to Order Meeting called to order – 7:06pm.

Minutes Minutes were reviewed from the previous meetings. Motion was made by Zipperer, seconded by Kohlbeck to approve the amended meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment Chairperson called for public comment three times. No public input was given.

Election of Officers

Tonya Dvorak was nominated by Rob Voss as the Board Chairperson; Jeremy Hawig was nominated by Stephanie Binversie as the Board Chairperson. Hawig respectfully declined the nomination. After three calls for other nominations a motion was made by Newberg, seconded by Voss that nominations be closed and unanimous ballot be cast for Dvorak as Board Chair. Motion carried unanimously.

Savanna Schuette was nominated by Rob Voss as the Board Vice Chairperson; Stephanie Binversie was nominated by Mary Hoffman as Board Vice Chairperson. Ballot vote was requested and selection of one board member and one staff for ballot count. Votes were counted with Savanna Schuette receiving 10 votes, Stephanie Binversie receiving ***6*** votes, and one board member abstained from voting. Motion was made by Behnke, seconded by Newberg, that nominations be closed and unanimous ballot be cast for Schuette as Board Vice Chairperson. Motion carried unanimously.

Restructure of Meetings

Breit reported on the Restructure of meetings expressing the requirement to comply with the Open Meetings Law. Discussion.

Review & Act on Subcommittee Recommendations:

A. Finance Subcommittee

1. Fair Fees – Indoor, Outdoor, AG, Camping; Policies and Procedures; 2027 Budget

Plate reported on the following:

- Fair Fees
  - Outdoor Vendor – recommend increase of front footage to $40, 110 electrical to $200 and 220 electrical to $350.
  - AG Vendor – recommend increase fee to $350.
  - Merchants Gate Parking Pass – recommend increase fee to $20.
- Policies and Procedures – need a lead person to continue the process.

Motion was made by Plate, Behnke by Plate to approve the committee report and recommendations. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Operations Subcommittee

1. No Committee Meeting; Meeting Update; Working Group Updates: Exhibition Bldg; Parking

No committee Meeting held. Report on the following:

- Exhibition Building – ribbon counting complete.
- Parking – post fair wrap up meeting held with law enforcement, EMS, Tri-Bolt.

C. Entertainment/Vendors Subcommittee:

1. Budget vs. Actual; 2027 Entertainment Ideas; Committee Report; Working Group Updates: AG Adventureland; Grandstand-Outdoor Entertainment; Woman's Day

Voss reported on the following:

- Budget vs. Actual –reviewed.
- 2027 Entertainment Ideas – reviewed.
- Grandstand – no report.
- Woman's Day – raised over $1,015 for Peter's Pantry and over $8,000 in donations.
- AG Adventureland – working on ideas for the Sail Your Way theme.

D. Marketing & Advertising Subcommittee

1. No Committee Meeting; Committee Update; Working Group Updates: Fairest of the Fair-Fair Ideas-Marketing; Social Media-Marketing

No Committee Meeting held. Report on the following:

- Fairest of the fair – Lindsey Pionkek, 2027 Fairest of the Fair.
- Social Media-Marketing – working on ideas.

Review, Discussion and Possible Action on Fair Matters

A. Complaint Resolution Policy and Leadership Replacement Policy

Tabled.

B. Jr. Fair-Open Class Rules & Regulations due Nov 1

Dvorak reported on a market animal meeting to be held on Tuesday, Nov 3 at 6:30pm to discuss swine show.

C. Fairest of the Fair Auction Item

Newberg reported the auction item will include the Heart of the County 2026 Fair Theme.

D. Appreciation Celebration Update

Board reported on the Appreciation Celebration.

E. 2026 Fair Pictures – Convention

2026 Fair Pictures included in the board packet were distributed for voting.

F. Reappointment of Current Board Members

Motion was made by Newberg, seconded by Binversie to recommend approval to the Public Works committee the Reappointment of Current Board Members with a term of December 31, 2026.

G. District 4 Meeting – Oct 8

Reminder of the District 4 Meeting.

H. WI Association of Fairs Conference – January 10-13 2027

Staff to work on conference budget.

I. Sponsorships-Fair Logo

Motion was made by Lentz, seconded by Ullman to approve the Presented by Sponsor and Partnership with SeehaferNews and WCUB to celebrate 75 years. Motion carried unanimously.

J. Fair Recommendations

Dvorak reported on the Fair Recommendations included in the board packet.

K. Fair Update

Dvorak reported on the Lesters Building.

Hawig reported on Kris Kohlmann's immediate resignation.

Update and Possible Action on Other Fair, Expo Buildings, and Grounds Projects and Issues

No report.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Zipperer, seconded by Voss to adjourn at 8:31pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennell Shelton, Manitowoc County Expo Facility Manager