



Meeting Minutes

12/23/24

Call to Order

Brad Noack called to order the meeting of the Williamson County Livestock Association at 7:00 pm on December 23, 2024, at Moravian Hall in Walburg, TX.

Roll call

The following persons were present: Brad Noack, Wayne Sanders, Montgomery Raesz, Colby Doherty, Patrick Phillips, John Faske, Dustin Davidson, Daniel Knippa, BJ Simpson, Matt Suchomel, Brad Adams, Donnie Smith, Richard Sells

Guests: Heather Faske, Kayla Sum, Amanda Drummond, Brian Drummond, Hollie Suchomel

Financial Report:

- R Bank Checking- \$524,924.16**
- R Bank Money Market - \$142,261.54**
- R Bank Scholarship Money Market - \$10,540.74**
- R Bank Savings - \$118,942.07**

Committee Reports:

A) Scholarship - Committee Chairman - Colby Doherty

- Scholarship Funding:
 - 12 Scholarships awarded for 2024 graduates:
 - Doug Vrabel Memorial Scholarship - 1 recipient of \$2,500
 - WCLA Scholarship(s) - 2 recipients of \$2,000 and 9 recipients of \$1,555.

B) Livestock -

- Superintendents:
 - Livestock - Wayne Sanders
 - Poultry - Montgomery Raesz
 - Rabbit - John Faske
 - Goat - Richard Sells
 - Lamb - Matt Suchomel
 - Swine - Colby Doherty
 - Cattle - Dustin Davidson
 - Media - Paul Boff
 - Award - Blake Henderson
 - Facility - Brad Adams

- Fundraising - Donnie Smith
- Scholarship - Colby Doherty
- Jr. Steering - Matt Suchomel
- Judges:
 - Rabbit –
 - Lamb –
 - Breeding Lamb/Goat –
 - Goat –
 - Poultry –
 - Steers –
 - Heifers –
 - Swine –
 - Breeding Swine –

C) Validation -

- DNA Testing – Animal ID -
 - All champions & reserve champions
 - Pull hair at conclusion of champion drive
 - Pull random test from showmanship classes
 - Retags (all) shall have DNA hair pulled
 - Any protest that is brought to the committee will be tested. Samples will be pulled after protest fee paid.
 - DNA Samples matched prior to checks being issued. All samples matched for 2023 show.
- Validation operations:
 - 2024 Steer Validation DNA samples will be pulled at state validation time that the county extension office sets. Need Rules Acknowledgment Forms filled out at same time. Alternate Housing Requests, if applicable, must be submitted minimum of two weeks prior to state validation for approval. Heifers will need to be state validated.
 - 2024 WCLA Validation will require all lambs and goats to purchase a WCLA tag if they didn't get a State Validation Tag for the State Fair of Texas. It is unknown when state validation tags will arrive to validate prior to the deadline
 - 2024 WCLA Show Market rabbit tattoo date to be major show entry night or last day of regular entry for WCLA. November 6, 2024.

D) Facility -

- Show Schedule details
 - Saturday, December 6th through Sunday December 14th, 2025
 - Placing panels on Friday December 5th for barn setup Saturday December 6th.
 - Friday December 12, 2025 barn teardown, prep for sale / auction on Saturday.

- Expo and review layout - Factor in extra panels.
 - Will we allow any vendors
 - Vendor Fee - Fundraiser donation
 - Supply Trailer – Sullivan's
- Need PA System - TBD
- Announcer - Scooter Dubec
- Scales - Rusty Morgan

E) Awards -

- Need to review awards and order new buckles to at fundraiser for buckle sponsors.
- New Herdsman Award for FFA Chapter or 4H Club from 2024 show. **Vista Ridge**

F) Youth Fair -

- **No Report**

G) Social Media - Committee Chairman - Paul Boff

- Sharing of other groups fundraising efforts on WCLA social media page(s). If they support 4H/FFA youth at the WCLA sale, we will support them and share their information.

H) Auctions -

- **No Report**

I) Junior Steering Committee - Committee Chairman - Matt Suchomel

- Discuss Junior Directors and possible Top Hand Award(s).

J) Legal

- **No Report**

K) ShoWorks

- New 2024 ShoWorks program with online auction capabilities.

L) Fundraising / Sponsor / Auction - Committee Chairmen - Daniel Knippa/Donnie Smith

- 2025 Spring Fundraiser/Sponsor Appreciation Event being planned.
- Fall 2024 raffle complete. Drawing 12/13/24. Dispersed prizes at sale 12/14/24. Made between \$5k-\$6k profit (still reconciling).

M) Audit

- **No Report**

N) 4-H Report

- **No Report**

O) Show - No Report

- Trailers with Ramps can unload from the North area.
- Covered Breezeway will unload from East to West for trailers without ramps.
- Livestock species and tack will not be able to move in until time and date set on schedule.
- Poultry to unload in Covered Breezeway from East to West.

- Photography backdrop setup and operation: Chairman: Donnie Smith
- Sponsor Signs:
 - Current
 - New
 - Show Ring
 - Setup, tear down and storage
- Opening Ceremonies: Junior Steering Committee:
 - Flags, Anthem, Pledges, Mottos, Prayer
- No Peewee class for 2024 breeding showmanship shows. Exhibitors must be between the ages of 9 (or 8 and in the third grade) and 19 years of age as of September 1, 2024 and have a quality counts number.
- We will have a future feeder's showmanship for market shows: Lambs, Goat, & Swine only.
- Photographer for 2024 - **MD Creations**.
- Animals need to be sheared / clipped prior to arriving, touch up is ok.
 - Steer heads needs to be clipped, specifically polled breeds.
 - British Breeds need to designate breed showing under.
- No Wire Halters of any kind on any species.
- Drug Testing: Look into hiring outside entity to administer, monitor and test. Set up teleconference or tour to research. Need to review guidelines and set rules.

Old Business

- 1) Update on judges. All judges confirmed; awaiting couple signed contracts
- 2) Review dates and housing for judges and photographers.
- 3) Discuss scholarships still needing to be awarded. Missing 6 awardees info or request to fulfill the award of scholarship.
- 4) Discussion on sponsor and sponsorships for 2024 WCLA Show. Need to be more active earlier in the year.
- 5) Discuss Alternate Housing Request forms.
- 6) Discuss WCLA Validation Compliance inspection of projects that have occurred and findings and/or review documents. WCLA may need to validate / tag animals and have all WCLA tags in by a specific date.
- 7) Discuss Conex boxes. Selling of old ones and purchase and housing of new ones. Need to be housed near Expo Pavilion area. May need to review contract and discuss possible renegotiation for 2025 show and then continuing at next contract renewal.
- 8) Discussion on 2024 Show:
 - Discuss person(s) to send letter to revoke their attendance on the show grounds.
 - Discuss timelines for Friday and Saturday prior to show for move in of pens and set up and power drops in the show barn.
 - Discuss ongoing construction and parking / trailer parking changes for this year's show. Will create a new map of the area to post.

- Discuss power issues and generators for cattle barn. All available drops will be down, will need additional power because large blowers will blow the circuits. Exhibitors are strongly encouraged to bring their own generators for power backup
 - Lamb and Goat show prep can be done in the cattle barn – NO shavings and NO bedding down of animals will be allowed.
- 9) Review junior directors and replies from AST's on concerns or issues.
 - 10) Briefly discuss % of payout per market species of auction sale concerning champion buyers funding. Will discuss further in-depth and finalize before show starts on December 7.
 - a. Daniel Knippa motioned to pay \$1,000 for breeding champions and \$500 for breeding reserve champions species. Breeding rabbit champions will receive \$500 and breeding rabbit reserve champions will receive \$250. Seconded by Wayne Sanders. Motion passed unanimously. Species sponsor(s) will be listed as buyer(s).
 - 11) Discuss current Fall Fundraiser ticket sales.
 - a. WCLA spring fundraiser being planned for April 12, 2025. McBride and the Ride is booked. Need to reserve hall. Will most likely include some VIP tickets, steaks and sides, drink coupons, few door prizes along with auction during performer's intermission.
 - 12) Discussed potential commercial breeding heifer show for 2025. Need to draft and discuss all details more before February. Could include grading based on record books, interviews, and judging.

New Business

- 1) On December 7, 2024 (day before show week), the board had an executive meeting to discuss the payout amounts for each species from the Champion Buyers Group. \$70,500 was the total amount to be split for the Grand Champion and Reserve Champions of each species (and the breeding champs).
 - a. Dustin Davidson made a motion to allot the following dollar amounts to the Market Grand Champions: \$11,000 Steer, \$7,000 Swine, \$7,000 Lamb, \$7,000 Goat, \$4,500 Turkey, \$4,000 Broiler, \$2,000 Rabbit. The Market Reserve Champions would receive exactly half of what the Market Grand Champion received, respectively. Matt Suchomel seconded. 10 approved, 1 opposed. Motion carried.
 - b. The Breeding species funding was approved at prior meeting.
- 2) Update on Fall Fundraiser. Still reconciling but turned out good. Made between \$5k-\$6k profit.
- 3) Recap of 2024 WCLA show and sale. Issues to add to and address on Jan agenda.
 - Outstanding invoices. Everything is paid, not necessarily cleared.
 - Total amount from auction so far is about \$983,451 and will close online on 1/4/25.
 - Discussed new judges needed and who to renew.
 - Rulebook issues or verbiage to note
 - Discussion on rabbit show and rules – sift like majors
 - WCLA vs STATE tagging and steer validation
 - Lamb and goat show prep in cattle barn and camp area for swine worked well

- Poultry wing bands and notes from poultry shows. Look into barcodes?
 - Awards and gemstones falling out. Company will fix the problem. Look into new company going forward.
 - All directors needed to verify sale list and finalize on Friday after tear down before sale.
 - Move flow of entrance into the show ring? Will focus on direction of entrance and keeping animals towards center of show ring. Can paint "WCLA" in the shavings before each show.
 - Will have 2 scales for cattle show now. Can get scale sponsor.
 - Pictures at auction, how do we require it? \$15 on entry or per species shown? Make power point for kids at sale.
 - Showworks QR codes and passport app. Revisit in May / June. Purchase new IPAD and Laptop. Need two laptops for ShoWorks, need extra laptop at sale.
 - Split breaks from Poland and spots? Dark OPB 26 berks and 13 spots or Polands. There were enough Berks to split, but not enough Spots/Polands. Split light and dark crosses? 100 dark +/- and 25 light. The few Herefords could be included in the Dark class (make classifiers aware)
 - Calling judges week before and day before verifying show date.
 - Drug testing - Will discuss more later.
 - Date for tags in ears. Ownership. If not in ear at certain date and not reported, then need to revalidate. Reevaluate at later meeting. WCLA vs STATE.
 - Pay fee for DNA comparison if you need retag.
 - Look into using our own equipment to broadcast the show online.
 - Med kit(s) for show
 - 3 skid steers at setup and tear down works well.
 - Day of Sale:
 - Adjust setup to keep buyers separate from exhibitors/families
 - Looking at trimming sale lots walking across stage down, possible rollup wont walk but will still make sale and be an online sale lot #
- 4) Discuss junior directors. Got a list of top 10 junior directors and will decide how to reward them as Top Hands.
 - 5) Herdsman award will go to the Vista Ridge FFA Chapter.
 - 6) Update on Spring Fundraiser / Concert. Fundraiser committee. Everything is booked and committee needs to plan layout and schedule of the day. Will do meal and auction first, then the band will play for 90mins straight.
 - 7) Discussion or ratify trailer purchase.
 - a. Patrick Phillips motioned to ratify the purchase of storage trailer for \$6,500. It is a 2023 16ft storage trailer. It is registered to the WCLA. Montgomery Raesz seconded. Motion carried.
 - b. Can get sponsor for trailer. Currently being stored at an RV storage facility.
 - 8) Discussion on Conex boxes with possible location to house them, need to review and renew contract with county. Sold the 3 old boxes. Already earmarked money for 4 new ones.

- 9) Discussed what the booster clubs bring to sale and don't bring.
- 10) Discussed possibility of moving banks. Will discuss more later.
- 11) Discussion on state compliance checks, issues and possible repercussions. Need to review rulebook to determine outcome if any on our part..

Motion to adjourn made by Wayne Sanders. Seconded by Daniel Knippa. Meeting adjourned at 9:13pm.

Minutes submitted by: Montgomery Raesz