



ST. JOSEPH COUNTY 4-H YOUTH COUNCIL

Regular Meeting
November 6, 2017
Courthouse Annex II
MSU Extension Office
Centreville MI 49032

President: Craig Ulsh
Vice President: Cody Baker
Secretary: Heather Teadt
Treasurer: Jenny Bower
Deputy Treasurer: Kelsey Maystead
Media: Brittany Bogema

Members Present: Cody Baker, Brittany Bogema, Jenny Bower, Nancy Heimstra, Caitlyn Hughes, Michelle McNamara, Scott Miracle, Joseph Rambadt, Craig Ulsh and Barb Weston.

Members Excused: Hannah Harless, Holly Gregory, Kelsey Maystead, Connie Pagels, Zach Sackrider

1. Call the meeting to order- President Ulsh at 6:37pm
2. Pledges were led by Caitlyn Hughes
3. Public Comment:
 - a. Cassie Conrad. Spoke on behalf of herself and her daughter Maddie Yuhas. Maddie showed her draft horse in Cass County and was then told she could not show in St. Joseph County. Cassie shared some history on the situation and accusations of rules violations. The decisions that were made left her daughter sobbing, accused of cheating and bullied. Cassie claims Eva won't tell her who accused her daughter of cheating, which concerns her greatly. She wants to end the inconsistencies in both the horse area and sheet evaluation processes. She like St. Joseph County 4-H to return to a program that supports youth. Cassie and her family have hired a lawyer and contacted Michigan State University and now she is telling the Youth Council so we are aware of the situation.
 - b. Tricia Ulsh. Asked Eva specifics regarding responsibilities of the Superintendents. Should they be present and available all of fair week? Tim Miller (Sheep Co-Superintendent) made the comment that he would NOT be available all of fair week and this concerned Tricia. She also brought up concerns regarding the mandatory leader meetings and leaders not getting their fair passes. Tricia questioned who pays for those required meetings. She also indicated that 4-H members were told they would not get their premium checks without attending a required livestock meeting- yet many members did not attend and received their checks anyway. Tricia then indicated that her son was left out of leader activities by Brent Beeker and was concerned about leader behavior. Lastly, Tricia asked why 4-H members had to pay for passes for donors, judges and individuals who watch the still exhibit barns. When Tricia asked Eva for a response, Eva indicated she did not have to respond during public comments.
 - c. Robin Holtz asked the Youth Council why it took so long for 4-H members to get their auction checks. Said it puts our members at a disadvantage since they do not have the funds right now for animals for 2018 fair. Cassie Conrad indicated Cass county fair has funds to cover "late" buyers.... Eva said some buyers have yet to pay and some pay as late as 9 months after the sale.
 - d. Wendy Walters voiced her continued concern about the buyer dinner. The dinner began with MANY 4-Hers standing in line waiting for their turn in the ring. The group agreed that the buyer dinner has been a wonderful asset to the auction, but it needs to be revisited to ensure it is meeting the needs of the buyers and the members still in the ring. Suggestions included using a voucher system when buyers pay (might encourage more buyers to pay right then!) or moving the meal to a breakfast with the auction beginning a little later.
4. Additions to the Agenda: Jenny and Craig added CWF funding under old business b:.
5. Minutes from previous meeting (October 2, 2017): Moved by Michelle, seconded by Jenny to approve. Motion carried.
6. Correspondence received from Gunner Bunning (later determined to belong to the Horse Council), Pam Keesler and Samantha Sigman for appreciation of the Youth Council and their generosity in sponsoring awards, the scavenger hunt and all the work we put in before, during and after the fair.
7. Financial Report by Jenny Bower.
 - a. Balance at Sturgis Bank & Trust checking account as of August 28, 2017: \$55, 281.90
 - b. Bills needing approval include
 - i. \$500 Libby Graber for her Japan Trip
 - ii. \$12.43 to Kendricks Paper for Leader-Donor Supplies
 - iii. \$4.64 to Cedar Crest Dairy
 - iv. \$62.06 Computer Ribbon (Leader-Donor Teen Volunteer Re-Usable Nametags)

- v. \$2,704.50 to the Fair for 601 bags of ice during fair week
 - vi. \$35.00 Sturgis Trophy House – Fair Trophy's
 - vii. \$48.90 Sturgis Trophy House for Leader-Donor Awards
 - viii. Jenny also reported that we have a \$1,597.81 bill from the Livestock Association, but due to lack of itemization....this bill was not approved and will return next month. Michelle moved to accept the treasurer's report and pay the bills (except the Livestock Association bill) as presented. Brittany seconded thee motion. Motion carried.
8. Horse Council Report- Scott indicated that the horse council will meet tomorrow night. No other information was presented.
9. Stuff and Stamp Thank you cards to sell at fair. We did 1500 plus.
10. Officer/Committee Reports
- a. Milk Barn: Money Received was \$15,236.40. \$8,248.40 was spent on milk. \$318 was spent on cookies. \$2,704.50 was spent on ice with a total profit from the milk barn in 2017 at \$3,965.50.
11. 4-H Development Report
- a. 4-H Enrollment/Background Check/Participation fee update: Enrollments are up and running with some leaders already being sent background check information.
 - b. New leaders are encouraged/required to go online to fill out the new leader forms.
 - c. December 7, 2017 will be the first required livestock member meeting at the ISD. The focus of this meeting is poultry.
 - d. Organizational leaders will meet on Tuesday, November 28th at the office.
 - e. The Youth Council will once again make a United Way request. Barb made a motion to write the United Way proposal for \$7,500. Motion was seconded by Cody. Motion passed and Eva will keep us posted on the proposal.
12. Old Business
- a. Awards Banquet: (Centreville Elementary, Thursday, November 9, 2017)
 - i. Catering: Many members of the Youth Council have YET to RSVP. Eva indicated that our numbers are higher than anticipated. Michelle will call Heather and have her contact the caterer to increase our numbers to 225. Heather Swinsick of Hip Padders Catering will be doing the catering.
 - ii. Youth Council members are encouraged to arrive at 4pm to help set up and decorate.
 - b. CWF Funding: Jenny and Craig indicated that the Council had six applicants for CWF this year which is a big increase over the past! Jenny made a motion to increase our CWF number to 3 members instead of 2 and Cody seconded the motion. Motion passed. Eva will make the arrangements.
13. New Business
- a. TSC Clover Sale: Connie was absent, so no update.
 - b. Fair Book Update: Eva indicated there will be MANY updates to the fair book due to feedback received from the livestock post-fair meetings. She hopes to have the fair book updates available by February.
 - c. Brittany asked about the Still Project post-fair meeting and Eva scheduled the meeting for February 8th at 6:30pm in the office.
14. Adjournment
- Jenny moved to adjourn, Brittany seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle McNamara, for Heather Teadt.

NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 4th at 6:30 P.M.