

## **Grays Harbor Youth Livestock Auction Minutes – January 30, 2023**

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. Present were Christi Kershaw, Emily Severs, Tracie Hanson, Dan Teuteberg, Bill Wickwire, David Wyatt, Jill Werner, Dorothy Harry, and the recording secretary, Donna Boyer. John Fields arrived at approximately 6:25 p.m.

Treasurer/Bookkeeping – Christi Kershaw is resigning as the treasurer. As the dollar amount that goes through the auction increases, so does the time commitment as the treasurer. It is time that we contact an accounting firm to see what the cost would be to take over a major portion of the treasurer's position. Christi will contact Lonnie Rich with Aiken and Sanders to see if their firm would be interested and what the cost would be. A new treasurer will be needed.

4-H has gone to an online entry system called Fair Entry. There are different levels of membership depending on the needs. There is an auction component that could possibly work for us. There is a method for add-ons and there is tech support.

The pig raffle that we operate at the fair is overseen by Jill Werner. Jill is stepping down from that position because of the time commitment. Someone will need to take over that position or possibly give up the raffle pig.

There are four positions up for re-election: John Fields, Donna Boyer, Emily Wamsley, and Dorothy Harry. All four members have stated that they will remain in their current positions.

Rabbit vaccinations will be required to bring rabbits to the fair. The meat rabbits that go through the auction cannot be vaccinated because the withdrawal time cannot be met prior to slaughter. There will need to be a waiver for each auction rabbit owner to sign stating that they will quarantine the rabbits if they take them home.

Avian Flu is still a problem. We will plan like poultry will be at fair until they can't!

Fair dates have been moved to August 2 – August 6, 2023. Donna Boyer has already been in contact with the auctioneer and Wynooche Valley Meats. The auctioneer does not have an answer yet, and Wynooche Meats is working with A&L Slaughtering to change the slaughter date to August 7.

Mason County youth have shown an interest in selling in our auction. There is concern that they are only wanting to make money and would they bring their own buyers from Mason County. Pigs would be very difficult to accommodate because of the lack of space.

The reason we allowed auction participants to sell two projects (one large and one small) was to grow the small animal program. The number of small animals that go through the auction has exploded. **MOTION:** Emily Severs, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dorothy Harry starting in 2023, the youth can only sell one livestock project at the auction. Motion passed.

There is an auction committee position open. The new manager at the Elma Les Schwab has indicated that he is interested. We will invite him to the next meeting.

Dorothy Harry has looked into liability insurance for the auction members. She is waiting for an answer.

A new scale shack is desperately needed. We would need to pour a concrete slab where the scales will sit and place a new portable building on that site. Angie Patton at the Elma High School will be able to do some research on what we want and the cost. **MOTION:** David Wyatt, 2<sup>nd</sup> Christi Kershaw to approve a budget of up to \$10,000 for a portable building to be used as a scale shack. Motion passed. David Wyatt will present this at the next fair board meeting.

The mandatory meeting will be May 3, 2023 at Elma High School.

A rule change for rabbits was discussed. The GHYLA rules list a date of July 1 for a possession date, but that is changed each year depending on when the fair is. **MOTION:** The possession date for rabbits will be 45 days prior to the first day of fair. Motion passed.

The money that is in the savings account is only getting 17 cents interest each month. Donna Boyer will check with a financial advisor to see if there is a better way to invest that money.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.