

Macon County  
4-H & Extension Foundation  
Board Meeting  
September 27, 2021

**Attendees:** Mark Sturgill, Toni Brown, Luke Williams, Melissa Koehler, Tyler Beals, Erika Tibbs, Pete Skeffington, Melody Arnold, Peggy Fear, Doug Harlan

At 5:30 PM CST, Mark Sturgill welcomed board members in attendance and called meeting to order.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the July 26, 2021 meeting were reviewed, Melody made a motion to approve the July Minutes, seconded by Tyler Beals. The motion passed without discussion.

**Financial report:** please see Hickory Point hard copy info that was distributed; itemized expenses & deposits.

Farm Progress: Net income – rough estimate at time of this meeting was \$68, 410.47

Still have outstanding bills from Farm Progress (potentially \$16, 000), tent company (unknown) & electric(unknown)

Estimated profit \$40,000-45,000. We should have final numbers by November Board Meeting.

As far as turn out for Farm Progress Show... Doug reported 2021 was a slower year than show in past. Tuesday was slow yet steady, Wednesday was excellent, and Thursday was slow.

Luke Williams made motion that after all expenses paid for the Farm Progress Show. Money will be moved from Hickory Point account to 1<sup>st</sup> Mid Investments leaving the Hickory Point Balance act \$15,000. Motion was seconded by Erika Tibbs. Motion carried. Luke Williams will follow up.

Mark Sturgill offered re-cap of Officer Meeting held on September 23, 2021.

Design/build a digital/online space to store foundation business/documents.

Commented [ET1]:

Create detailed ON-BOARDING Process for new Board Members to include: History of Foundation – Why is it needed? What is the point? How does it affect the community and extension?

Board is designed to generate financial support for ALL of the Macon County Extension service in the event there would be a reduction in contributions from county/state/federal/U of I/and a match program. This is the reason conserving monies is necessary. Example: Goal/Target to keep a base amount of 25% of the operating budget estimated operating budget at this time per Doug Harlan is 1.65 million. This money would be a reserve fund for the Macon County Extension Services.

We need to look at the average money added to Foundation accounts over the last 4 years and determine a minimum/maximum amount that will be given away in grants/scholarships/capital projects.

**Scholarship Committee:**

It was noted that the scholarship funds are not being pulled from the actual bank account allotment for each of the scholarships. The funds have been coming from the general fund as needed. It was discussed that the funds should be removed from the scholarship accounts as it is being awarded. Is there a history behind the scholarships? Were they meant to continue on forever or would the monies be used til account was emptied?

It is unknown the original intention of the scholarships- it was noted that many times the staff from the extension office has attempted to research to locate stories/family members of the scholarships – and have had no luck.

At present – max amount awarded in scholarships is \$11,300 per year. Should this amount be increased? There will be follow-up discussion at November meeting.

**Fundraising: Grain Wagon** – great year to do the wagon fundraiser. Please let Doug Harlan know in next 48 hours if able to pull wagon. To pull wagon you will need minimum ¾ ton pickup, one adult and one 4-Her. Pull into full wagon to any grain elevator and you would be issued a ticket stating profit to go to Macon County Extension Foundation. There is not a list of farmers willing to donate... just drive with wagon.

**Board Development Committee:** recent officer meeting. Future board members with expertise in marketing and fundraising would be helpful.

Marketing our successes as a foundation needs improvement. Currently – e-mails are sent.

Could this be outsourced? Luke suggested seeking proposals for improvement of marketing.

Ideal candidates suggested: Cara Demargean and Mindy Morley – Mark will follow-up for November meeting.

**Awards Committee** – no news.

**Extension Program Grants** – criteria for receiving grants from the Foundation needs to be reviewed. At present there are no rules/criteria for handing out funds. Melissa and Erika will look into a re-design of the Grant Program criteria – setting a scoring system to grade necessity of giving funds to programs.

**Other Business:**

Foundation Meetings should have presentations from 4-H, Food and Nutrition, Master Gardeners- what new and what is working. Doug will have presentation for November meeting.

Next officers meeting will be Oct 25<sup>th</sup> 2021 at Panera at 4:30.

Thank you to all the volunteers for the Farm Progress Show.

There is a 4-H Leader seeking scholarship – unclear of details – discussion tabled to November meeting with hopes of having more details.

**Program Grant request:**

Cailin would like \$1000 for 10- \$100 scholarship to assist individuals to obtain Food Safety Certification.

More discussion is needed as to who would qualify for the scholarships and how scholarships will be awarded. Doug will let Caitlin know presentation to board is needed as there were many questions. No motion was made – discussion tabled to November Board Meeting.

Next meeting will be held November 22 at 5:30 PM.

A motion was made to adjourn by Luke Williams, seconded by Toni Brown. Motion carried.

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Erika Tibbs, substitute secretary.