

Valley Agricultural Society Annual General Meeting
February 18, 2021 Virtual Meeting held on Zoom

Call to Order: Norm Gauthier called the meeting to order at 7:05PM

Approval of Agenda: Chris Edel made the motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Andy Krahn. Carried.

Approval of Minutes: Matt Hoffman made the motion to approve the minutes from November 28, 2019. Seconded by Chris Edel Carried.

Reports:

President (Norm Gauthier): Norm Gauthier welcomed all the membership to the AGM. He assured the membership that although all events were cancelled for 2020 due to Covid 19 that there was work being done on the VAS grounds due to pre-approved funding. He also thanked all the volunteers that came out to help with the projects.

There were a few smaller events held on the VAS grounds in 2020.

The plan for this coming year is to work on upgrading our infrastructure with the assistance of grants as well as assistance from the Town of Morris and RM of Morris and some sponsors who have continued to support the VAS throughout the pandemic.

Personnel/Vice President (Donna Edel): With the assistance of the Federal Temporary Wage Subsidy and the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy we were able to keep Cristine Edel employed in our office during Covid. Cristine Edel continues to work in the office and from home to keep up to date on our bills, emails, grants, storage, etc. Also with Canada Summer Jobs Grant we were able to hire two young people, Hunter Edel and Cameron Herkert to work and maintain the grounds.

The Valley Harvest Market was held on September 12, 2020. It was well received by the community.

On October 31, 2020 a well-planned Covid Family Friendly Halloween Haunted Barn took place. It too was a successful community event.

Finance (Chris Hamblin): The VAS audit was done virtually this year by Scarrow & Donald. Current assets is similar to last year but our accounts receivable is higher at \$57,640. Current Liabilities are down. As well as our accounts payable. We received wage subsidies and \$10,000 from the Canada Emergency Business Account has been moved to income under government assistance. Income also dropped this year to \$126,943. Expenses dropped to \$117,589. Leaving a net income of \$9,354.

Chris Hamblin made the motion to accept the 2020 financials. Seconded by Andy Krahn.

Question brought forward regarding the loan and payment and what will happen if it can't be repaid. Chris Hamblin explained that the loan is due in 2022 and if unable to pay the loan gets rolled into a bank loan for payment.

Marketing (Matt Hoffman): Matt thanked Roadmap, previously Graphic Intuition for all their hard work updating the VAS websites. He thanked several sponsors who maintained their sponsorship in 2020 including the Town of Morris, the RM of Morris, H. Baudry Construction, Access Credit Union, Morris Bigway Foods, Sun Valley Coop, Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries, Tim Hortons, Accupepe and GJ Chemical. He also thanked BASF, Building Sustainable Communities and the Coop Community Spaces grant for the funding and the product received from their grant programs.

Membership (Matt Hoffman): 2020 – 54 members

Please remember to pick up your VAS membership cards for 2021 at the office.

Operations (Andy Krahn): The committee met and discussed different ideas on how the Manitoba Stampede could be set up in the future. Board members along with volunteers were able to do upgrades on the grounds during the summer.

Fair (James Buhler): The committee had plans to celebrate the VAS 125th anniversary. They did try to do a virtual homecraft and horticultural show. Although due to low entries all that participated will receive passes to future VAS events. Work started on the grounds to upgrade Charlie's Place north of the grandstand where a grain bin bar will be placed. New barn doors on 2 fair barns were also installed this fall. Both of the offices and grandstand received a fresh coat of paint.

Grants (James Buhler): The focus for 2020 was to meet our commitment to complete the MB Building Sustainable Communities Grant. Plumbing upgrades, tiling the grandstand arena and track, barn doors, livestock panels were all covered under this grant. An extension was granted and will allow the VAS the opportunity to complete the roofs on the Orange Buildings. Morris Area Foundation was thanked for their grant towards the barn doors and for addition of a change room for the Gathering of Nations. Town of Morris and the RM of Morris was thanked for their generous donations to successfully complete the livestock arena and barn doors. Thanks to the Coop Communities in Full Color Grant paint was provided to paint the offices and the West Show Barn. MAAS Infrastructure Grant was used to purchase an arena groomer and push weed trimmer.

Rodeo (Mike Bellisle): Due to Covid, Manitoba Stampede & Exhibition was cancelled as well as every other major rodeo and fair in the country after March 2020. Upgrades and projects are being planned and worked on in the arena and track that will allow better shows in the future.

Ratification of the Decisions of the Board: Ryan Holness made the motion to ratify the decisions of the board. Seconded by Jon Rosset. Carried

Old Business: none

New Business: Norm Gauthier read a 125 anniversary letter sent to the VAS by Minister Blaine Pedersen. There is a plaque in the VAS office.

Election of Officers: James Buhler, Denis Robert, and Cheryl Sarrasin are stepping down from the Board of Directors. Andy Krahn said he would allow his name to stand for another two year term. Ryan Holness also said he would allow his name to stand for another two year term.

People nominated were:

- o Crystal Legary nominated by Reba Krahn. Crystal accepted.
- o Brian Wiebe nominated by Matt Hoffman. Brian accepted.

Mike Bellisle made the motion that nominations cease. Seconded by Chris Edel. Carried

No further names were brought forward.

Appointment of Auditors: Chris Hamblin made the motion to hire Scarrow & Donald as auditor for 2021. Seconded by Andy Krahn. Carried

Adjournment: James Buhler made the motion to adjourn meeting at 7:58 PM. Seconded by Chris Edel. Carried

Results of the Board Meeting held directly after the AGM:

Board of Directors for 2021:

President: Matt Hoffman nominated Norm Gauthier. Seconded by Mike Bellisle
Vice President: Ryan Holness nominated Donna Edel. Andy Krahn nominated Mike Bellisle. Donna Edel accepted. Seconded by Mike Bellisle
Finance: Norm Gauthier nominated Chris Hamblin. Seconded by Chris Edel

President: Norm Gauthier

Vice President & Secretary: Donna Edel

Finance: Chris Hamblin

Rumble: Brian Wiebe

Rodeo: Mike Bellisle/Chris Edel

Fair:

Gathering of Nations:

Marketing: Matt Hoffman

Operations: Ryan Holness, Andy Krahn, Crystal Legary

RM Representative: Stan Siemens

Town of Morris Rep: Chris Hamblin

Donna Edel made the motion to remove James Buhler as signing authority and nominated Crystal Legary to be added. Seconded by Andy Krahn. Carried. Donna Edel will contact the Credit Union tomorrow (Friday Feb 19, 2021)

Submitted by Donna Edel