

**NCW Fair Board Meeting
Thursday, October 10, 2024**

Members Present		
<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adam Foged <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Julia Goodman <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leon Grant <input type="checkbox"/> Heidi Hedges	<input type="checkbox"/> Chance Landon <input type="checkbox"/> Becky Matthiesen <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marie Overton <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bill Schneider <input type="checkbox"/> Jesse Shafer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jamey Jo Steele <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Margaret Viebrock <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lori Beidler <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ann Whitehall <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sheri Bock
Staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carolyn Morley <input type="checkbox"/> Nicole Sanders	<input type="checkbox"/> Karina Angeles <input type="checkbox"/> Ramon Ramirez
Guests	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

In the absence of President Adam Foged, and Vice President Jesse Shafer, Secretary Ann Whitehall called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. She mentioned that if you have items to be added to the agenda, please do so. Adam had other commitments arriving midway through the meeting and resumed his responsibilities as President for the remainder of the meeting.

Margaret moved, and Jamey Jo seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on August 8, 2024. The minutes were previously emailed to all Board members. It passed unanimously. Jamey Jo offered to take minutes during the meeting tonight.

Carolyn gave a brief financial report; she is working to prepare the budget for next year. It has been a stressful budget season this year. We are close to breaking even on the 2024 budget. The Wenatchee World invoice for advertising came in at \$5,800; we were not billed for last year’s expenses. The Auditor miscalculated Inner Fund Services by around \$6,000. Our interfund account for county insurance is increasing by \$50,000 during 2025, which is a significant challenge for us.

Presented to the Commissioners for the upcoming year was the desire to allocate Ed Sims full-time year around and to hire a “Fair Coordinator” to administer and provide oversight of the software, exhibitor registration, and livestock sale.

There will be no Monster Truck show during 2025; it will be replaced with Big Air. Carolyn is collaborating with the sponsors for that event held previously who are still interested in supporting the event.

Old Business – this was not discussed.

New Business

1. **Fair Board Applications.** Both applicants were in attendance and have completed applications and provided prepared letters of interest regarding the open board positions. They are very qualified applicants.
 - Mark Johnson has contracting experience, applicable business experience (has owned and operated businesses), and he is a licensed electrician.
 - Liz Marlow expressed interest in improving customer service; she has experience with several volunteer organizations.

At the conclusion of the Board meeting, in executive session, Bill moved that we recommend Mark Johnson be presented to the Commissioners for approval to fill the unexpired term recently vacated by Chance Landon. His term expires 12/31/2024. Jamey Jo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. A separate motion was made by Margaret Viebrock, seconded by Jamey Jo, that Liz Marlow be offered a position on the Operating Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

2. **Committee Reports:**

- a. **Livestock Committee** – Funds are coming in from the livestock sale, but we are not yet to the point of being able to pay exhibitors. Most of the judging results have been entered. Betsy Schweitzer has volunteered to be the Open Class Horse Barn Superintendent. Because of growth in the livestock exhibits during the past two years, and a good likelihood for potential increase in livestock exhibits in upcoming years, a proposal was presented to the Commissioners to renovate the Open Class Horse Barn. This has been an under-utilized facility, and we do not want to be in the position of turning exhibitors away due to the lack of stalls. The request was approved, and the stalls have been removed and debris cleared away. The skirting needs to be replaced with pressure-treated boards, which will be done next week. We are faced with raising funds for a solid surface (cement preferable, but potentially asphalt). Shavings piled over a dirt surface are not conducive to fairgoers and will prohibit access by those with strollers, walkers and/or wheelchairs or scooters.
- b. **Rodeo & Rodeo Committees** – This was not discussed. There will be a meeting with Carolyn on October 15 for the Race and Rodeo committees.
- c. **Entertainment** – The committee is planning events for the next year. Offers have been made for artists.
- d. **Operations** – A focus group will be formed regarding the process, implementation, pros, cons, etc. They can meet and develop recommendations to be presented to the Board. A date needs to be selected for an initial meeting. An email will be sent to all sill life barn superintendents to determine who might be interested in participating in the focus group. Board members interested should contact Carolyn or Karina.

e. Ramon's Report

- The goat/sheep and hog barns have not yet been demolished. The bids came in at more than \$600,000 and are being reevaluated.
- Renovation of the baking barn is proceeding. The building has been gutted as far as they can because of the train display. They are waiting for that group to move the trains out of the way, so they are not inadvertently damaged.
- General maintenance needed around the fairgrounds: If you see something that is broken or needs attention, please let Ramon know about it as you see it. Please do not wait until the last minute to bring it to someone's attention.

3. Super positions needing filled:

- a. Open Class Arts & Crafts

4. Upcoming events:

- Cowboy Brunch will be held on December 7. They are finalizing the menu. The FFA members from Mansfield will help again this year as they did last year.
- Cowboy Christmas will be held on December 14.
- We have formally notified the Tillicum Riders that we will not be using their services for the 2025 crab feed. The Friends of the Fair will take over this responsibility.

5. Thursday Admission during NCW Fair: Carolyn has been researching other fairs and the success they have had with the inclusion of a "free admission" day. Some have reported that this is a money-maker for them; although admission is free of charge, families have come and utilized food vendors, the carnival, etc. because it was "free." We would need sponsors to cover the lack of revenue generated by ticket sales that day and have approached two possible sponsors under the theme of "ag education for all". We would need four sponsors to assure that the lack of gate receipt revenue would be covered.

6. Upcoming Annual Meeting: The need for a nominating committee was discussed. Sheri and Margaret volunteered to be on the committee. The offices of President and Vice President are open for election. Carolyn will notify those board members whose terms are expiring regarding their decision to renew their position for another term.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. The next board meeting will be held on November 14, 2024.

Ann Whitehall, Secretary