

**Benton County Fair Board Meeting  
Monday March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 6:00 pm  
Benton County Event Center & Fairgrounds,  
Auditorium Building 110 SW 53rd Street, Corvallis OR 97355**

**Fair Board Members Present: Kristi Schrock Chair, Zel Brook, Mark Stephens, Craig Hendrickson**

**Liaison Present: Commissioner Pat Malone**

**NAPE Staff: Jesse Ott NAPE Director, Jennifer Martin Fairgrounds Manager  
Kerri Sellers Mandelkow Admin Asst.**

**Guests:**

**Schrock called the meeting to order at 18:02 hrs.**

**1. Review of Agenda and Previous Meeting Minutes (March 16<sup>th</sup>,2026)**

- **Motion:** To approve the agenda and March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026, meeting minutes
  - **Motion by:** Zel Brook
  - **Second by:** Craig Hendrickson
  - **Outcome:** Motion passed unanimously

**2. Citizen Comments**

**Schrock** noted no citizens in attendance and moved into discussion.

**Jesse** shared feedback from the Winter Market coordinators, reporting a highly successful season. The coordinators expressed strong satisfaction with the new pole building and indicated interest in expanding their footprint next year. Future discussions are planned to determine how this expansion will align with existing RV storage.

**3. Director / Fairgrounds Manager Report**

**Jesse's Report:**

**Well System Update**

- **Jesse** reported that **Doug** installed pressure tanks and a check valve on Eric Thompson's well.
- Electrical housing was also installed at RV Site #1
- The total project cost was under \$1,000.
- Laminated signage has been created for water cannons, instructing users not to operate more than one at a time; this will also be incorporated into training protocols.
- This project is now complete and may be removed from the to-do list.

**Auction Committee Meeting: March 30<sup>th</sup>,2026**

- **Jesse** reported reviewing the Auction Committee agenda and prior meeting minutes.
- **Craig Hendrickson:** noted that the agenda includes several planned improvements and purchases for the auction area, including:
  - Updated signage (Dowless Pavilion sign and Lee Allen Auction sign)
  - Asphalt and drainage improvements (south end of the goat area and under the pavilion)
  - Installation of new electrical outlets (west side of the sheep area)

- Construction of a concrete pad (shavings bins area)
- Purchase of new bleachers for the auction area
- Request for seven additional brown panels for turkey enclosures
- **Jesse** reported that the fairgrounds are nearing completion of a full LED lighting conversion.
- The auditorium received electrical upgrades to support vendor placement outside the facility
- The Solar Building has been outfitted with additional 50-amp plugs.
- **Scott Nolan** completed directional signage for the fairgrounds

#### **Jennifer's Report:**

##### **New Events Ideas**

- **Jennifer** would like to plan a Mother's Day Brunch and is seeking sponsorships, particularly for decorations.
- **Mark Stephens** suggested contacting the Spaghetti Factory as a potential sponsor.
- **Jennifer** is also reaching out to non-fair sponsors for support of new events.
- **Craig Hendrickson** suggested G Christianson Construction as a potential sponsorship
- **Zel Brook** suggested reaching out to the Chamber of Commerce for leads on sponsorships
- **Jesse and Jennifer** discussed a lower cost alternative event for Mother's Day like a DIY planter- hanging basket
- **Craig Hendrickson** suggested Rotary Clubs or the Elks Lodge as potential sponsors
- Additional event ideas proposed by **Jennifer** include a Holiday Craft Fair, a Halloween "Monster Ball,"
- **Marck Stephens** revisited the Barn dance with line dancing concept.
- **Kristi Schrock** suggested hosting an NW Stampede event at the fairgrounds.

##### **Dog Town Event**

- **Jennifer** reported that the promoter and fairgrounds were unable to reach an agreement; therefore, the event will not take place at this time.
- **Jesse** added that County Counsel had concerns regarding the promoter's requests.

##### **Witham Horse and Cow event**

- **Jennifer and Kristi Schrock** met with **Patrick Witham** to discuss hosting recurring events.
  - **Kristi Schrick:** described the concept as a sorting event involving horses and cattle.
  - A key requirement is access to rentable portable stalls.
  - **Kristi Schrock** will remeasure the indoor arena to confirm adequate space
  - Proposed timing is June, Friday through Sunday
  - **Patrick Witham** expressed interest in establishing this as an annual series of 4–5 events

##### **Miscellaneous items:**

- **Doug** is rebuilding the 4-H information booth and the Irish Bend Covered Bridge
- **Zel Brook** offered sheet metal roofing.
- **Committee Updates:**
  - **Business Development Committee:** Has not met; plans are underway to schedule a meeting.
  - **Facilities Committee** Has not met
    - **Jesse** reported contacting LRS, the design firm responsible for the master plan, to explore adding a permanent main stage as a potential amendment.
  - **Fair Committee:** Has not met; a meeting is planned to discuss artists for next year's fair.
  - **Rodeo Committee:** Has not met; will meet next week to prepare for the Spring Stampede on May 16, 2026.

##### **Other Reports:**

- **Jennifer** reported hosting "Fair College" at the fairgrounds and recognized **Kristi Schrock, Nicole Schrick,** and **Rylee Henderer** for their presentations.
- **Kristi Schrock:** **Kristi Schrock** provided a Queen update:
  - Jessica attended the Clackamas County Queen Coronation in Canby.
  - She is preparing for the Spring Stampede and Newport Royalty Days.
  - The PIO met with Jessica and published an article in the Philomath News and on social media

**Lou (4-H Liaison):** reported:

- Recognized the repairs are underway on wash racks.
- A 4-H presentation contest was held the previous week.
- Upcoming events include a beef clinic (April 18) and Horse and Dog pre-fair (May 2–3)
  
- **Commissioner Malone** distributed the *Visit Corvallis Magazine* to board members
- He also discussed **the 99-Vine bus** and expansion plans for the Eugene Airport.
  
- **Craig Hendrickson** suggested having a flag football event.

Adjournment: 19:00 pm

Next Meeting: **April 20th, 2026 (joint meeting with BC Fair Foundation)**

The Fair Board may call an executive session when necessary pursuant to ORS 192.660. The Board is not required to provide advance notice of an executive session. However, every effort will be made to give notice of an executive session. If an executive session is the only item on the agenda for the Board meeting, notice shall be given as for all public meetings (ORS 192.640(2)) and the notice shall state the specific reason for the executive session as required by ORS 192.660. The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting to the Fairgrounds Office (541)766-6521.