Columbia County Fair Board Meeting
Wednesday September 9, 2026
6:30 p.m. Fair office
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Meeting ID: 217 046 048 412 4
Passcode: df2ng2Pp

The Columbia County Fair Board met in a regularly scheduled session with Peggy Howell, Jennifer Plahn, Henry Heimuller, Mary Ann Guess, Jaime Urwin and Branden Staehely

CALL TO ORDER
Peggy Howell called meeting to order at 6:30pm

Henry and Jennifer gave a report that we had to move the board meeting to the fair office as the Warren Grange was being used as an emergency site for families who were displaced due to the fire in their building. The apartments across from Walmart caught fire.

APPROVE AGENDA
Henry moved to approve agenda, Branden 2nd, motion passed.

VISITOR COMMENTS – 5 MINUTE LIMIT
Eva said they moved all lumber and she sprayed for weeds.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Ratify the invoices for August 2026 -Henry moved to ratify the invoices, Jennifer 2nd, motion passed
B. Approve Fair Board minutes for August 10, 2026, and the Work Session minutes for August 26, 2026, Jennifer moved to approve the minutes for Board meeting and the work session for August 26, Jaime 2nd, motion carried..

COMMITTEES:

Rodeo Court Committee -Kaley Pearson mentioned these are her last months and she attended the Clackamas fair and Canby rodeo, on the fairs veterans day and her outfit was all red, white and blue. She'll be attending Tillamook and next week the Pendelton Round Up.
Jesse mentioned she had scheduled the queen's coronation for the next couple of years and asked if we would waived all fees. Henry moved to waive the fees for the next two years, Branden 2nd, motion passed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 4-H –- Woody said the 4-H is alive and well. they will start their new year on October 1. He said they had kids attend the state fair. not as many but understands the costs involved. He is expecting an increase in enrollment this coming year and will need to look at the capacity of the buildings.

- Heather Epperly - Mary Ann presented her request for this year's Christmas event on Dec 16, and asked to waive the fees. -check last years rental. Henry moved to accept this years rental application like we did last year. Mary Ann 2nd , motion passed.

- Rental Agreement discussion to increase deposit for pavilion to 2500 and alcohol to 500. – the Hood to Coast rental did not use their garbage container and used ours. All 4 containers were overflowing. we voted to lock up the extra bids – Jennifer motioned to increase the rental deposit for the pavilion to 2500.00 and the alcohol to 500.00 Henry 2nd motion passed.

- Peggy talked about changing the rental fees for the arenas. Jaime said she would do the homework and see what other places charge for their rentals on arenas. Henry mentioned we would need to get the cost from Dale to work both arenas. Jaime mentioned you need both arenas. Henry mentioned it would be great if they would volunteer their time to work them both. There was discussion if we would have to work them all year long , if we have the right equipment. We would charge them for site preparation. Jaime suggest using the monkey survey and will come up with the questions. Also discussed the fee for cleaning the stalls. It was suggested to make it over $100.00 or people would leave without cleaning them. She mentioned many have the 4-H clubs clean them

and the club would charge for this, There will be more discussion.

- Maintenance Report Henry said the tractor has been repaired – the underground conduit to racetrack has been laid and is ready for PUD. He ordered the new leaf vacuum and should be in next week. The A/C in the Warren Grange building has been replaced and is working. Darrin and Robert are doing good and preparing for winter. Tires have been removed. The total cost was 1935.15 plus the labor that we had our temp workers do. Probably close to $1000.00 plus Les Schwab's invoice. We were able to remove a lot of trash.

  Treasurer Report – Mary Ann gave the total balance of $141,611.03. Also, the attendance at this past fair was 33,388 not counting the rodeo court and flag team.

  Gate 2 – It was decided to dummy lock the gate and inform the people that were evacuated. Kevin was concerned that his contact information is not easily accessible. It probably should be on the gates as well.

  Henry brought up Woody's proposal to name the pole barn The Butch Guess Memorial Show Pavilion. Henry moved to accept name, Jennifer 2nd, motion passed.

  Jaime mentioned we talked about discussing having local artists and having them in a separate area. We wrote it on the board with the other items that will be discussed.
- Peggy talked about staff having badges and talked with Carrie in HR. She mentioned Public Health was getting rid of their machine and we could have it. She would help us work the machine if needed.
- She went to the state fair meeting, and some fairs did good and some did poorly. The state suggested we have a local talent show. Could have categories for kids, adults and groups. WFA is in Las Vegas. Jennifer would like to see the cost of going to the fair college rather than a convention. It was also suggested we have a 501 c 3.The Friends of fair is one.

With nothing further to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 7:40.