



Crook County Fair Board Minutes  
Fair Board Meeting: 5:30 pm, January 13th, 2025  
1280 S. Main St., Prineville, OR 97754  
Telephone 541-447-6575

The regular meeting of the Crook County Fair Board was called to order on January 13th, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Gail Merritt.

**ROLL CALL/BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDING**

- Gail Merritt, Chair
- Mike Kasberger, Vice Chair
- Stanley Flynn
- Casey Kaiser
- Larry Blanton
- Mike McCabe
- Linda Cross

**STAFF ATTENDING**

Casey Daly, Manager

Haley Crow, Administrative Assistant

**GUESTS:** Angela Ostrander, Candi Bothum, Kyle Erickson, James Staniford, Robby Lane, Carmin Shelton, Rebecca Keegan, Gina Hallam, Reaza Hacker, Ashley Pieratt, Elizabeth Webb, Nancy Condron, Amber Quimby, and Kim Griffin

**PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- Mike K asks for clarification on the water rights motion. Mike K motions to approve the December 16th meeting minutes as presented, Stanley seconds, no further discussion. The motion carries. Larry Blanton abstains, as he wasn't a Board member at the time of the December 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. *Mike McCabe arrived shortly after this motion was made and voted on, so his vote is not recorded.*

Board Member	"Yes" Vote	"No" Vote	Abstains
Casey Kaiser	X		
Linda Cross	X		
Mike Kasberger	X		
Larry Blanton			X
Stanley Flynn	X		
Gail Merritt	X		

- **No public comments that aren't related to agenda items.**
- **Chair and Vice Chair Elections:** Stanley motions to keep Gail Merritt as Chair and Mike Kasberger as Vice Chair, Casey K seconds, no discussion. The motion carries.

Board Member	“Yes” Vote	“No” Vote	Abstains
Casey Kaiser	X		
Linda Cross	X		
Mike Kasberger	X		
Larry Blanton	X		
Mike McCabe	X		
Stanley Flynn	X		
Gail Merritt	X		

- **February Fair Board Meeting Date:** Regular meeting date falls on a holiday. The new meeting date will be February 10<sup>th</sup>, the Monday before the holiday.
- **Reducing Damage & Cleaning Deposit Amount for Events with Alcohol:** Casey explains that the \$1800 Damage & Cleaning Deposit for events with alcohol is deterring some smaller groups from booking their events here due to the steep cost. Haley explains that the high deposit also came about when private parties were not allowed to serve alcohol, and permitted vendors were required. If someone didn't pay the commissions from vending, the Fairgrounds could keep some of that deposit. For small private parties, there is no risk that would require the \$1800 deposit. Haley recommends implementing a \$700 deposit for small private parties. Stanley motions to adjust the Damage & Cleaning Deposit for events with 100 people or fewer to be \$700, Linda C second; the motion carries.

Board Member	“Yes” Vote	“No” Vote	Abstains
Casey Kaiser	X		
Linda Cross	X		
Mike Kasberger	X		
Larry Blanton	X		
Mike McCabe	X		
Stanley Flynn	X		
Gail Merritt	X		

- **Opening the Indoor Arena for Sports Practice:** Haley opens the discussion for the Board to determine whether or not they want to open the Indoor Arena for sports teams during the winter months. The IA is currently closed Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings for local equestrian groups to practice. We also host basketball practice in Grizzly and dog obedience in the Breezeway. Haley will put out feelers for who might be interested in using the arena for sports teams.
  - Larry Blanton confirms that the groups using the facilities should provide proof of liability insurance.
- **Fair Livestock Judges – Sales Committee:** Casey wants to memorialize that the Sales Committee will be taking on the management, recruitment, and fees/fee schedule associated with the Fair livestock judges that judge animals that will go through auction (and breeding projects). Judges will be shared with Open Class, dairy, as much as possible. Meta has agreed to cover the costs of remaining livestock, horse, dog, wool/fiber, and static judges. The Fair Board will choose the fee schedule for the judges that the Sales Committee is not managing. Mike K motions that the Sales Committee be responsible for the recruitment, management, and costs associated with the market judges for Fair and the non-sale judges will be paid for by Meta, Stanley seconds; the motion carries.

Board Member	“Yes” Vote	“No” Vote	Abstains
Casey Kaiser	X		
Linda Cross	X		

Mike Kasberger	X		
Larry Blanton	X		
Mike McCabe	X		
Stanley Flynn	X		
Gail Merritt	X		

- **Fair Livestock Entry Fee Changes for 2025:** Casey explains that Commissioner Hermreck came to the Fair Board and asked them to find ways to cut costs or raise revenue in the Fair budget, and there were several ideas. One is to raise the pen fee for 4-H and FFA to \$5 for small animals, \$10 for sheep/goat/swine, and \$20 for beef/horse. They will be called entry fees rather than pen fees so we capture revenue from the heads entered into Fair. 4-H leadership has expressed that the entry fee would be a hardship for those with small animals (25 kids brought 3+ animals last year). We haven't raised pen fees in over 13 years (exhibitors paid per species, not pen).
  - Candi Bothum expresses that the impact would be more than just the small animal exhibitors. Reaza notes that families with multiple kids would have a difficult time affording the proposed fee structure. Angela says that changing this fee structure with such little notice may deter families from participating in Fair.
  - Casey will set up a meeting after the Hoedown to discuss all scenarios with the group present and any other interested parties.
- **2025 Fair Livestock Show Schedule:** Reaza put together a sample schedule where livestock shows start early on Wednesday of Fair, and Case believes this is doable and respectful of the exhibitor numbers. The Fairgrounds will try to have a food vendor available for the full day Wednesday for families coming to watch the Wednesday shows.
- **Free Bull Ride & Barrel Race during Fair:** Case is in the early stages of scheduling benefit barrel races on Wednesday evening and a bull ride for Thursday evening. This will affect parking and camping. More info to come.

## REPORTS:

- **Fair Board Members:**
  - **Mike McCabe:** nothing to report.
  - **Stanley Flynn:** nothing to report.
  - **Mike Kasberger:** nothing to report.
  - **Linda Cross:** nothing to report.
  - **Casey Kaiser:** nothing to report.
  - **Larry Blanton:** I would like to be a part of the discussion regarding the entry fees for Fair.
  - **Gail Merritt:** nothing to report.
- **Hoedown Committee Update:** Tickets sold: 157 (goals is 130 more), tables: 16 (goal is 9 more), auction items pledged: 44 (no more needed), Posie Shoppe is donating all the flowers for the centerpieces, Cody's Country Catering will be doing the staffed buffet, Erickson's donated the water, Linda is organizing the desserts, security has been contract, auctioneer has been contracted, Court Priday and the Lord Walley Band will do the music, Mark Mobley will MC, there will be a 20x20 tent for silent auction items, two additional portable toilets, additional tables & chairs from Parks & Rec if needed.
- **Administrative Assistant Report:** Haley distributes the first draft of the Premium Book, design based off the 1958 PB. Fair marketing will be based on this style. She is also pulling old advertisements from local businesses that were in old Crook County premium books and use the vintage ads for this year's book. She also found recipes submitted by people who still live in this town and old contests to incorporate. The "Timeless Traditions" theme can also be used by exhibitors to show their family's Fair history. The second item on the agenda is not ready.

- **Manager’s Report:** Eagle roofing came back out after we found new leaks in the Indoor Arena kitchen, and Marshall Bex also brought his roofer out to do an inspection. Casey met with the County attorney to go over the proposed draft of the Crooked River Roundup agreement. Picnic tables are being assembled soon. New pickup should be here in January. Casey will be attending the Western Fairs Association convention in Reno. There were 4 non-revenue-generating events held since the last meeting: OHSET, Central Oregon SWAT team active shooter training, Search & Rescue Posse, and Winter Formal.
- **Financial Report:** Found in the “Reports” tab. Revenue for December is \$132,114, expenses were \$39k for goods & services and \$31k for everything else. The \$2M report is behind the December financials. We will be adding cameras to our fuel tank area. No questions from the Board on the financials.
- Kim Griffin asks for clarification on the entry fees for Open Class Livestock; Casey and Haley confirm that fee changes would be across the board if moved to a per-head fee structure.
- Stanley motions to adjourn the meeting, Mike K seconds; the motion carries.

Board Member	“Yes” Vote	“No” Vote	Abstains
Casey Kaiser	X		
Linda Cross	X		
Mike Kasberger	X		
Larry Blanton	X		
Mike McCabe	X		
Stanley Flynn	X		
Gail Merritt	X		

**ACTION ITEM(S):**

- The Fair Board approved the December 16<sup>th</sup> minutes.
- The Fair Board voted to keep Gail Merritt as Chair of the Board and Mike Kasberger as Vice Chair.
- The Fair Board voted to adjust the Damage & Cleaning Deposit for parties of 100 or fewer that are serving alcohol to be \$700.
- The Fair Board voted that the Sales Committee be responsible for the recruitment, management, and costs associated with the market judges for Fair and the non-sale judges will be paid for by Meta.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting Date: February 10th, 2025 @ 5:30 p.m. in the Fairgrounds Office Board Room.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Haley Crow

2/6/2025