

**Minutes of Wednesday, November 19th, 2025  
El Paso County Fair Board Meeting**

- Board Members:** Michael Publicker, Jeff Lapsansky, Grant Harris, Wade Canaday, Ed Dills, Kate Johnson, Felicia Publicker, Michael Miller
- Associate Members:** Teresa Lamothe
- Staff:** Todd Marts, Theresa Odello, Andschana Aljets, Adam Baker, Dana Nordstrom, Amy Jo Fields, Skye Bogle, Jennifer Loewen
- Guests:** Sheila Canaday, John Hill, Patty Woodard, Kelvin Dean, Randy Hudson, Moriah Hudson

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Michael Publicker a 6:31p.m. We welcomed everyone and introduced ourselves.

**Agenda Items & Meeting Minutes**

Grant Harris made a motion to approve the November 2025 Meeting Minutes and December 2025 Meeting Agenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ed Dills.

**Public Comments**

- None

**Board and Staff Comments**

- None

**Action Items:**

**4.A.** Patty Woodard presented the annual Jr. Livestock Committee Report which included a detailed breakdown of the lots sold during sale, but also a complete annual finance report. Highlights included that even with 9 fewer lots at Fair, there was an increase of \$28'000 in revenue, and there was an increase of donations to the P4HO program. The inaugural Golf Scramble fundraiser was a success, and the committee raised \$12'000 which will go towards improving facility upgrades for the fairgrounds and 4-H. Something the committee is working towards is growing their buyer base; even though we have 372 registered buyers, only 59 of those made purchases at the sale. The Jr. Livestock Committee was also able to award two \$1000 tuition scholarships.

**4.B.** Andschana presented the 2026 County Fair Pin Design for endorsement. There were two different options, option 1 (round pin design) and option 2 (square pin design). Ed Dills made a motion to endorse option 1 for the 2026 El Paso County Fair Pin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kate Johnson. The motion carried with one objection by Grant Harris.

**4.C.** Theresa Odello presented the 2026 Meeting Schedule for endorsement. The meetings schedule remains at meeting every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month with exception of the July meeting which was moved to the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday to avoid overlapping with the El Paso County Fair. Grant Harris made a motion to endorse the 2026 Meeting Schedule for the Fair Advisory Board, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Felicia Publicker, the motion carried with no objection.

**4.D.** Moriah Hudson presented the 4-H/FFA Awardee Presentation and shared with us how she used the award funds. Moriah Hudson was able to purchase a new horse to continue with her horse project. She was also able to breed her gilt with a boar from a breeder which will grow her knowledge for her Swine project. Moriah is excited to continue learning and is grateful for 4-H/FFA for giving her this opportunity for continued growth and being able to give back to the community.

**4.C.** Theresa Odello presented the 2026 Meeting Schedule for endorsement. The meetings schedule remains at meeting every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month with exception of the July meeting which was moved to the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday to avoid overlapping with the El Paso County Fair. Grant Harris made a motion to endorse the 2026 Meeting Schedule for the Fair Advisory Board, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Felicia Publicker, the motion carried with no objection.

**4.E.** Theresa Odello presented the Fairground Corporation Funding for endorsement. The Fairground corporation is allocating \$70'000 to go toward Fair support & programming, facility repairs and improvements and non-fair programming. Grant Harris made a motion to endorse the Fairground Corporation Funding, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wade Canaday, the motion carried with no objection.

**4.F.** Skye Bogle presented the 2025 RMAF report. Highlights included networking opportunities with fair professionals, entertainment and agent contacts and the educational sessions. The sessions focused on vendors and website building were high points of the conference and will help the Fair staff implement some more best practices. Skye also shared that several awards were won by the fair & fairgrounds team.

**4.G.** Andschana Aljets presented the 2025 IAFE report. The learning sessions and networking opportunities were highlighted as some of the most valuable time spent at IAFE. The tradeshow is also an important factor since this is where we have met most of our past and current entertainment and it gives staff a chance to see their act, speak with the entertainers and agents directly and build a relationship before they even come to the fairgrounds. Andschana also shared that several awards were won by the fair & fairgrounds team.

## **Committee Reports**

**5.A.** Adam Baker shared updates from the Grounds Committee. The main update was a meeting he had with the HVAC team to discuss cooling in the Grandstands building, the cooling in Whittemore and heating in the Livestock Arena Building. There will be a follow-up meeting in the new year to discuss in more detail and get some cost estimates.

**5.B.** Andschana Aljets shared updates from the Programming Committee. Their focus was on their second action item which is to “add contest event to specifically include/invite elected officials and county entities in competition.”. The committee has come up with several ideas and those have been submitted to the Executive Committee and County Leadership for review and approval. Other items included the execution of several entertainment contracts and other contracts having been sent out for finalization.

**5.C.** Skye Bogle shared updates from the Vendor Committee. They have completed their fourth action item “develop a vendor FAQ sheet” which has been added to the El Paso County Fair & Events Center website on the FAQ page and Vendor page. There is also a print version which will be handed out to vendors at Fair. Another update is on action item five which is to “explore hosting a farmer’s market during Fair”. Ed Dills has put us in contact with Adam Smith from Smith Famrs and a meeting is planned for mid-January.

A reminder email went out to all previous Fair vendors for 2026, and we are getting more emails and applications for the 2026 Fair.

**5.D.** Dana Nordstrom shared updates from the Sponsorship committee. They are 32% to their goal and more contracts have gone out.

**5.E.** Amy Jo Fields shared updates from the Marketing & Queen Committee. Their focus is on action item one “creating a photo/souvenir opportunity with the Fair Queen”, which they are now brainstorming. Another action item in progress is item five “explore incorporating storytelling elements” which the committee is looking to incorporate into the Fair social media campaign.

Kate Johnson shared queen updates, highlighting the Fair Queen Clinic on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**5.F.** Jeff Lapsansky shared updates from the Executive Committee. They have been working on developing historical plaques for the fairground buildings. The committee has also been reviewing the contest submission from the programming committee. They also suggested creating a ‘Commissioner Choice Award’ to engage our elected officials further in the Fair.

**Miscellaneous Reports**

**6.A.** Skye Bogle shared the Facility Use/Non-Fair programming report, highlighting the Eastern Plains Community Pantry (EPCP) Toy Drive event. The EPCP giveaway event will be happening at the Fairgrounds on December 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. She also shared the upcoming January events such as the Fair Queen Clinic on January 3<sup>rd</sup> and Winter Skate day on January 17<sup>th</sup>. She also shared the various rentals and programs that have been happening on the Fairgrounds.

**6.B.** Jennifer Loewen presented the 4-H/CSU Extension report, highlighting their current programming updates. They have School visits planned for the National Western Stock Show and about 12'200 kids are signed up and over 3'000 chaperones which is a great opportunity for them to learn more about 4-H. The 4-H team is also working on their Fair action items, and Jennifer shared updates on action item 1 "explore options for a 4-H table-top sale", which is that a committee has been formed to create the vendor market.

**6.C.** Theresa Odello reminded the Fair Advisory Board that the gate fee agenda item will be on the January Agenda for review and that elections will be held as well.

**Next Meeting:** Fair Advisory Board meeting, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:30pm – Swink Hall  
Michael Publicker adjourned the meeting at 7:25pm.

**Recommended Motion:**

\_\_\_\_\_ moves to endorse the Minutes of the Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Fair Advisory Board Meeting and the and January 2026 Agenda.

\_\_\_\_\_ seconds the motion to endorse.