
**Fremont County Fair Board
Minutes
April 10, 2025**

The Fremont County Fair Board met April 10, 2025 at the Fremont Center Boardroom, in Riverton, Wyoming. Board members present were Nikki Horton, Trevor Bekken, Kourtney Hanger, Alex Eckhardt, Rob Dolcater and Megan Jones, Jeremy Vukich was absent. Staff present were, Fair Manager Pat Hart and Laura Harrington, Administrative Assistant.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by President Trevor Bekken

Trevor Bekken led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pat Hart gave the board prayer

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Rob Dolcater moved to approve the April 10, 2025 agenda; Alex Eckhardt seconded; motion passed unanimously.

II. PATRONS

Cori Slingerland one of three Horse Show Superintendents was present to give an update on the Horse Show. She reported that the Horse Show will take place at the Annex facility this year. She and the other Superintendents Jessie Whitlock and Haylee Lavoie will be getting a list to Pat Hart and Alex Eckhardt addressing safety and maintenance issues they feel need to be addressed prior to the horse show. Cori shared some of her history and qualifications as a very capable horse woman. Cori has secured judges for the Horse Show.

III. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes from the March 13, 2025 Fremont County Fair Board Meeting.
- Financial Review: Approval of current bills and financial report.
- Alcohol Permits: none

The Board expressed concern about past due bills and how the process of paying bills was handled. Laura Harrington explained the process of receiving the mail and vouchering the bills each day and the purchase of a desk top scanner to scan the bills at that time. She also explained the different account numbers for the three fair budgets. Pat explained how one of the electric meters at the Annex with a past due amount of \$3284.68 had not been added to the paper bill so it had not been paid. The board would like Laura to have access to the bills and invoices that come by email since she is the one who vouchers the bills. Alex Eckhart suggested creating an email specifically for bills and invoices that way it can be accessed by multiple staff

members. Kourtney Hanger asked about creating a spreadsheet to keep track of bills. She also suggested going online and naming the meters to avoid confusion. Nikki was told by an Ace Hardware employee that the boards bill had not been paid in several months. Laura reported that the Ace manager had called the previous day asking for payment. He said invoices and statements had been emailed to Pat. Pat stated that some deposits were not made and bills may have been missed when she was out due to her husband's medical condition. The Ace bill was paid with the Mastercard. Nikki Horton suggested making bank deposits weekly. Pat stated she has an alarm to remind herself to make deposits every other week. Kourtney suggested doing electronic deposits. Laura said that she takes in a lot of cash that would still need to be deposited at the bank. Laura explained that she closes out their register every Friday evening or Monday morning for each week. Auditors would prefer that the person taking money in not be the one doing the deposits and if possible, another person delivering deposits to bank. Trevor suggested that the board receive the board packets a few days in advance of the meeting. Laura stated that she could send the board a weekly email with the bills that are received each week. Megan Jones moved to accept the Consent Agenda, seconded by Rob Dolcater; motion passed.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

None

V. EX-OFFICIO BOARD REPORTS

- **Commissioner Liaison** – Commissioner Allen was not present
- **Fremont County Extension** – Nikki said that Tanya Santee reported that the 4-H Council would like to have banners for senior 4-H and FFA members displayed on the grounds during fair. Nikki Horton moved to allow the banners to be hung during fair seconded by Alex Eckhardt; motion passed.
- **Wind River Extension** – Applications are still open for this position.

VI. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Royalty Committee** – Piper Loomis reviewed the Royalty's budget with the board. Nikki Horton moved to approve the budget, seconded by Alex Eckhardt; motion passed. The budget was included in the board packets.
- **Youth Ambassadors** - There will be no ambassadors this year.
- **Junior Livestock Sale Board** – Megan Sims reported that the budget was set. They approved getting more fans and swamp coolers for the show pavilion. There are a couple of steers that need to be retagged. Megan Jones, Walt Neil and Jared Hamilton will be attending Showworks training in Cody on Friday April 11. Tagging will be June 3 in Riverton & June 5th in Lander. Next Sale Board meeting will be April 28th.
Junior Show Advisory Committee – Pat sent out the revised Horse Show rules for the committee to review.
- **Friends of the Fremont County Fair** -Wendell VonKrosigk reported that the Barn Bash raised approximately \$70,000.00. They are working on preparing for the Jackpot show. There was one bid received for the predesign on the barn. They would like the Fair Board to attend the next Friends of Fair meeting to discuss the bid. He stated the engineering firm would find grants for the project for \$5000.00. The next meeting will be on April 21 at 6pm.

VII. FAIR MANAGERS REPORT

- Concert Tickets and Mega Passes are available for purchase online and will be available for purchase in the office on May 5.
- Fair Schedule- is being finalized. Horse Show schedule will be completed next week when Pat meets with the Superintendents.
- Competition Guide -will be completed and online as soon as possible. Horse Show rules will need to be approved. The Horse Show is very similar to the State Fairs show. Due to its popularity in our area Fremont County will keep sorting which is not a State Fair event. Nikki Horton moved to approve the changes to Horse Show rules, seconded by Megan Jones, Cori Slingerland stated that a walk/trot class will be added to the local show as well and needs to be added to the guide. Nikki amended her motion to include walk /trot class. Motion passed.
- Website-The Website should be up soon. Updated colors to rust and teal.
- IAFE is conducting an economic impact study. A basic study will be done, if a more in-depth report is wanted it is \$1500.00.
- Budget- Fair is not statutory for the county as well as the museum and all libraries with the exception of the library located in the county seat. The county is facing a four-to-five-million-dollar shortfall. All departments have been asked to cut their budget by 10 percent. Offline boards are being asked to cut more. Pat stated she was told to cut \$200,000.00 dollars. The commission would like to see the annex be totally self-generated. She added that she informed the commission that fair events cannot be cut this year due to contracts already being signed. Nikki Horton suggested a budget meeting to review and discuss cuts. Pat stated the budget is due May 28 and is set to go before the commission the first of June. Pat will make her recommendations to the board and they will be discussed at a meeting. Nikki would like to see a report of all income that comes in to the fair. Pat stated that the general fund budget pays for utilities, salaries, insurance. Building rental income goes into the self-generated fund. Trevor requested a monthly budget report. Trevor expressed that there really aren't areas that can be cut within the fair's budget and that the county should be funding the Annex, adding there is no way it can be self-funded for at least three to five years. Nikki stated that there should have been an economic study prior to purchase of that facility. It was expressed that the Annex was set up to fail. Laura stated that to date approximately \$5000 to \$6000 has come in at that facility. Trevor suggested having a special meeting to discuss the Annex facility. Currently bills and wages cannot be covered with the monies that come in. Trevor commended Steve Skelton for his efforts in trying to get things going at that facility. Pat stated that other types of events need to be held at the Annex. Trevor said that the facility is set up to be an equine facility. Pat would like to purchase items to have nerf gun wars at the facility. Cori Slingerland suggested long term stall rentals to the college students due to a shortage of stalls at CWC. Pat stated that she had contact with college about that earlier. Wendell VonKrosigk suggested meeting with the 4-H Council to discuss having events using their bounce houses. Pat reported that the Annex received a \$10,000.00 grant from the Rec Board for a wash rack, Friends of Fair had talked about possibly helping to fund that project as well. She said the board needs to look at grants that can go towards things that will bring money into the facility. Steve Skelton would like to put in for a grant to build a trail course. Pat stated that she is not sure that that would bring in money, she does not want to put in for a grant for things that won't bring in money. Cori Slingerland stated that people would travel from around the state to use a permanent trail course and host their trail shows there. Cori agrees with Steve that a trail course would bring in money. Nikki Horton suggested that a budget meeting needs to be held soon in case it takes more than one meeting to get the budget settled. A budget meeting will be held on April 29th at 6PM.
- Donations-Rob expressed concern about the processes for donations coming into the fair after the process he went through to donate the water truck which required funds being run it through Friends of Fair to avoid the lengthy process of a hearing with the County Commissioners to process the funds for the truck. Pat spoke to Julie Freese and Jim Anderson about how the fair can receive

donations. She stated the issue with the truck was due to the fact that it becomes an asset. This all brings up the question, is there now a problem with award donations and sponsorships coming into the fair without going before the commissioners as unanticipated revenue. Jim and Julie will get back to Pat on the process.

- Friend of Fair MOU- has been sent to them.
- Rodeo MOU-Wind River Rodeo Roundup can meet with the board any night but Monday or Thursday. After some discussion Pat suggested that their board come to the meeting on April 29th to discuss the MOU. There are concerns about the Rodeo's Comp tickets. The fair compensates the Rodeo committee for the comp tickets that the fair gives out but the fair is not compensated for the comp tickets that the rodeo gives out. Changes to the MOU include an increase to WRRRC paying the fair 20% on tickets. Nikki Horton suggested the fair receive 20% of every ticket including comp tickets. Laura said that all tickets will clearly be marked as WRRRC comp tickets. Kourtney added that they need to pay the percentage on every comp ticket that is printed. Nikki stated that when all of the overhead is accounted for there is no profit being made on rodeo nights. Trevor Bekken said the issue of sponsorships also needs to be addressed, there are still sponsors that are upset after last years Rodeo sponsorship issues. The Fair and rodeo seeking the same sponsors also needs to be discussed. Alex Eckhardt said the key is to get to the sponsors first. Kourtney would like to see an exact outline clearly defining how the banners are removed and put back up. Pat will send that information to Nikki to review prior to the meeting.
- Riverton Chamber of Commerce After Hours will be held at the Fremont Center April 24, 5-7PM
- Spring Carnival June 4-7, Figure 8 Race June 7, Jackpot Shows June 7-9

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Update Fremont Center Project- still waiting on panels for men's restroom. Rob Dolcater asked if the contractors had been paid and what the completion date for the project was supposed to be. Pat will check with Colleen Nelson.
- Fremont Center roof project- Rocky Mountain Applicators was awarded the bid. They told Pat it probably won't be done until after fair.
- Barn Update- Nikki Horton and Tanya Santee met with the engineer for predesign walk through. The engineer's big concern was where water drainage runs. They were told that the concrete may not be salvageable without great cost. New concrete could possibly be added at a later date. She said the county will need to provide written direction on bidding the project and monies coming in for the project. There is concern about county funding and publicly sourced/crowd funded monies and how the process would work. She would like the county to give clear direction on this. Rob stated monies cannot be borrowed because you can not indebt a board. Suggested ideas for raising funds are crowd sourcing and selling the Annex. Nikki feels a committee should be formed to bring recommendations to the board. She would like a visual image to put out to start raising money at Spring Fair. Specific fund raising can be done at Fair including Calcutta funds. The walk through will be discussed further at the Friends of Fair meeting.
- Annex- was discussed during Pat's report
- City of Riverton's request for land transfer- Pat has not heard from the city. Megans Jones said she would reach out to the city.
- Next work session will be May 5th
- **Counting down....107 days until Race Ewe to the Fair 2025 Fremont County Fair**

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- The vet office has been listed for rent for a year with little interest. Rob Dolcater suggested selling the building. Nikki Horton said she believed it should be sold so the board does not have to continue paying utilities on it. She added that there would have to be an agreement that the

building must be moved in a certain amount of time or the buyer forfeits their money. Trevor asked how to go about selling it. He asked if the selling of the building could be part of the budget cuts. Nikki suggested listing it on public purchase (surplus auction) with a reserve. Extension using the space was brought up but they did not seem interested. If that were to happen the county would have to take over utilities on the building.

IX. Executive Session

Nikki Horton moved to go into executive session for personnel at 8:07PM, seconded by Alex Eckhardt; motion carried.

Nikki Horton moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Rob Dolcater; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:55PM

Next Meeting

The next Board Meeting will be held on **Thursday, May 8, at 6:00 p.m.**, in Riverton, in the Classroom, Fremont Center, at the fairgrounds.

Trevor Bekken, Fair Board President

Alex Eckhardt, Fair Board Secretary