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**Fremont County Fair Board  
Minutes  
August 7, 2025**

The Fremont County Fair Board met August 7, 2025 at the Fremont Center Boardroom, in Riverton, Wyoming. Board members present were Trevor Bekken, Kourtney Hanger, Alex Eckhardt, Megan Jones, Rob Dolcater and Jeremy Vukich, Nikki Horton was absent. Staff present were, Laura Harrington Administrative Assistant and Rick Wilmes Ground & Maintenance. General Manager Pat Hart was absent.

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by President Trevor Bekken

Trevor Bekken led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Laura Harrington gave the board prayer

**I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Alex Eckhardt moved to approve the August 7, 2025 agenda; Jeremy Vukich seconded; motion passed unanimously.

**II. PATRONS**

Maralyne Middour thanked the board for giving the Hudson Library the opportunity to sell concessions and raise money to keep the Hudson library open.

Joan Eisemann reported that the campground went well. She stated that the sprinkler toys she put out were destroyed and that she didn't allow campers to set up swimming pools. She reported the concession stand went well. She was not satisfied with the Riverton FFAs clean up. Joan added that the other concessionaire under the grandstands was trying to tell groups what they could sell and what they couldn't sell. She said the cheerleaders were told they couldn't sell hamburgers and were stuck with a freezer full of unused hamburgers. Joan added that it didn't bother her because she was going to do what she was told she couldn't do because that is just how she is. She stated she was out of town on Saturday. She said the refrigerator/freezer did not work in the west concession stand.

**III. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

- Minutes from the July 10, 2025 Fremont County Fair Board Meeting.
- Financial Review: Approval of current bills and financial report.
- Alcohol Permits: Gines 9/13/2025

\*Alex Eckhardt moved to approve the consent agenda from the June 12, 2025 Board Meeting, seconded by Rob Dolcater; motion passed.

## IV. CORRESPONDENCE

None

## V. EX-OFFICIO BOARD REPORTS

- **Commissioner Liaison** – Commissioner Allen reported that the commission is continuing to work on budgets. Finalizing LATC funding, ARPA funding and special districts. They have been working on legal matters. He reported that a county employee passed away in a car accident.
- **Fremont County Extension** – Tanya Santee reported that 4-H exhibits were up this year, kids are getting ready to go to State Fair. An AI clinic was held on August 6. Tanya stated that she is going to work on getting some project dates booked and that there will be a Fall into 4-H event booked during 4-H week. Trevor thanked Tanya for her hard work and added that lots of parents and kids had made positive comments. Laura Harrington added that people who have come into the fair office have made a lot of positive comments about Tanya and the great job she is doing. Tanya said after visiting with the open class superintendents that Friends of Fair may be able to assist in getting some new displays for the open class area to make the two sides more cohesive.
- **Wind River Extension** – None Tanya believes the position has been offered to someone

## VI. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Royalty Committee** –Jeremy Vukich reported that overall, everything seemed to go well. Trevor added that the girls seemed to be very busy all week and were very helpful
- **Junior Livestock Sale Board** – Carmen Vasco reported there were 212 lots sold. Five exhibitors were able to sell 2 lots with the implementation of Junior Livestock sale rule #8. The sale brought \$908,615.30, add ons totaled \$40,434.50 bringing the grand total to \$949,049.80. The total was substantially higher than last year. Trevor Bekken stated that we should be very thankful for the community that we have. Trevor stated that the beef buy back prices really helped with the sale prices. Aethon Energy did a \$30 add on to all exhibitors. All but three thank you cards have been returned. Invoices have been sent out. Carmen thanked the Fair Board, extension and Fair Staff for their support. Their next meeting will be on August 25 at 6pm
- **Junior Show Advisory Committee** – Tanya reported that Champion Row was great. She said it was good that everyone jumped in to help. Kourtney Hanger added that the kids loved it.
- **Friends of the Fremont County Fair** -No report

## VII. FAIR MANAGERS REPORT

- Pat Hart will be out of the office for a while.
- Trevor Bekken reported that Pat stated that night event numbers seemed a little low. The August 2 Figure 8 race was a sellout.
- Pat sent thanks to the staff, fair board, extension, FFA advisors, volunteers and superintendents for their hard work. Trevor added that it is amazing all of help not only from these people but also the parents and kids that step up and help. He stated that through Fair, 4-H and FFA we are building the next leaders. We should be proud of the older kids.

## VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Update Fremont Center Roof- Should start August 12. Rick Wilmes report that Rocky Mountain applicators are still waiting on a few parts to come in. Laura added that there are some day time events that can't be interrupted. Phil told Laura there is the possibility that if there are several days that they can't work he may have to put in a change order for an extension of time. Laura stated that she would not be booking any more week day events in the building other than what's already booked until the roof is complete. Rick said he does not know what the bid or the budget is so he doesn't know who to go to if a change is more than a couple of thousand dollars. Trevor stated that Pat should be available by phone by next week. Rick said he asked Phil to look at what the least expensive fix on the grandstand roof could be. Rob asked what the bid was so Rick could be informed before the project starts. Rick will be given a copy of the bid.
- Barn Update- Rendering of what barns will look like is available. Tanya stated that the engineers had some questions about the management, she told them that Pat was going to be out and that Tanya would be at State Fair. She told them we were still waiting for some guidance on how things are to be handled. The engineers did present some phasing prices for the project. She said the infrastructure is included in the first phase, which makes the first phase more expensive than originally anticipated. They are ready to go forward with creating an RFP but are waiting for some answers as to how to proceed. Larry Allen asked if it is the new barn that he had seen a drawing of. Larry Allen stated that the County Commissioners needed to approve the project before anything could be done. Alex Eckhardt stated that the board is following the direction that was given by Mr. Allen last year that before the board could go to the commissioner they needed to have some sort of conceptual idea, she added that Friends of Fair had offered to pay for that so the Fair Board could go to the commissioners and show them what they would like to do, what it will cost and what the fund raising for the project will look like. Mr. Allen stated that the commissioners received the drawing of the project and that the other commissioners were upset about it. He said he told the other commissioners that he had not been to a meeting for some time and was waiting for final cost estimate and to see how it would be handled. Trevor Bekken said the boards intent is not to do something outside of what the county commissioners would allow or approve adding that the board is hoping to receive some private funding but before the board moves forward with anything there would need to be approval by the county commissioners be it is county assets. This was included in the letter sent to the commissioners by the Fair Board. Trevor said a discussion will need to be held as to how the project could move forward with the county and private funds. Larry added that the county is pretty well tapped out and that they have funded the fair in excess of 4 million dollars in the last three years. With the upcoming legislature the county is looking at some severe budget cuts, the possibility of layoffs and furloughs. He stated that he had informed the library not to be surprised if there ends up being one library in the county in Lander. The county can't afford to run three, the museum, road and bridge will be having supervisors running trucks. He said the legislators are not listening to the county. He said statutorily the county is required to provide transportation, law enforcement services and have one library in the county seat, a museum and solid waste otherwise cuts can be taken from anywhere else. He said there is a ballot initiative that voters can approve a 50% property tax cut which would take \$15 million from the \$28 million budget. He said that emails are not being responded to that have been sent to the county's legislators. In March they may have some sort of idea how this will shake out.
- Fair Annex- Trevor reported that a replacement for the grounds keeper will be sought when Pat Hart returns. Lloyd Bynon and Alan Sinner are helping out in the meantime.
- City Request for property- the city needs to go to County for final approval. Megan Jones will reach out to the city. Rick Wilmes asked what property is being referred to. Rob Dolcater explained what property it is. Rob asked what they would be giving for the property. Larry Allen stated that there

would be some sort of trade. He suggested giving the city a 30ft easement on the part of the property by the sale barn.

## Counting down....112<sup>th</sup> Fremont County Fair is complete

### VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- 2025 Fair Overview- Trevor said that overall, he feels like the fair went well and there is always room for improvement and a time needs to be figure out for a work session. He would like it to be after State Fair.
- Rick put the wood carvings in the Ag Hall. Trevor said a plan needs to be made on what to do with the carvings. Some will be donated to the Friends of Fair for Barn Bash.
- Laura said the biggest comment in the office this year was how beautiful the flowers were and how surprised people were to hear that Rick grows them all from seed.

### IX. Executive Session

Rob Dolcater moved to go into Executive Session for personnel issues, seconded by Alex Exchardt; motion passed.

Executive session was entered at 7:01PM

Regular session reconvened at 9:16PM

Kourtney Hanger moved to approve the consent agenda with the addition of late fees being added to the Mastercard bill after all receipts are received, seconded by Rob Dolcater; motion passed.

Kourtney Hanger moved to use the same contract details for Jermeij Schooner's contract for the August 16 Figure 8 Race as the contract signed for fair. She also moved to approve an advertising budget for the Figure 8 Race when Laura presents the board the options, seconded by Megan Sims; motion passed.

Beer Garden net sales are not completed yet. Rob asked about how much was made on the concert night. Laura presented the board with the Saffire report for ticket sales for the week. Kourtney asked why there were so many tickets that were refunded. Asking specifically about refunded mega passes. Laura explained that there was an issue with the printer and she thinks that possibly some of those could be from when the ticket printer was broken, and there could be cases where a mistake was made with a sale and it needed to be changed. There were questions about other returns as well. Laura said her guess was errors and ticket jams. Kourtney asked if complete mega passes were refunded for concert tickets. Laura stated that mega passes were a great deal and mega pass concert tickets were not refunded. She stated that it is not typically practiced to refund tickets. She offered some scenarios where a ticket could show as refunded. Laura said she thought the numbers were fairly accurate on concert tickets that were refunded. Kourtney questioned if tickets were refunded on accident. Laura said there is a record of concert tickets that were refunded. Kourtney said that she spoke with Pat the night of the concert and some orders were refunded totally and not just the concert tickets. She said Pat was supposed to get with Saffire to correct those sales. Laura said order numbers could be pulled up to see what was refunded on each order. It was asked why some preprinted tickets were ordered and some were printed in house. Laura said she did not know.

Trevor would like to see a better flow with meetings. Laura added that sometimes it is very difficult to discern what is being said when people are talking over each other. Larry suggested setting a timeline for the agenda similar to the way the County Commissioner's agendas are presented.

Alex Eckhardt moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:41PM seconded by Rob Dolcater; motion passed.

## Next Meeting

The next Board Meeting will be held on **Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.**, in Riverton, in the Classroom, Fremont Center, at the fairgrounds.

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Trevor Bekken, Fair Board President

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Alex Eckhardt, Fair Board Secretary