
**Fremont County Fair Board
Minutes
January 9, 2025**

The Fremont County Fair Board met January 9, 2025 at the Fremont Center Boardroom, in Riverton, Wyoming. Board members present were Nikki Horton, Trevor Bekken, Kourtney Hanger, Megan Jones, Alex Eckhardt and Jeremy Vukich. Rob Dolcater was absent. Staff present were, Fair Manager Pat Hart and Laura Harrington, Administrative Assistant, Rick Wilmes Grounds and Steve Skelton Annex.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Vice President Nikki Horton

Nikki Horton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pat Hart gave the board prayer

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Alex Eckhardt moved to approve the January 9, 2025 agenda; Trevor Bekken seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Jeremy Vukich was welcomed as the newest member to the Fair Board.

Exiting Board member Scott Walters was presented with a belt buckle for his five years of service on the Fair Board.

II. PATRONS

Chris Eberline came to ask the board for clarifications on how prices are set for arena and stall rentals. She would like to see stalls moved over by the arena with an honor box so people traveling through can lay over with their horses. Pat Hart explained that people can call the office if they are laying over and the gate will be left open and they can place payment in the drop box located on the front of the Fremont Center. Pat also explained that she looks at prices around the state and determines prices and presents them to the board for approval. She stated that the cost of employees and equipment have to be considered as well. Chris suggested the back gates of the arena be left unlocked for travelers to overnight. Pat explained that there is a problem with vandalism adding that the gate at the Annex facility will be left open and people can use the stalls there. Chris added that it is difficult to get in and out of the Annex with a big truck and trailer. Chris was told that the arena at the Fairgrounds would be available for the memorial rodeo at the same rate that was given to her last year.

III. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes from the December 11 ,2024 Fremont County Fair Board Meeting.

- Financial Review: Approval of current bills and financial report.
- Alcohol Permits: 1) Wild Turkey Foundation- Ralff's Bar 2) Cattlemen's Association- Cedar Bar 3) Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation- TBD

Trevor Bekken moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Kourtney Hanger; motion carried.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

None

V. EX-OFFICIO BOARD REPORTS

- **Commissioner Liaison** – Commissioner Allen was not present
- **Fremont County Extension** – Tanya Santee reported that shooting sports practices will begin January 19, horse kids have started using the Annex. There will be a shooting Sport leader training in March and a dog clinic in May at the fairgrounds. The 4-H council will be presenting a request for a dog grooming table and displays to Friends of Fair via the Fair Board soon. Tanya asked the board to be considering what they may want for display stands. She would like to offer an incentivized training for kids on the humane and ethical treatment of animals and nutrition. Tanya requested that she be made aware of rule changes for fair as soon as possible so she can get that information out to 4-H members as they start planning what their exhibits will be for fair. The 4-H carnival will be taking place Saturday January 11 at the Fremont Center. Chance is gearing up for Farm and Ranch Days February 5 & 6.
- **Wind River Extension** – none

VI. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Royalty Committee** –Piper Loomis reported that the Royalty coronation will be on January 18 in conjunction with the Gold Buckle Ball. She said the girls will begin some indoor riding practice after they get that wrapped up.
- **Youth Ambassadors**- Kathy Fillin is willing to serve on the committee
- **Junior Livestock Sale Board** – The Sale Board met on January 6th to review and make edits to their sale rules. They will get the final draft out ASAP. Cori Hamilton and Bobby Lane are willing to continue to serve on the board for another term. Wendell Vonkrosigk will be stepping down from the Board as his term has ended. There is one remaining vacancy on the Sale Board. Trevor Bekken moved to approve Cori Hamilton and Bobby Lane to serve another term on the Junior Livestock Sale Board, seconded by Jeremy Vukich; motion carried.
Tagging will take place on February 1 at the Riverton Livestock Auction, arrive at 8:30am. The Fair Boards help is needed. If an animal arrives with an 840 tag that will be the tag number used otherwise 900 tags will be used. Two families have requested to tag early due to the fact that they will be attending a livestock show that weekend. These 4 animals will be tagged a few days prior at the owner's residence.
Junior Show Advisory Committee – no report
- **Friends of the Fremont County Fair** -Wendell reported that they are working on Barn Bash. Tanya Santee reported that there were committee meetings in November and no meeting was held in December. Tickets are available for Barn Bash. There will be a drawing for \$600 in Bash Cash for those who reserve and pay for corporate table by January 15, 2025. In addition to the two tables

that are already auctioned off at the event a third table will be auctioned off with proceeds going to the scholarship program. The scholarship award winners will be invited to sit at that table this year. Friends of fair would like the Fair Board to submit their requests on what they would like to see funds go towards soon so that information can be shared at Barn Bash. The next Friends of Fair meeting will be January 27th 2025.

VII. FAIR MANAGERS REPORT

- The fence on Fairground drive was hit on January 2 a police report was filed by Rick Wilmes. Repairs will be sought through the driver’s insurance.
- Fair Annex is coming along. There are a few people signed up for membership. The key cards are being prepared and handed out. Open House will be January 31 with a lunch from 11am-1pm. The facility will remain open for people to come visit until 6pm. There will be live radio broadcasts and drawings for prizes. Pat will start advertising tomorrow. Members of the annex committee were present and had concerns. Katrena Crimm asked how the pricing was determined as it was different than what was suggested by the committee. Members have been approached being asked why membership pricing is so high. Pat reported that there will be a \$50 discount for all those who sign up for membership at the open house. Katrena also stated that committee members were unhappy with the name Annex. Trevor Bekken reminded everyone that the fair does not want to be in direct completion with the Lander arena adding that the facility will be available for the community not just equine events. Trevor stated that the board is open to recommendations on how the facility will go and on naming. Brenda Sims suggested possibly hourly rent for now then transitioning to memberships later. She asked if another person could be hired to help Steve Sketon. Pat Hart stated that bookings can be made through Steve or the fair office. She said bookings for membership will be available a week at a time. Steve Sketon clarified how rental time slots will be handled. Scott Ratliff said he thinks Steve will be great; he only wishes he had been here from the beginning. His recollection of discussions differs from what has been stated by Pat Hart. He does not believe that you can compare the Annex to the Lander Arena. Scott expressed that classes can not be booked one week at a time. Pat stated classes can be booked out for a year at a time. Steve expressed concern that there are several groups wanting to use the facility for free. In his research he has determined that the maximum amount of time that can be given away is up to 10 percent of the budget. He added that he is passionate about the facility being successful. Pat stated that grant funding is being sought for the property as there is a long list of things that she would like to see done at the property.
- Night Event- schedule- Figure 8 races will be the first Saturday and last Saturday of fair. Pat would like to move Hog N Mud to Sunday and change animal arrival times. Rodeo Monday & Tuesday. Pat suggested that the Fair Board put on and advertise the Red Neck Relay on Wednesday. Pat proposed Nights of Valor on Thursday. A concert will take place on Friday. Trevor Bekken moved to have Hog N Mud Friday July 25, seconded by Jeremy Vukich; motion passed
- Free entertainment- Mini golf is available, Pat is trying to get a foam party reserved. Cale Moon and Vanessa Carpenter will do musical performances, and Kyle Groves will be here with an escape room. Pat is still waiting to hear from the wood carver. She is also looking into Ninja Nation having a course set up.
- Carnival- July 9-12. Pat is still in negotiation with Carnival Midway on the contract.
- Sponsorship package- Pat has received the flyers and will be working on getting those out.
- Spring Fair- Carnival June 4-7. Figure 8 races June 7. Friends of Fair Jackpot June 6-8.
- August 16 Figure 8 Race- Jeremy Schooner has requested that the culminating race for the figure 8 race season take place in Riverton. There are concerns about staffing for the event but there is the possibility that some of the fair gate help will be available as well as the pickleball players. Pat

stated that she will not be available that day. Kourtney Hanger expressed concern about stepping on State Fairs toes. A courtesy call will be made to let them know that the event will be taking place on the Final Night of State Fair. Alex Eckhart moved to proceed with the August 16 Figure 8 race with a follow up to State Fair regarding the decision offering transparency on the decision, seconded by Megan Jones; motion carried.

- Horse Show Rules- Horse Id's are required by 4-H and due by May 1st. FFA does not have that requirement. Pat feels that it would be beneficial for FFA to have id's as well. Nikki Horton asked what State Fair requires. Tanya Santee stated that they don't check horse id's at all. Tanya stated she feels it would be difficult to tell FFA that they need to use 4-H forms. State Fair also only separates out showmanship classes, all other classes are run together. Nikki Horton stated she thinks we should try to stick to State Fair rules as much as possible.
- Horse Protection Act- Steve Skelton would like to become certified to be the inspector for the horse events at the Fair Grounds facilities. Beginning February 1st the USDA is requiring that they be notified of horse shows 30 days and 15 days prior to an event. They are requiring inspectors to come to shows to inspect for soring. Timed events will be the only exempted events. If inspections are not done and it is reported the facility can be shut down. Steve stated that it is a huge government overreach but we need to stay compliant which is one of the reasons that in the etiquette form it is bolded in red that there will be no abuse of animals tolerated. Steve added that there are a lot of facilities that are going to ignore this and hope it goes away.
- Charlene VonKrosigk Memorial Bench- Pat Hart asked the board to think about something that can be done on the grounds in memory of Charlene and Dean Vonkrosigk. Nikki Horton stated that she would like to see something more substantial than a bench.
- Showworks Training April 9-11 Fair Staff will work together with the Sale Board to share time and registration slots for the training. 4 will be registered and the expense will be split between the Fair Board and Sale Board.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Update Fremont Center Project- There are water pressure issues with the toilets. City Plumbing has put in a bid for \$3156.22 to fix the problem. Nikki Horton said it should be put in as a change order to the project.
- Fremont Center roof project- The county had left over ARPA funding which the commission has approved to pay an amount close to the bid to get the roof repaired. Bids are still being sought.
- Barns- Alex Eckardt reported that she and her engineers have been reviewing plans. She will get things laid out so that when it goes out to bid there will not be the need to field random questions.
- Fair Annex update- MOVE money- approximately \$2000 remaining. Card locks and security cameras have all been installed. There was a bit more time involved in installation than expected.
- Auto Flushers in Grandstand bathrooms- Bid received for \$15,151.10 from City Plumbing. There would need to be work done by an electrician in addition to City Plumbing's bid. No other bids have been sought at this time. The board would like to move forward in pursuing these updates.
- By-Laws update-tabled to review at Work Session.
- Recommendation on City of Riverton's request for land transfer-Trevor Bekken made a motion to recommend to the commissioners that they grant the transfer of ownership of the two land parcels that contain the River Walk Path, seconded by Alex Eckhardt; motion carried.
- **Counting down....198 days until 2025 Fremont County Fair**

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- Phone system- Pat and Laura had a conversation with Crexendo phone service. It is an internet-based phone system, equipment is lease to own. \$121.95 per month. Internet will stay with

Spectrum. Alex Eckhardt moved to upgrade to Crexendo phone service, seconded by Kourtney Hanger; motion carried.

- Wind River Rodeo Round-up Gold Buckle - Trevor Bekken moved to pay the membership of \$500 for the Wind River Rodeo Roundup Gold Buckle Club, seconded by Alex Exkhardt; motion carried.
- Fair Annex Committee- Discussion was held about dissolving the committee now that the Annex is operational.
- Election of officers- Kourtney Hanger nominated Trevor Bekken for President, no other nominations were qualified, seconded by Megan Jones; Trevor Bekken was elected President Nikki Horton nominated Alex Eckhart for Vice Chairman, seconded by Megan Jones. Trevor Bekken nominated Nikki Horton for Vice Preseident seconded by Alex Eckhardt. Nikki Horton was elected Vice President.
Megan Jones nominated Kourtney Hanger for Treasurer, seconded by Nikki Horton, no other nominations were made. Kourtney Hanger was elected Treasurer.
Trevor Bekken nominated Alex Eckhart for Secretary, seconded by Nikki Horton, there were no other nominations. Alex Eckhart was elected Secretary.
- Liaison Positions: Royalty- Jeremy Vukich, Ambassador- Alex Eckhardt, Show Committee-Rob Dolcater, Sale Board-Megan Jones, Friend of Fair- Nikki Horton and Kourtney Hanger.

IX. Executive Session

Trevor Bekken called for Executive session for personnel, seconded by Megan Jones; motion carried

Entered Executive Session at 8:32PM out of Executive Session at 9:16PM

Nikki Horton moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kourtney Hanger; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:17PM

Next Meeting

The next Board Meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 13, 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