

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by President Trevor Bekken

Trevor Bekken led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pat Hart gave the board prayer

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Nikki Horton moved to approve the July 10, 2025 agenda; Alex Eckhardt seconded; motion passed unanimously.

II. PATRONS

None Present

III. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes from the June 12, 2025 Fremont County Fair Board Meeting.
- Financial Review: Approval of current bills and financial report.
- Alcohol Permits: none
Not voted on

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

None

V. EX-OFFICIO BOARD REPORTS

- **Commissioner Liaison** – Commissioner Allen was not present
- **Fremont County Extension** – Extension has been busy. Chance Marshall has been away at a conference. Three people have been interviewed for the Wind River Extension position. The position has been offered but has not been accepted at this time. Tanya reported that there were 84 people at camp with a lot of new volunteers and kids. The kids worked on projects at camp to be entered into fair. She reported that the Rocket launch will take place before Shooting Sports awards during fair. Tanya reported that the 4-H Council will have the bounce houses set up at Family Day.

There will be a rabbit and poultry show practice next week. Chance Marshall reported that Ron Cunningham has been inducted into the Ag Educators Hall of Fame.

- Wind River Extension –

VI. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Royalty Committee –No one present they are practicing.
- Junior Livestock Sale Board – Carmen Vasco reported that she believes champion row is a good decision. Post cards went out to buyers yesterday. County 10 will be running ads. There are a lamb and a hog that need to be retagged. She requested that everyone be there for check ins. Sale Board meeting will be immediately following the Exhibitor mandatory meeting. Nikki Horton stated that she would like each of the barn superintendents be introduced during the meeting. Carmen stated that the alphabet could be broken down even more to get kids through the line quicker. The Sale Board will hold a work session on July 22, 2025

Junior Show Advisory Committee – Chance reported that the committee had a positive meeting. They want focus to be on enhancing shows and celebrating champions. They would like to have a champions row on Saturday prior to the sale. There will be 26 honorees. Banners will be donated by Carlson Equipment. Friends of Fair will also help pay for banners. 4-H Council will purchase lights to decorate stalls. They would like to make the champion drive more of a production to honor the exhibitors. There will be morning radio interviews with the champions. Horse Show was also discussed during the meeting. Chance reported volunteers are in place and livestock has been secured. They would like to keep the all around buckle for roaster/fryer classes.

- Friends of the Fremont County Fair -Tanya Santee reported that Friends of Fair will be ordering another Big Foot Unit. The group needs it for their jackpots and they would allow the fair to use it. It probably will not arrive in time for fair. The estimates on the barn came in at 3.6 million to 3.9 million. The engineers would like to meet again. Tanya asked for a quote on what just the pavilion section would cost. Showmanship showdown judges are needed. The marketing on donations for the barn will need to come from the board and office for fair time. Nikki pointed out that there is no demolition charges on the quote. Pat questioned if the build could be done in phases. Nikki said the Pavilion would be self-contained. The other section will need to be done in one piece. The board needs to know from the county if the old buildings could be sold on public purchase. The county has not responded to the fair boards letters that are seeking clarification on what they can do. Tanya will set up a meeting with the engineer. Rob said possibly setting the meeting for a Tuesday so the County Commissioners could be invited to attend after their meeting.

VII. FAIR MANAGERS REPORT

- Pat Hart reported that night event tickets are selling slowly and there is a lot of advertising out. Entry deadline is Friday July 11.
- Help is needed for load in and load out for the concert. 6 people are needed for load in 4 for band load in and 6 for load out. Nikki added that 2 people are needed to help get the beer garden set for that night. Pat would like to look for a group to hire to assist with this. Rick has 3 employees, Heather Holbert has been hired to help in the office, Abby Santee and Rachelle Saxton will be back for fair week. Susan Cooper will also be in the office some. Pat stated we are short staffed and need patience and understanding.
- Award Donors are needed and sponsors are always welcome. Laura Harrington reported that she ran the numbers on donations compared to last year and the donations are down about \$10,000.00 from last year. She added that Sponsorships are up about \$15,000.00 noting that a few of those

from last years fair. Laura is only going to plug monies in to areas that have entries when assigning funding. Laura thanked the board for their patience during her personal leave. Tanya Santee stated that Friends of Fair would be willing to donate towards awards. Trevor offered the boards assistance where ever needed.

- Pat would like to have grievance forms placed around the grounds that would force people to file formal grievances when they have issues. Pat stated that grievances need to go to her and she will take them to the board.
- Sponsorship and award donors needed.
- Fair Budget was accepted as presented.
- Pat asked what the board wants to do for the parade. Rob suggested a tractor. Pat asked Trevor if his flatbed can be used for the judges. Laura will see about getting T shirts for the board to wear. Trevor will check to see if he has a tractor big enough to carry the board. Trevor suggested walking the parade. That suggestion was not received well. Pat suggested the board riding on Figure 8 cars.
- Horse Show is July 17-19, July 25 Hog n Mud, Fair July 26- August 2, Figure 8 August 16.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Update Fremont Center Roof- will be done in August following fair. Rick will lead that project as Pat will be out of the office for a while.
- Barn Update- Meeting will be set soon
- Fair Annex- Trevor thanked the staff and county for getting the parking lot done at the Annex. The parking lot would not have been completed without the counties help. The city of Riverton donated some supplies as well as the county. Pat would like to get Billy and Bruce Cowfish gift cards. Night Event tickets will be given to their crew. Trevor asked Pat to explain the wash rack situation to the board. Pat stated she is very trusting. Steve Skelton sent Pat a photo of what was done for the wash rack. It was significantly smaller than she thought it would be. They were supposed to go off of the original bid. The contractor said that what he did was the original bid. The project came in at \$15,000.00 more than approved. Rob Dolcater stated that the contractor should have to stick with the original bid eat the difference. Alex stated that an email chain exists that lays out what the bid should have been for. Pat said the contractor said that he was told the corner. Steve Skelton stated that they measured the entire area. Pat stated that she assumed that since the contractor was a fair supporter she assumed he was giving the fair a deal. Pat pointed out the other bid was more detailed and B & M was not detailed. Alex asked if B & M had seen the other bid with the proper measurements. There were different materials being quoted in the two bids. Rob and Alex stated that a change order should have been submitted, this is on the contractor. Trevor told Pat to speak to the contractor. Trevor said he gave the go ahead to complete the project. Alex asked about the walk through in January. Pat stated that Steve Skelton did the walk through. She added that Steve knew what was being looked at. There is a misunderstanding on what the corner is. Pat said she was really upset and contracted Trevor when she knew about the problem. Rob and Alex both stated that the board needs to say no to the increased price and go from there. Panels and black stalls are up, poles are up for shade panels, a truck will be used for a crows nest. Canopy tents will be used. Roping chutes will be painted. Panels and bleachers will be moved from the fairgrounds to the annex for the Horse Show. The lead on bleachers for the annex fell through. Help will be needed to hang shade cloth. The old water truck died so an alternate water source will need to be found. Pat is working on that. Pat will reach out to Scott Walters.
 - City Request for property- Pat stated that the final decision should be made by commissioners.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- What is needed for fair? Nikki will meet with Schooners on how to run Red Neck Relay. . Trevor will check on hay bales. Nikki needs a large trough. Nikki explained how the Redneck Relay will be run. Pat will be checking with Brandon Haun about when he will be available for announcing. Chance Marshall will be a back up announcer for Redneck Relay if need be. Kourtney asked how the Calcutta will be run. Nikki wants to wait to see how many teams are entered. No younger than 16 due to motorized vehicles being used. Pat will make a registration form.
- Rob will make arrangements for hydro-vac for Hog N Mud. Rob got panels from Co-op for Hog n Mud. Pat asked which board members are available for Hog N Mud. Kourtney will do Calcutta. Rob stated that Scott Walters is checking on how much mud is used for the Hog Ring. Fair Board will help set up beer garden when Hog N Mud is set up.
- Trevor reported that James Bunker will do the meat for family day. Hot Dogs will be purchased.
- Nikki Horton will work on Beer Garden Schedule. Nikki said bags need to be checked when people enter grounds. There is too much hard alcohol coming into the events. There will be a clear bag policy for night events. Pat will put information out and signs will be posted on grounds. Megan Jones is willing to do second Beer Garden if need be.
- Fremont Motors wants vehicles in the arena as much as possible.
- Concert- suggestions for load in and load out. Alex suggested the Catholic College and will check in to their availability. 2 people needed to be runners/drivers. Kourtney suggested Karen Nipper to do that. Alex suggested getting a vehicle from Fremont Motors to haul the band. Pat is working on setting up catering for lunch and dinner. Nikki suggested Destiny Dower. Kourtney suggested making a Facebook post looking for bids from caterers. Pat asked if Sam Linden has a 50KVV generator? She will reach out to him. Rob also suggested that Stallion my have generators available.
- Trevor will handle water coolers. Kourtney volunteered Royce to help. Pat will fill in names on the help list and email it to board members.
- Pat said gate help (8 per night) is needed as well as a ticket seller. People are needed to stay through event to work gate. Trevor asked who usually does gates. Pat said people are usually hired.
- Pat suggested 3pm for daily board meetings for fair. Kourtney said some shows run later, Trevor suggested 4pm for meeting times, the board agreed.
- Rob said more help is needed for the Swine Show. Pat said she has a girl who wants to volunteer for shows. Rob stated that it takes a lot of background people for shows.
- Kourtney asked what will happen with the Calcutta funds. She asked about using the donations for capital purchases line item for those funds. Friends of Fair is leary of all funds going through them for something that will be a county asset. She asked if there needs to be a foundation for the barn with a board member that sits on the foundation board. Kourtney suggested long term putting barn funds into an interest earning account or CD.
- The board checked spelling and approved the banners for Best of the Barn. Alex said she will pay for the banners but they are sponsored by the Fair Board. Nikki said she will pay for the banner in the arena that lists the winners' names. Trevor signed the proof for approval. Nikki suggested hanging the banners on a panel in the show lawn. Kourney suggested hanging them above the seating area on the show lawn. Banners are 18 x 36. A place will be determined prior to fair. Tanya left prior to the discussion of placement of the senior banners.

IX. Executive Session

No executive session

Next Meeting

The next Board Meeting will be held on **Thursday, August 7 2025, 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