

**Fremont County Fair Board  
Minutes  
May 8, 2025**

The Fremont County Fair Board met May 8, 2025 at the Fremont Center Boardroom, in Riverton, Wyoming. Board members present were Nikki Horton, Trevor Bekken, Kourtney Hanger, Alex Eckhardt 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.

Joan Eisemann addressed the board with concerns about the horse show taking place at the Fair Annex. These concerns were also lined out in an email sent to the Fair Board. She presented a list of names to the board that she prepared stating that these individuals also have concerns about the Horse Show taking place at the Annex. Her concerns include the show being earlier than fair, the show being 3 days long and cost. She feels the Horse kids are not being a part of fair. Pat Hart expressed that the Annex was purchased for the equine kids. Trevor Bekken pointed out that having the indoor and outdoor arena is looked like a prestigious thing for the horse kids. Trevor invited Joan and others up to take a tour of the Annex facility. Joan said she will not be involved with the Horse Show if it is held at the Annex. Nikki Horton added that if the show does not work at the Annex it can be moved back to the Fairgrounds the following year. Trevor stated that the county purchased this facility for the community to use. Joan will get ahold of other concerned people to set a time for a tour. She stated that the next week would be impossible for her but she would try for the next week.

**III. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

- Minutes from the April 10, 2025 Fremont County Fair Board Meeting.
  - Financial Review: Approval of current bills and financial report.
  - Alcohol Permits: none
- Megan Jones moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Nikki Horton; motion passed.

**IV. CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**V. EX-OFFICIO BOARD REPORTS**

- **Commissioner Liaison** – Commissioner Allen was not present
- **Fremont County Extension** – Tanya Santee started by stating that passes would be offered to 4-H members and their parents to tour and use the Annex arena. She reported that the Horse Clinic was held at the Annex and it was very successful. There were a lot of young new kids that participated. Dog practices have started, shooting sports has been busy preparing for their state shoot. There will be a goat clinic at the fairgrounds and another at the Annex. YQCA class had five kids attend. They will be offering it again at a later date. Structured Horse practices will begin when the weather permits. A practice Horse Show will take place at the fairground on June 14. Craft palooza and a bottle rocket project day will also be taking place in June. There will also be a sewing day that Tanya received a grant for that will be taking place. Livestock judging contest will be taking place this weekend. Tanya reported that some of the new displays have arrived. Chance has been busy with AI clinics and is getting ready for Ranch Camp.
- **Wind River Extension** – No agent

**VI. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **Royalty Committee** –Piper Loomis that they will begin outdoor practice. They have received some of their shirts. They are prepared to help with Spring Spectacular. They will also be assisting with the Thermopolis Rodeo.
- **Youth Ambassadors**- There will be no ambassadors this year.
- **Junior Livestock Sale Board** – The Sale order will be the same as last year. Champion and reserve and the placings by the judge and then randomized. If champions and reserves do not sell they will not be listed in the sale program. They also will not be presented in Champion Row. Those animals are there to be observed by buyers for the sale. Consigned animals will be on the Champion Row Banner. Rule #8 Exhibitors who sell Champion and reserve animals will be given the option to sell two animals. Trevor Bekken asked the Sale Board if they had asked any of the kids why they were choosing not to sell the champion and reserve animals. Walt Neil stated that they had not spoken directly to the kids but they have heard that some continue to show at other bigger shows and some move those animals into breeding programs. The Sale Board has had discussion about installing some sort of duct system to help keep the buyers cool. They have received an estimate from Sweetwater Air for a duct system that would include the addition of a fourth porta cool and duct system for \$23500.00. They believe this will make a big difference in evenly cooling the pavilion. Nikki Horton asked if this project could be postponed for a year due to the efforts of getting a new pavilion built. She believes we will have a new pavilion by next year. She added that it is a really good idea. The Sale Board will ask Sweetwater Air what the possibility of moving the duct system to the new pavilion when it is built. There are four beef that need to be retagged. Tagging will take

place on June 3 & 5<sup>th</sup> at 5PM. The Fair Board has been asked to be there to help. Carmen requested that the map showing the direction for entrance. Next Sale Board meeting will be on Tuesday May 27. Tanya Santee requested that the information for the sale be posted so exhibitors are aware of it prior to fair.

**Junior Show Advisory Committee** – Will meet in June.

- **Friends of the Fremont County Fair** -Tanya Santee reported that they are gearing up for Springtacular. They have sponsors for most shows and entries are coming in. The Sunday Beef Show will be done by color of the animal. Paperwork has been signed with the engineering firm. They may not have a visual for Spring Fair but they will have something put together for Fair. 5 scholarships were awarded this year. Abby Santee received the continuing education scholarship, Wiley Philio, Megan Harris, Izzy Cruickshank and Emma Hill received the first-year scholarship. They each received \$1000.00. All of the kids that applied this year have been active fair participants.

Tanya added that she wasn't a big fan of moving the Horse Show originally but that she is in favor of teaching children to be resilient and stepping up to challenges. She personally spoke to every parent who turned in horse IDs. There were not many in opposition to the use of the Annex and those that were many not have changed there minds but they have more of an understanding after she visited with them.

## VII. FAIR MANAGERS REPORT

- Concert Tickets, Mega Passes and Figure 8 tickets are available for purchase online and are now available in the office.
- Website is live. Still working on some changes.
- New email for accounting and invoicing- [account@fremontcountyfair.org](mailto:account@fremontcountyfair.org)
- Vet office- Had a showing for rental on 5/6/2025. If the building is sold proceeds will go into the County General Fund.
- Budget- Pat reported that she listened to the Commission Meeting on Tuesday. She is concerned about cuts. Other departments are taking drastic measures to make their 10% cuts. She stated that the Fair budget is currently showing the 10% cut. She stated that the commissioners asked how the community would be hurt by the budget cuts. Alex Eckhardt stated that "the answer to the question is that if there is more than 10% requested or required by the commission then there is no fair. If \$200,000 were cut from the general fund budget there can be no fair. An additional facility was given to the fair and the board was told to figure it out from scratch how to make. Every new business takes 5 years and the Fair Board was given 5 months. The budget cannot take a \$200,000.00 cut." Budget is due May 28 and the hearing will be on June 3. Tanya Santee added that the Fair services thousands of people every year. She stated that it needs to be added that the Fair services a lot of youth. Trevor Bekken stated that the Board should not offer any more than the 10% cut that was agreed on during the budget meeting. Nikki Horton moved to accept the budget that was presented Alex Eckhardt seconded; motion carried.
- Pat would like to run summer specials at the Annex facility. She said she came up with the numbers for the special by dividing the yearly membership by 4. Individual \$65-\$70, Student \$45 and family for \$125 for May thru the end of August. She says this is a great deal compared to monthly rates. She said she would charge more for specials in the fall. She would like to offer current members 2 hours of exclusive arena time. She would like to offer unlimited riding. She would like to arrange for someone to bring in cattle for a cattle night, and have specific pole and barrel times. Cori Slingerland will donate \$200 for 4-H kid's memberships for the summer. Nikki Horton, Alex

Eckhardt, Kourtney Hanger and Trevor Bekken all agreed to add \$200 as well. It was decided that all 4-H kids can ride for free for the summer. Pat said she would like all 4-H rides to be at the Annex. Tanya stated that she cannot force her leaders to do all of their practices at the Annex. It would be beneficial for kids to have exposure to both arena settings. Pat stated that people can come and guest ride for \$15 for the summer. Pat stated that concerns have been brought up that current members may feel slighted by this special. It was discussed that current members receive the same membership price for next year. Members have paid for their extra ride times up to this point and there is a member who has prepaid for extra ride time. Megan Jones said most membership arenas are unlimited riding. Pat stated that a calendar can be posted on the Website. Laura Harrington said there are currently 5 individual membership, 6 family members and 2 student memberships. There currently are no monthly memberships for May, there were 2 in April, 5 in March, 4 in February and 2 in January. Steve Lynn stated people knew what they were getting when they bought memberships don't give away the farm. He added don't penalize those people who have been here. Laura asked what she needs to do with the money that has already been paid in advance for extra ride time. They will just have a credit for exclusive time. Alex asked for clarification as to what price the discount was based on. She requested the cost difference between offering discount on the monthly rate versus the yearly rate. Alex stated that there should be a benefit to those who sign up early for the year. The rates based off of 50% off monthly rates for 3 months would be: \$80 for individual, \$50 for student, and \$150 for family. Pat stated she has made her recommendation and the board can do what they want. Alex said gyms offer specials like this all the time and the discounts are takeoff monthly rates not the 12-month discount rate. Trevor suggested changing the rates to the discount off of the monthly rate rather than the yearly price.

Nikki Horton moved to offer 50% off of the 3-month monthly membership rates from May – August with unlimited ride time for all members, seconded by Alex Eckhardt; motion passed.

- IAFE Economic Impact Study- can be done for \$1500.00.
- MOU Wind River Rodeo Roundup- Becky Burell reported that WRRR is going to raise their prices to \$20 for adults and \$12 for children with 15% being paid to the Fair Board. A two-night pass will sell for \$35. Steve Lynn reported that their concern is that entry into the grandstands is loose. Ticket takers are not manning their gates. Many people are walking through without paying. He would like to see things locked down. The north west gate is not locked early enough. He would like to see it closed by 5pm. Nikki Horton asked why it could not be closed earlier. Pat said she did not know why it wasn't closed earlier. The rodeo people start coming in on Sunday. Pat said people have not been checking earlier arrivals for tickets. Steve said taking ownership of the gates will increase income. Pat questioned how the workers are supposed to know who is with the rodeo. Steve said a list will be given to the back gate of who is allowed in each night. Laura asked why rodeo people couldn't be wrist banded like figure 8 drivers and crews. Pam Rivers suggested panels to funnel people through the gates. They also suggested an entry and exit gate. Steve suggested that the gate people be made to do their job manning the gate. Both entities will pay the 15% on the comp tickets that they give out as comp tickets. Steve added that with budget issues simple things like site security will increase the revenue. Banners- Would the fair please put a piece of tape where banners need to be replaced on panels. The rodeo cost the committee approximately \$70,000.00 per year. Steve suggested the Fair Board set goals each year. The committee wants the partnership to work between the fair and the rodeo. Alex Eckhardt moved to make necessary changes to the MOU with WRRR, seconded by Nikki Horton; motion carried.
- Pam and Rod Rivers were asked to be the Grand Marshalls for the 2025 Fair. Pam accepted.
- Spring Fair will take place prior to the next Fair Board meeting. A cash voucher will be for about \$6300 for tickets and Beer Garden. Beer Garden will be open on June 7. Please contact Pat if you want to help. Alex will be available for Beer Garden. Nikki Horton will do Beer Garden. Kourtney said she will be helping with the Jackpot.

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Update Fremont Center Project- still waiting on panels for men’s restroom.
- Fremont Center roof project- Rocky Mountain Applicators will get on the roof after fair.
- Barn Update- Nikki Horton stated there will be a new pavilion. Friends of Fair is paying for predesign. Line locates happened on Wednesday. Nikki reported that there would hopefully be a photo rendering by fair. It will be presented to the community at fair. Kourtney recommended putting change collection boxes at businesses in town. Nikki would like the Beer Garden money to go towards the barns, and a QR code for donations. Pat said earmarking money from Beer Garden and Calcutta’s need to run under Friends of Fair and removed from the Fair budget. Pat has that money included in what the fair will bring in on the budget. Nikki asked if funds over what is budgeted for can then be put aside for barns. Tanya recommends that for this year the Calcutta money be budgeted for barns and Beer Garden stays in the fairs budget. Nikki really wants to have ‘Beer for the Barn’. Alex Eckhart pointed out that that would decrease the budget by \$25,000.00. Trevor stated that this year fiscally the money needs to stay in the fair budget. Pam Rivers suggested making a jar designated for donations to the barn which will then go to Friends of Fair.
- A grant for \$7000.00 was awarded by the Riverton Rec board for trail equipment. The money must be spent by mid-June. Pat will meet with B&M and City Plumbing on wash rack.
- No word from the City of Riverton on their request for land transfer.
- **Counting down....79 days until Race Ewe to the Fair 2025 Fremont County Fair**

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

- Cori Slingerland said her brother did a walk through to look at welding that needs to be done at the Annex. He would like a budget given to him for what needs to be done at the Annex. It would save money if equipment was provided, he could just charge as an operator and not equipment rental. Asking for \$5000,00 budget.
- Pat Hart stated that the Annex arena was purchased for the equine kids and for kids to show and ride year-round. Nikki Horton would like Horse Show kids to be recognized at the Thursday night event.
- Camping is not offered for the Horse Show.

**IX. Executive Session**

None

Nikki Horton moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45PM seconded by Alex Eckhardt; motion passed.

**Next Meeting**

The next Board Meeting will be held on **Thursday, June 12, 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