

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 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 October 9, 2025 agenda; Megan Jones seconded; motion passed unanimously.

II. PATRONS

None on Agenda

III. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes from the September 11, 2025 Fremont County Fair Board Meeting.
- Financial Review: Approval of current bills and financial report.
- Alcohol Permits: Becky Walter's James Bunker catering
- 3 letters all with concerns about the Annex.

Questions on Financials: Nikki Horton questioned what needs to be done with the \$22,000 spent on advertising so far this year. Trevor Bekken stated the budget will need to be gone over thoroughly during Vision Session to figure out where cuts can be made. The County report does not reflect where the budget sits currently as they have not entered this year's budget into their system yet. There was discussion on the three separate fair budgets. Laura reminded the board that much of the fairs budget is spent in the first months of our fiscal year. Trevor stated the fair board will need to be on an expense-controlled year and find ways to bring in more income.

Rob Dolcater questioned the trash haul charges from the city of Riverton. Laura stated that Monster Trucks and CWC Rodeo pay for their trash hauls. She stated that in the past Rick has been able to use the waste from the High School Rodeo, this year he did not have a need for it so it was hauled away. The Board would like the High School Rodeo to be billed for this expense the same way the other events

have been charged. Laura will contact the High School Rodeo to make them aware of the reason for the charge. Rob mentioned that the motorcycle track wants the waste and saw dust material, they will need to come haul it themselves. Keep it on the radar for future reference. Rob also questioned the separate bill for the Bath House water; Laura explained the city had not recorded the meter when it was turned on for the summer. They did not discover this until they came to turn meters off for the winter. So, this is the bill for the summer at the Bath House. Rob also questioned the charge from Fike Consulting for quarterly updates and if it was in the budget, Laura replied that it is in the budget. He also questioned the bill from Service Plumbing, Laura said it was work done in April and their bills frequently come late. Rick could answer what it was for more clearly. Rob asked if it would go back to last years budget, Laura said she was not sure but could check. She said there was an email sent that all bills for last fiscal year needed to be to the County in early July. Rob questioned the amount being paid to the WRRR. Laura explained that the amount being paid was what Pat Hart had on the Rodeo report. Kourtney stated that it does not add up. Nikki added that even though some of the expenses come from other line items, they are still expenses related to events. Rob said we cannot continue to run like this. Trevor recommends that the WRRR be paid based of the information that was given by Pat Hart. Due to the Electric line that was taken out at the Annex Arena the lines on the automatic waterers cannot be blown out. Trevor recommended rather than have an electrician come to redo the electric line, just leave the waters alone. The Billboard going to Lander has been removed. Laura reported that after speaking to Kami with Yellowstone the contract for the Billboard was through September, Kami said Pat wanted to leave it up to advertise the Annex.

Nikki Horton moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Kourtney Hanger; motion passed.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from a patron that was forwarded from the County to the Fair Board

V. EX-OFFICIO BOARD REPORTS

- **Commissioner Liaison** – Commissioner Allen was not present.
- **Fremont County Extension** – Tanya Santee was not present, she wanted to remind and invite the board to the Fall into 4-H event scheduled for Oct 18 from 2pm-5pm in the Fremont Center as well as 4-H Achievement night on November 18, 2025
- **Wind River Extension** – Peyton Loss has been hired for this position; she is planning on attending the November meeting.

VI. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Royalty Committee** –Piper Loomis reported that the girls are signing their contracts tonight. She read a letter from Linsey Smerud expressing interested in being on the Royalty committee. Kourtney Hanger moved to approve Lindsey Smerud’s appointment to the Royalty committee, seconded by Alex Eckhardt; motion passed.
- **Junior Livestock Sale Board** – Carmen Vasco reported that checks went out on September 23. There was a family that had called the office because one child had received their check and the other hadn’t. Laura advised them to give it a little more time. Carmen reported that the check had been received. To her knowledge all checks have been received. Laura stated that two checks had been returned they were siblings, there had been a change in address but the numbers had been transposed, one had been returned to the office last week and the other had been accidentally returned to the Sale Barn yesterday. Laura stated that she contacted the family and sent the checks

to the corrected address. Carmen reported that all invoices have been paid but two, one had been sent to the wrong address and the other was one that had a small balance due to computer error and they would be dropping a check off to the office. Laura McGuffy resigned from the Sale Board last month; volunteer forms had been sent out to several people who expressed interest in joining the board. Dillon Hedges returned his volunteer application and the Sale Board is requesting that the Fair Board approve Dillon to fill the seat vacated by Laura McGuffy. Nikki Horton moved to approve Dillon Hedges to complete Laura McGuffy's term, seconded by Alex Eckardt; motion passed. There are several others who have expressed interest in joining the board. Carmen stated that Jared Hamilton has expressed that he does not plan on doing another term. She asked to be informed of when Vision Session will take place. Carmen stated one of their questions is about where things stand on the barn so they can decide whether to leave money in a CD or not. Rob asked about night tie-outs. That will be discussed at a later time.

- **Junior Show Advisory Committee** – Have not met.
- **Friends of the Fremont County Fair** -No report. Nikki said she did volunteer the board to help with Barn Bash. Barn Bash will be on March 14, 2025.

VII. FAIR MANAGERS REPORT

- Pat Hart is still out. She will give an update on her return October 17, 2025.
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VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Vision Session will be October 21-22, 2025 from 5pm-9pm. Kourtney will make an agenda.
- Trio MOU with University of Wyoming has been reviewed and approved by Nathan Maxon. The University has requested the MOU back ASAP. Alex Eckardt moved to approve and have two board members sign the MOU with the University due to Pat Harts absence, seconded by Jeremy Vukich; motion passed. Trevor and Alex will sign.
- Barn Updates- a committee will be formed after a date is set to visit commissioners.
- Fair Annex- Pat reported to Laura that she has received three applications for the grounds position. Laura gave a membership update; there are currently no monthly members, there are currently annual memberships of 5 families, 2 students, 4 individual and 2 comp (one given away in grand opening drawing, one was in exchange for photography work) Trevor stated the Annex will be a big part of the discussion at Vision Session. The fee structure will need to be looked at.
- Wait for update from Commissioner Allen about contracted individuals running county equipment.

Counting down....Fremont County Fair, just 289 days away

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- Lean to/out buildings at Annex Facility- Rob got a call from Bobs Truck and Repair they are interested in purchasing the buildings. Donna Daniels is also interested. Trevor stated that Pat has a list that there are others that are interested. Trevor reported that when the original walk through of the Annex was done there was interest in those buildings, the county said it has to get through the bidding process since they are county assets. Trevor has inquired about where things stand with this process several times and has not received an answer. Nikki asked if Larry could respond to how the county would like the board to proceed with the selling of property ie. listing it on public purchase

- Improvements to South Grandstand Bleachers- Rob was asked about getting handicap access to those bleachers. Rob spoke to weld pro and they suggested putting hand rails up the center to provide a safer way to get up and down the bleachers. Nikki stated that there needs to be something done on the Southeast bleachers so no one can fall through, shed said last year Trevor Wiese had mentioned that there was a possibility that could be done for free if they could advertise on that bleacher. Laura added that quite some time ago Friends of Fair had agreed to do that project. Rob suggested this be looked into further.
- Rob asked about the arena panel that was damaged during fair. He stated the driver had stated he would purchase a panel to replace the damaged panel. Nikki stated that the fair carries the insurance on the event, it is a fair event. Kourtney offered to call Janna to see if the event insurance would cover the panel replacement.
- Laura reported that a representative from the Shriners came into the office today and stated that Scott Walters had told him that the facility could be donated for the Shriners Circus. She said she told him Scott was no longer on the board and that there was a Fair Board meeting tonight and that she would bring it up to the board. Trevor stated he had received a phone call from Scott Walters who told him that the board had done it for free in the past. Laura said she had looked to see what they had paid in the past after the gentleman inquired. In 2019 they were charged \$150, there was no circus in 2020 and 2021, 2022 and 2023 they paid \$300, there was no circus in 2024. Laura explained that there are two shows on one day, and that the show begins arriving the day prior to the show, leaving the day following the show. The Fair draws no revenue from the event. All present agreed that the Shriners are a great organization and great cause. Trevor added that he received a text from Pat Hart stating that Scott had reached out to her about donating the grounds. She responded to Scott that she would be willing to donate the arena with mentioning the Fair as a sponsor. Adding that this would let the community know that we are there for them. Kourtney stated that as a business we have to at least cover what it costs. Laura stated that Rick would be the one to ask about the clean up afterwards. Nikki suggested that the Shriners find a local business to help sponsor the event. Alex added that if we donate the facility to one non-profit then we have to do it for all of them, and we can't do that. Jeremey added there is an expense to hauling the trash. Trevor recommends that the \$300 is a discount enough adding that they are a great organization and that the \$300 is a great fee. Rob Dolcater moved to charge the \$300 explaining to the Shriners the things they are not being charged for, seconded by Alex Eckhardt. Nikki Horton asked if they sign something saying if they break something they pay for it. Laura stated yes there is a contract.
- Trevor Bekken stated the Ag Appreciation Banquet will take place on November 8 the board is invited.

IX. Executive Session

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

Executive session was entered at 7:35PM

Regular session reconvened at 8:59PM

Rob Dolcater inquired about asking for daily preliminary numbers at the end of each day of fair. Nikki Horton said the Free Stage needs to be addressed as far as how many go to the events and who it serves. Rob wants daily deposits & Data on nightly attendance at fair.

Nikki Horton moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:05PM seconded by Megan Jones; motion passed.

Next Meeting

The next Board Meeting will be **November 6, 2025 at 6:00PM**, in Riverton, in the Classroom, Fremont Center, at the fairgrounds.

Trevor Bekken, Fair Board President

Alex Eckhardt, Fair Board Secretary