

**Fremont County Fair Board
Minutes
September 11, 2025**

The Fremont County Fair Board met September 11, 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 were absent. Staff present were, Laura Harrington Administrative Assistant. General Manager Pat Hart was absent.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 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 September 11, 2025 agenda; Nikki Horton seconded; motion passed unanimously.

II. PATRONS

None on Agenda

Chase Taylor thanked the Fair Board for all of their efforts at the fair, adding that it was one of the best fairs yet, being a Fair Board member is a thankless job and the board is appreciated. Trevor Bekken thanked Chase for all the help she offers the kids and that her hard work does not go unnoticed.

III. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes from the August 7, 2025 Fremont County Fair Board Meeting.
- Financial Review: Approval of current bills and financial report.
- Alcohol Permits: none

Questions on Financials: Nikki Horton questioned why there is a bill for two places for buns and other items for Family Day. What happened to the large amount of left overs? She also questioned why there are so many room nights (5 rooms for 4 nights and 3 rooms for 2 nights) for the Knights of Valor when that was a one-night event, \$3000 seems exorbitant. She asked to see the contract which Laura went a got. Kourtney Hanger pointed out that the total was just over \$2600. Contract states two nights lodging, check in July 29, check out day is whited out, it does not state how many rooms. Question remains why were 4 nights paid for. Pat Hart will be asked about this charge. Nikki asked about the \$750 charge for porta a johns on August 16.

Nikki also questioned profits and loss reports and what is recorded as a profit and loss. Trevor Bekken suggested that a discussion be held at Vision Session on what needs to be included in profits and losses. Trevor agreed that the profit and loss statement is not a true accurate picture of profit and loss. Grandstand cleaning is only reflected on the Rodeos profit and losses. The total cost for the cleaning is \$2400 for the week \$300 per event night. Rodeo is only charged \$200 per night. Kourtney asked what the MOU says in regard to the cleaning.

Nikki stated she believes that the Free Stage expenses are completely out of hand. She agrees that there is a need for activities but believes paying someone to sing to an empty stage is absurd. She would like to see data collect on what attendance is at the free stage. Trevor stated that all these things should be brought up at Vision Session, he added that the carnival also needs to be discussed. Laura stated that the Carnival is always a hot topic of comments from the community. She added that the comments are starting to lean more towards favoring a carnival during fair time.

Questions for Pat - Where did the Family Day left overs go? Why purchase buns & Hot Dogs from Baileys and Walmart? Knights of Valor extra room nights?

Laura explained that the porta John charge of \$750 for August 16 was for the one night. She said Randy left toilets on grounds after fair because he was having a procedure and would not be able to bring them back down.

Nikki found the Wind River Rodeo Roundup MOU states that they will be charged \$400 cleaning. She said that is a discussion for Vision Session.

Alex Eckhardt 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 reported that the commission is getting ready to start department head evaluations. They are also working on road right ways and easements as well as bids for the Riverview cut off, they are hoping that after the project is completed that road will be handed over to the city of Riverton.
- **Fremont County Extension** – Tanya Santee reported that 4-H is getting ready to start Volunteer trainings. Make it with wool will take place on Oct 19, Achievement Night will be on Nov 19 and Fall into 4-H will take place on October 18 in the parking lot and Fremont Center this event will kick off the 4-H year. She enquired about when Sale checks will be mailed out. Tanya thought the Rocket launch was great this year and would like to do more exhibition events (archery, dog agility).
- **Wind River Extension** – Peyton Loss has been hired for this position.

VI. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Royalty Committee** –Piper Loomis reported that the girls wrapped up their season with some parades and fair participation. Nikki Horton said the Royalty was a great help at fair. The Royalty pre contest free clinic will take place on Saturday Sept 13 at the Annex, the Royalty Contest will take place on September 28 at the Annex and Fremont Center.
- **Junior Livestock Sale Board** – Wendell Vonkrosigk reported that there is less than \$100,000.00 still due from buyers from the sale. Checks will go out soon.
Junior Show Advisory Committee – Have not met. Tanya stated parade of Champions was great and will be done again next year. Trevor stated that some beef rules will need to be clarified before tagging.

- **Friends of the Fremont County Fair** -still waiting on guidance for engineering of barn project. Trevor asked Commissioner Allen what the next step is with the commission. He suggested that the board/Friends of Fair come before the Commission. Trevor asked when a meeting can take place. Nikki Horton said a Barn committee needs to be set up, along with other committees. She would like these to be setup at Vision Session. Next Friends of Fair meeting is Sept. 15 at 6PM.

VII. FAIR MANAGERS REPORT

- Pat Hart is still out. She will see the doctor on Sept. 17
- Fair profit/loss statement- A profit/loss statement was included in the board packet. This needs to be discussed during Vision Session as to what expenses need to be included in these statements. The report states a roughly \$90,000.00 profit prior to the other expenses being prorated in. Look into last years report for comparison
- There will be a contest for the 2026 Fair Theme.
- Fall Membership Discount for Annex- Kourtney asked Laura if she knows where we currently stand with membership at the Annex. Laura stated that she does not currently know where we stand with memberships, adding that she has not had time to focus on the Annex. She stated that she is not comfortable booking the Annex right now for Events other than current membership due to the conditions up there. She said she has been receiving phone calls in regard to the ground being unkept in the arenas. She reported that there is a breakaway event booked in a few weeks and the ground will need to be worked prior to that event. Laura said she has received a few calls from people that will purchase memberships in January. She stated that people are noticing that things are not being taken care of up there. She has had some people in the office expressing their disappointment that Steve is no longer up there. Laura said that she has heard from one member that is upset that the ground is not being worked when they purchased a membership that stated the ground would be worked daily. She added that for the most part the members have been understanding of the current situation. Pat will go before the Commission on September 16 to get approval to hire a new employee. Pat is proposing a discounted monthly membership fee of; individual \$45 down from \$55, student \$25 down from \$35 and family \$80 down from \$100. Nikki stated she doesn't feel like we need to be running a promotion with the facility in the state that it is currently in. Trevor stated that it does look better than it has recently. Lloyd Bynon has done some work up there. Trevor moved to entertain a motion on changing the prices. Nikki moved to change the prices, Alex asked for discussion stating that she does not believe that a discount should be offered until things have been taken care of at the venue. She stated we need to know who will be working the ground. Trevor suggested that there could be a discussion on the possibility of changing fees for the new year. He suggested tabling this idea until it can be discussed at vision session. Laura expressed concern about losing yearly memberships if we continue to offer monthly membership discounts. She added that what is included with a membership needs to be clarified. Kourtney Hanger doesn't believe that we have given it enough time to start making cuts. There are other avenues that we can try prior to making membership cuts again. Kourtney doesn't want to create the expectation of discounts. Trevor recommended tabling until Vision Session, Nikki seconded.
- Pat requested moving the October meeting to October 2. An email will be sent to see what dated works best for the majority of board members.
- Wyoming Association of Fairs Oct 8-10, Rocky Mountain Association of Fairs November 12-15.
- Vision Session will be September 23-25 at 6PM. A survey will be sent out to Superintendents and volunteers.

- The old State Vet Office building has not been rented. Nikki Horton asked Larry Allen if the former State Vets office building could be sold? Larry said he would check with the County Attorney. Kourtney suggested if its going to be a rental it needs to be listed on the rental sites or with more than one realtor.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Update Fremont Center Roof- Roof has been completed. Laura sent the Invoice to the County Treasurer.
- Barn Update- will be discussed at Vision Session
- Fair Annex- discussed under manager's report
- City Request for property- Larry suggest the trade take place excluding the piece of property that could affect the Sale Barn. The city was told that they would need to go to the County in regard to trade. This item will be removed from future agendas.

Counting down....113th Fremont County Fair, just 317 days away

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- Vision Session Sept. 23-25 6PM
- Set a time with Larry and Julie for the Board to sit down and discuss some of the questions that the board had presented the county.
- TRIO MOU- Trevor recommended raising the rent from \$250 to \$300 per month and having Nathan Maxon the County Attorney review before signing. Moved by Alex Eckhardt, seconded by Kourtney Hanger motion passed.
- High School Rodeo would like to rent the Black Widow tool for their rodeo. Trevor questioned what the policy is for non-employees running equipment. Larry stated that board members can run equipment but other non-employees may not. He added that the Black Widow is an implement it can be rented out. The agreement needs to state the amount it would be rented for and replacement and repair will be paid for by the renting party. Trevor asked what covers the county if something happens when someone brings in their own equipment and something happens. Larry stated they are renting the space for the event and the renter should have their own insurance. Larry reminded the board that last year it was discussed to put a policy in place for rentals and equipment and nothing has been done about it. Kourtney added that it was requested at Vision Session last year that a policy be created. Drafts can be written and sent to the County Attorney for review. Kourtney would like the policy to state that the renter must have insurance prior to renting our implements. Policy will be discussed at Vision Session.
- Trevor said he can go in and take care of things at the Annex if need be, until someone is hired. Larry said that Billy could also send one of his employees down to work the ground as well. Larry suggested calling Weed and Pest to spray sterilant along the fence line and pay for it out of self-generated funds. Nikki stated that money could be saved subcontracting weed spraying. Chase Taylor said she was licensed and has the equipment to spray.
- Nikki Horton stated that she appreciated that complaints that were submitted to the Commission were forwarded to the board. She stated that she has received correspondence from people who were impressed by how active the Fair Board was at Fair this year. Nikki said she sees no problem when the board gets put in the position of things not done that the board had been told had been done, when a kid offers to help, that help will be accepted. An exception to a fair rule was made by the board and she stands by that. The County Commission decided that the Fair Board should be the ones to handle the situation. He stated that the board needs to address the issue. Trevor stated that the issue was addressed at the last meeting. Mr. Allen suggested that the board

respond to the letter. Kourtney Hanger stated there is no reason for the board to take blame or admit any fault. The letters statements were made in anger and are not factual. On the issue of volunteers bringing animals in early Kourtney added that it was voted on that the volunteers could bring their animals in early.

- Laura wanted to go on record commending the Fair Board for the way they stepped up and worked together to get things done during fair, if they saw a need they took care of it without being asked. She added that she appreciates the board so much and that they are top notch. The Board is passionate about the fair and the kids and it shows.
- Laura asked that the outdoor Annex arena be worked and the indoor be worked prior to the Royalty clinic. Trevor stated he would get it done.
- Kourtney asked if a committee member could run equipment. Larry Allen responded, that is a grey area.
- Royce Hanger asked if there was a way he could subcontract during Fair to assist with things during the week when he is available. He would love to be able to help when he is in town where ever he is needed. Larry stated he could be hired as a contractor and would be covered under liability insurance. Larry will verify with the County.

IX. Executive Session

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

Executive session was entered at 7:40PM

Regular session reconvened at 9:02PM

Nikki Horton moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:04PM seconded by Kourtney Hanger; motion passed.

Next Meeting

The next Board Meeting to be determined, in Riverton, in the Classroom, Fremont Center, at the fairgrounds.

Trevor Bekken, Fair Board President

Alex Eckhardt, Fair Board Secretary