



**15<sup>th</sup> District Agricultural Association  
Kern County Fair and Event Center  
Bakersfield, California**

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting  
Tuesday, February 20, 2024

**Call to Order:**

Chairman Britschgi called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM in the Association Office.

**Directors Present:**

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Excused</u>
Jared Britschgi	X		
Cesar Chavez	X		
Ned Dunphy	X		
Lucas Espericueta	X		
NaTasha Johnson			
David Lidgett			
Blodgie Rodriguez	X		
David Torres	X		

Chairman Britschgi requested a motion to approve the excused absence of Director Lidgett and Director Johnson. Motion made by Director Torres, seconded by Director Dunphy. Motion passed by all Directors.

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Approved (Yes Vote)</u>	<u>Not Approved (No Vote)</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Jared Britschgi	X		
Cesar Chavez	X		
Ned Dunphy	X		
Lucas Espericueta	X		
NaTasha Johnson			
David Lidgett			
Blodgie Rodriguez	X		
David Torres	X		

**Public Comment:**

No Public Comment

**Consent Calendar:**

- a. Review of Minutes of January 16, 2024, Regular Meeting
- b. Review of 2024 Interim Rental Agreements
- c. Review of 2024 Sponsorship Agreements
- d. Review of 2024 Standard Agreements

Chairman Britschgi requested a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion made by Director Rodriguez, seconded by Director Torres. Motion passed by all Directors.

<b><u>Board Member</u></b>	<b><u>Approved (Yes Vote)</u></b>	<b><u>Not Approved (No Vote)</u></b>	<b><u>Abstain</u></b>
Jared Britschgi	X		
Cesar Chavez	X		
Ned Dunphy	X		
Lucas Espericueta	X		
NaTasha Johnson			
David Lidgett			
Blodgie Rodriguez	X		
David Torres	X		

**Committee Reports**

**Finance Committee** - Lucas Espericueta, Chairperson

- a. Review of Financial Report (*Discussion/Action by Board*)
- b. Review of the December 2023 Financials (*Discussion/Action by Board*)
- c. Review of the January 2024 Financials (*Discussion/Action by Board*)

Director Espericueta- The summary on tab 3 reported a strong 2023 financial position for 2023. Year to date Revenue is our all-time high at \$9,400,000. We had Expenses of \$9,300,000, which gave us a profit of \$109,000. That does not include the AB1499 money we received for \$215,000, so in total we have a profit of \$324,000. This year we had expenses of \$9,300,000 and last year \$8,000,000 and 2019 we were at \$8,200,000. The increased expenses were due to payroll costs and project costs. Tab 15 has the budget that was approved last month. We have budgeted expenses for \$9,600,000 and Revenue of \$9,957,850. January is a slow month and there is not much to report financially. Overall, the financials look great.

Chairman Britschgi requested a motion to approve the Financial Report, the December 2023 Financials, and the January 2024 Financials. Motion made by Director Dunphy, seconded by Director Torres. Motion passed by all Directors.

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Approved (Yes Vote)</u>	<u>Not Approved (No Vote)</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Jared Britschgi	X		
Cesar Chavez	X		
Ned Dunphy	X		
Lucas Espericueta	X		
NaTasha Johnson			
David Lidgett			
Blodgie Rodriguez	X		
David Torres	X		

**Livestock Committee** - Jared Britschgi, Chairperson

- a. Review and Discussion of the 2024 Livestock Catalog. Addendum A.

Director Britschgi- The 2024 Livestock Catalog can be reviewed on tab 7. The catalog looks good and ready to post once it is approved.

Chairman Britschgi requested a motion to approve the 2024 Livestock Catalog. Motion made by Director Torres, seconded by Director Chavez. Motion passed by all Directors.

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Approved (Yes Vote)</u>	<u>Not Approved (No Vote)</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Jared Britschgi	X		
Cesar Chavez	X		
Ned Dunphy	X		
Lucas Espericueta	X		
NaTasha Johnson			
David Lidgett			
Blodgie Rodriguez	X		
David Torres	X		

**Facilities/ Business Development Committee** - NaTasha Johnson, Chairperson

Nothing to report.

**KC's Farm Committee** - Ned Dunphy, and Lucas Espericueta, Chairperson

- a. Schedule of Classes for the first and second quarters of 2024 in KC's Farm.

Lori Roberts- Mike and I are working on a proposal for the Superintendent of Schools to be a part of KC's Farm. Field trips are hard because the schools are limited to one field trip a year and the trips are already locked in. I have one workshop with Teresa Andrews for the 4H kids. I have a couple field trips in a box out to a couple schools and they will be giving me feedback.

Instead of a fundraiser dinner, Mike and I discussed having more of an open house to get the teachers attend. Two-day camps were well received last year, and we will do them again this year. They are going to take a portion of Valley Oaks with the overpass that is being built so the school will need a farm. Valley Oaks will more than likely want to partner with the fair and they will come and use our farm for their classes.

**Old Business**

- a. Review and Discussion of the 2024 Person of the Year.

Mike- Our recommendation for the person of the year is Debbie Zittel who has put countless volunteer hours and time in the swine bar. She is a pleasure to work with and has been dedicated to the Kern County Fair Livestock Department for years.

Chairman Britschgi requested a motion to approve Debbie Zittel to be the 2024 Kern County Fair 2024 Person of the Year. Motion made by Director Torres, seconded by Director Rodriguez. Motion passed by all Directors.

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Approved (Yes Vote)</u>	<u>Not Approved (No Vote)</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Jared Britschgi	X		
Cesar Chavez	X		
Ned Dunphy	X		
Lucas Espericueta	X		
NaTasha Johnson			
David Lidgett			
Blodgie Rodriguez	X		
David Torres	X		

Director Torres recommended that Fair staff reduce the cost on the person of the year dinner to comply with State mandates. Chairman Britschgi referred the recommendation by Director Torres to CEO Olcott to

**New Business**

- a. Board Discussion for CEO Mike Olcott, Deputy Manager Lilia Kenneally and staff members Andrea VanMetre and Staci to attend “Super Schools” in Roseville, California Tuesday February 27<sup>th</sup> to Thursday February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The training is designed to teach new techniques in design, discusses rules, and offers an environment for sharing ideas and troubleshooting problems.

Chairman Britschgi requested a motion to approve CEO Mike Olcott, Deputy Manager Lilia Kenneally and staff members Andrea VanMetre and Staci to attend “Super Schools” in Roseville, California Tuesday February 27<sup>th</sup> to Thursday February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Motion made by Director Espericueta, seconded by Director Chavez. Motion passed by all Directors

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Approved (Yes Vote)</u>	<u>Not Approved (No Vote)</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Jared Britschgi	X		
Cesar Chavez	X		
Ned Dunphy	X		
Lucas Espericueta	X		
NaTasha Johnson			
David Lidgett			
Blodgie Rodriguez	X		
David Torres	X		

- a. Board Discussion for staff member Chelsey Roberts to attend Saffire Summit, Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 to Friday May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, in Portland, Oregon for ticketing, website, digital marketing, and all Saffire services.

Chairman Britschgi requested a motion to approve staff member Chelsey Roberts to attend Saffire Summit, Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 to Friday May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, in Portland, Oregon for ticketing, website, digital marketing, and all Saffire services. Motion made by Director Espericueta, seconded by Director Chavez. Motion passed by all Directors.

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Approved (Yes Vote)</u>	<u>Not Approved (No Vote)</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Jared Britschgi	X		
Cesar Chavez	X		
Ned Dunphy	X		
Lucas Espericueta	X		
NaTasha Johnson			
David Lidgett			
Blodgie Rodriguez	X		
David Torres	X		

**Next Regular Board Meeting**

- a. Next scheduled board meeting is **Monday, March 18, 2024**, at 5:00 PM.

**CEO Reports**

- a. CA EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RESILIENCY VENUES AND FAIRGROUNDS (CERRVF)  
a 501 c 5 Non-Profit Corporation.
- b. Year-Round Events update
- c. Fairgrounds and Facilities Update

Mike- Does everyone understand the relationship between WFA and California Fairs Alliance?

- d. California Fairs Alliance is our advocacy group and WFA actually is an organization that supports 9 to 10 States and provides a Yearly Convention They

are tied together. Most states have their own associations, so California Fairs Alliance is trying to move away from WFA and still be under their 501 non-profit statuses. This process is very time consuming, and we are all members of it. Several fairs have asked for multiple years for us to go after other money not just fair related money. We advocate that our fairs are more than just fairs, we are venues, events, resiliencies centers for emergencies. We are being used more and more emergencies and we need funding from a different source. We can get more funding for the infrastructure to be upgraded and ready for any emergency that arises. There is a new organization with six original board members of which I am one of the six representing the Kern County Fair. The Office of Emergency Services are interested in partnering more closely with fairgrounds to have facilities that are ready when the Governor needs the temporary use of the properties for emergencies. We have hired a lobbyist to advocate on our behalf to secure funding for venues and fairgrounds. The new organization is called CA EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RESILIENCY VENUES AND FAIRGROUNDS (CERRVF) and it is a 501 c 5 corporation. We hired a top lobbyist called Platinum Advisors and the owner is Darius Anderson. He is putting together our website and lists of legislation that would benefit us. The actual cost for this year is \$25,000.00 for dues and this amount is part of the approved 2024 budget.

**Correspondence**

- a. D2024-02 Bagley-Keene and CDFA Policy Final

**Other information**

Nothing to report.

**Directors Comments**

Ned Dunphy- No Comment  
David Lidgett- No Comment  
David Torres- No Comment  
Cesar Chavez- No Comment  
Lucas Espericueta- No Comment  
Jared Britschgi- No Comment  
NaTasha Johnson- No Comment  
Blodgie Rodriguez- No Comment

**CLOSED SESSION:**

- a. Personnel Matters: Gov Code 11126 (a) Annual CEO Evaluation

Chairman Britschgi requested a motion to approve to go into Closed Session. Motion made by Director Torres, seconded by Director Chavez. Motion passed by all Directors

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Approved (Yes Vote)</u>	<u>Not Approved (No Vote)</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Jared Britschgi	X		
Cesar Chavez	X		
Ned Dunphy	X		
Lucas Espericueta	X		
NaTasha Johnson			
David Lidgett			
Blodgie Rodriguez	X		
David Torres	X		


**RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION:**


Chairman Britschgi requested a motion to approve to reconvene in Open Session at 5:30 PM. Motion made by Director Torres, seconded by Director Chavez. Motion passed by all Directors.

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Approved (Yes Vote)</u>	<u>Not Approved (No Vote)</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Jared Britschgi	X		
Cesar Chavez	X		
Ned Dunphy	X		
Lucas Espericueta	X		
NaTasha Johnson			
David Lidgett			
Blodgie Rodriguez	X		
David Torres	X		

No action to report in closed session.

Certified to be a True Copy

Signed   
Jared Britschgi  
Title: Chairman of the Board  
Date: February 20, 2024

Signed   
Michael G Olcott  
Title: Chief Executive Officer  
Date: February 20, 2024