



15th District Agricultural Association
Kern County Fair and Event Center
Bakersfield, California

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, May 17, 2021

Call to Order:

Chairwoman Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM via zoom teleconference.

Directors Present:

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

Chairwoman Rodriguez requested a motion to approve to excuse Director Dunphy. Motion made by Director Chavez, seconded by Director Johnson. Motion passed by all Directors. Director Dunphy arrived on zoom at 5:15 PM.

Public Comment:

No public comments

Consent Calendar:

- a. Review of Minutes of April 19, 2021 regular meeting

Chairwoman Rodriguez requested a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion made by Director Britschgi, seconded by Director Espericueta. Director Torres Abstains. Motion passed.

<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	X		
David Lidgett	X		
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 April 2021 Financials (*Discussion/Action by Board*)

Lucas – \$143,000 of revenue from rental of grounds and Kern County market place. \$131,000 of expenses. A profit of \$11,400 for April operating profit. We also received \$250,000 in non-operating funding from CDFA in April. Our cash position is strong. We are sitting with \$2.4 Million in total cash. The association remains in lockdown mode in a financial stable holding pattern.

Chairwoman Rodriguez requested a motion to approve the April 2021 Financials. Motion made by Director Britschgi, 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	X		
David Lidgett	X		
Blodgie Rodriguez	X		
David Torres	X		

Livestock Committee - Jared Britschgi, Chairperson

Jared – There will be a Grading event and Sale at fair this year during the normal fair dates.

Kristine Hudson – Dates in the book are correct for each specie that will show.

Mike- Unless something changes with protocols we’re hoping the timeline will stay the same.

Kristine- We will bring the animals on the same dates.

Mike- Yes, but we have to be mobile in case protocols change

Kristine- Thanked the staff and Directors.

Facilities Committee - Cesar Chavez, Chairperson

Nothing to report

Business Development Committee - Ned Dunphy, Chairperson

Nothing to report.

KC's Farm Committee - Ned Dunphy and Lucas Espericueta

Nothing to report.

Old Business

No old business

New Business

- a. Review and Discussion of the amendment to the contract/ agreement between the County of Kern and the 15th DAA for emergency use of the property.

Mike- Presently we have a contract with the County of Kern through the end of June. They are extending the contract through September 30th 2021. Extending the time for the property for a mass vaccination site and alternative care site. Their mission is granted by the State and Emergency Services Department.

Lucas- Potentially not renewing the contract. Affectively not bringing the fair together.

Mike- Fairgrounds are the property of the County of Kern. This is our contribution to COVID-19 event. The County of Kern has the right to take us over, regardless of if we sign the contract or not.

Lucas- Wants to discuss middle ground with the County.

Mike- State does not have guidance for us and for large events. We currently can't have a large event, even if they granted us the fair. Right now, the county is granting us permission to have a livestock show because it is part of their contracted property.

Ned- I do want a fair, but that will make it hard for us to make that work.

Lucas- No better venue to have a gathering with what we have now. Everything is moving in the right direction. I'm asking for a Livestock extra, maybe we can throw a few local music acts. We are still 4 months away. In 4 months, we can throw a party. I'm fighting for the right to party, as the lyrics go. I need this and my family needs this.

Johnson- A lot of layers. With those layers of uncertainty, we're unclear with what direction to go. I do respect your passion, Lucas.

Lucas- I'm not saying this is going to be easy. If we can just step up and donate some of our time to the fair and help run things. We can get something done.

David Torres-From a legal perspective we are going to have some issues. They are anticipating an increase in COVID-19 in September or October.

Blodgie- We're very fortunate that we have a positive relationship with our county. Our County is one of our community partners. They made the very generous decision to pay rent and that's what our contract is about. Right now is not a time for us to point fingers at the county. This is an emergency, and we're an alternative care site as well as a vaccination site, mandated by the Governor's Office. We need to keep this top of mind. We have a duty to his office, we all serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

Lucas- the County is why we're in the position we are, they provided for our facility's to be used and paid us for that, when they really didn't have to. I'm asking for a chance to renegotiate to see if this will be an option. Maybe we can still potentially do this and still have that conversation with them. To respond to David's point, we haven't made the contracts yet. We can put language in those contracts that says last minute we want the right to cancel. Regarding to the spread of COVID, to my knowledge there's never been a transmission outside. Everything will be outside.

Chairwoman Rodriguez requested a motion to approve the amendment to the contract with the County of Kern. Motion made by Director Torres, seconded by Director Johnson. Motion passes.

David- The entire Board appreciates the passion that Lucas has. However we understand we need to continue to pursue the contract.

<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	X		
David Lidgett	X		
Blodgie Rodriguez	X		
David Torres	X		

- b. Review and discussion regarding the consideration of whether or not to cancel the 2021 Kern County Fair.

Lucas- I submit all my previous arguments into this one as well.

David- What is fair? I think all of us want something this year. If we have to follow the protocol we have to respect what is happening with COVID.

Mike- The annual fair is what is in question. We have been planning an alternative event in case this came up. That's why we we're talking about a festival. It won't be called fair, because it won't have all the fair components. But it will have the same components a normal fair would be. It would be a 4 day event in the fall if protocols change and guidance change that we can open up and get the County health department and the States approval.

Ned- I agree, but if we have a chance to do something. I would hate to make the decision right now.

Mike- I have to have that motion from you, so I can cancel long standing contracts that are year after year like Carnival, lighting, stages, bleachers, sheriff's contracts. I have to give them time to cancel.

Lucas- Name and list those contracts you need to cancel, and we will give you authority to cancel those contracts and not cancel the Fair yet. Or we can rename the fair the 2021 Kern County Livestock Fair.

Mike- You can go back and decide to have a fair at a later date. But not in September, it would be too late at that time.

David Torres- How about we say, we cancel the 2021 fair. Unless an opportunity surfaces where the original fair can be possible.

Blodgie- What the staff is proposing, that later in the year we are aiming to do something in the end of the year, but it will not be called a fair.

NaTasha- So we can actually postpone, but also have a festival or music festival of some sorts. We can meet in middle ground if we have an approval to do so.

David Torres- Are we not able to use the Bud Pavilion during the livestock show?

Mike- No, Everything south of Grand Avenue is being used.

Blodgie- We have maintenance, Union Fair parking lot. That's it.

NaTasha- We have to take into consideration, like parking.

Blodgie- the County will not have us under contract and go according of the guidelines the state has set forth. Later in the year.

NaTasha - We have to postpone it in September, there is no space.

Lucas- Can we motion and give you authority to cancel all the long-term contracts and table the decision to cancel the 2021 Kern County Fair until next month.

Blodgie- It is not going to try and change the contract we already agreed to.

Mike- If I cancel those long-term contracts the fair won't happen, because those are major players. There's no carnival, there's no sheriffs contract. If I cancel they will move on to somewhere else.

Lucas- I think we can make the decisions to cancel the 2021 fair next month.

Mike- If we table it until next month and I cancel those contracts, it's going to be very difficult for me to put on any type of fair. It's my lighting, my sound it's everything.

NaTasha- It is very difficult to go back on the contract once you cancel them.

Lucas- I feel like we should have one more month to figure it out.

David Torres- were postponing the fair. I think it's a great idea. If you don't have the right vendors lined up, It will be impossible to put on a fair.

Lucas- Our vendors are our community. Boy scouts, Basque club. If we give them 3 months instead of 4 months they will be fine.

Chairwoman Rodriguez requested a motion to postpone the 2021 Kern County Fair. Motion made by Director Torres, seconded by Director Chavez. Motion passes.

<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	X		
David Lidgett	X		
Blodgie Rodriguez	X		
David Torres	X		

Next Regular Board Meeting

Next scheduled board meeting is Monday, June 21, 2021 at 5:00 PM in the Association Office and via zoom meeting.

CEO Report

Mike –. Last year funding July – July of this year was 40 Million. Governor is also going to put in his May revision of 50 million budget to help all the fairs that have been struggling that have not received any kind of CARES Act or CARES money. As far as facilities update, we’re continuing to repair maintenance equipment. In the next few years, we are going to be in desperate need of new equipment. We’re continuing to receive good revenue through the Kern Market Place (Swap Meet) in the union parking lot. Staff continues to work on union parking lot to fill in holes. We recently installed new LED lighting in the union parking lot replacing burned out bulbs. We will eventually move to the P Street Parking Lot and replace those light bulbs. The trees we planted earlier this year are holding their own with the water. They are doing great. As far as the grass right now, we are trying to keep the grass green. We’re helping the county with whatever need they have. Whether the need to use our forklift, trash removals anything we can assist them with in this mass vaccination site or in their contact tracing area.

David Torres- There’s no adjustment after the May revise?

Mike- I don’t believe so, In fact recently it was brought to my attention that the Governor added a onetime \$150,000,000 line item for fairs for resilience and community support for fair grounds.

Lucas- will we need to amend our current budget. The budget we have approved has a fair.

Mike- Not at this time, because you approved both budgets at the same time.

Correspondence

Nothing to report

Other information

Join us for Coffee with the CEO every Thursday morning.

Directors Comments

Lidgett- Thank you to staff, thankful for livestock show

Chavez- No comment

Torres- Echo Lidgett, thank you, thank you

Espericueta-Thank you staff and directors.

Britschgi- no comment

Johnson- Echo. Thank You CEO and staff

Rodriguez- Thank You board and staff

Closed Session

- a. Personnel: The Board is authorized to meet in Closed Session for the purpose of considering: Personnel Matters (Gov. Code § 11125(a))

Chairwoman Rodriguez requested a motion to go into closed session at 6:02 PM. Motion made by Director Lidgett, seconded by Director Espericueta. 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	X		
David Lidgett	X		
Blodgie Rodriguez	X		
David Torres	X		

Chairwoman Rodriguez requested a motion to reconvene into open session at 6:21 PM. Motion made by Director Espericueta, seconded by Director Lidgett. 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	X		
David Lidgett	X		
Blodgie Rodriguez	X		
David Torres	X		

Chairwoman Rodriguez reported that there was no action taken during closed session.


Chairwoman Rodriguez requested a motion to adjourn the May 17, 2021 Board of Directors meeting. Motion made by Director Espericueta, seconded by Director Lidgett. 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	X		
David Lidgett	X		
Blodgie Rodriguez	X		
David Torres	X		

Time is 6:22 PM.

Certified to be a True Copy

Signed


Blodgie Rodriguez

Title: Chairwoman of the Board

Date: June 21, 2021

Signed


Michael G Olcott

Title: Chief Executive Officer

Date: June 21, 2021