

**NCW Fair Board Meeting
Thursday, June 8, 2023**

Members Present		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christy Asmussen <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adam Foged <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Julia Goodman <input type="checkbox"/> Leon Grant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heidi Hedges	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chance Landon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Becky Matthiesen <input type="checkbox"/> Marie Overton <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bill Schneider <input type="checkbox"/> Jesse Shafer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jamey Jo Steele <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Margaret Viebrock <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lori Beidler <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ann Whitehall <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sheri Bock
Staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carolyn Morley <input type="checkbox"/> Nicole Sanders	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ramon Ramirez
Guests	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Adam called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m. He mentioned that if you have items to be added to the agenda, please do so.

Margaret moved, and Chance seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on May 11, 2023, as presented. The minutes were emailed to all Board members previously. It passed unanimously.

Carolyn gave a brief overview of the financial report.

- Lori researched how to apply for a grant from Microsoft to purchase tablets and other technology necessary to be used in connection with FairEntry. Carolyn applied for the grant, which was received for \$9,000.
- Tickets for pretty much everything are selling on-line.

Old Business

1. **Dueling Pianos** was held on May 20. The event was a good success; all but 20 tickets were sold. Everyone looked like they were having a fun time. The bar netted about \$4,000. The decision to operate the bar again will be taken under advisement for future events.
2. **Department of Agriculture Evaluation Committee** – Carolyn will get this on her agenda soon to begin having meetings and determine how to proceed.
3. **Fair Theme** – Take me to the County Fair was decided upon by the Board. The premium books are here, and they look great. Carolyn is working on t-shirts and other merchandise.
4. **Sheep/Goat barn update** – The County came to look at the building. Heather, the Building Inspector, will come back with a plan to replace or repair it. We could apply for a safety grant from the Department of Ag. That application would be due in September.

5. **Open Superintendent Positions –**

- Baking
- Floriculture
- Arts & Crafts
- Horticulture superintendent will be Lani Kenner.

6. **Black & White Ribbon/Superintendent Totes –** Carolyn is having Ashley work on the binder project to have a sample for us to look at in June at the Board meeting. Ann mentioned that the livestock committee meets with the livestock superintendents in June so having the binders would be important. Carolyn mentioned her desire for a “superschool” to have all superintendents in the same room hearing the same thing so asked that the livestock committee hold off on those meetings for now.

7. **Our Fair Cares –**

- Picnic Table Project – Eleven groups were selected, and the tables have been prepped and are ready to be picked up.
- Volunteer t-shirts (looking for a sponsor) – Sheri was going to talk with her husband to see if his business would be willing to sponsor this. Margaret was next in line for consideration.
- Opportunity for All (possible partnership with Brave Warrior Project) -- disabled individuals learn about goats and are paired with an exhibitor to show the goat during the Fair with their partner. The livestock committee will work with Heidi to find a spot in the schedule that will work and to determine some coordination.
- Free hair cuts/backpacks (in the work) – Ramon is working on this

8. **Junior Fair Board –** further discussion of this was tabled until September.

9. **Exhibitor Guidebooks –** These are complete and ready for distribution. Everyone was asked to take a bundle or two and get them delivered around the area.

10. **Department of Agriculture Evaluation Conversation –**

- A STEM group would like to take the entire “dog barn” area to be used for their “hands on” activities.
- There will also be a wheat interactive display.
- The old farm equipment that we wanted to retain has been moved along the midway for display.

New Business.

1. **Committee Reports:**

- Livestock Committee:

- USDA recently notified us that RFID tags will be required for hogs. They provided them, along with some applicators. They will secure our usual numbered ear-tags.
- The water line project is nearing completion; the line needs to be connected to the faucet.
- Ramon's uncle will haul the ecology blocks from Baker's Flat to the fairgrounds; the livestock committee will pay for the fuel required for the project.
- Discussion of allowing live poultry this year; there has not been an outbreak of avian influenza since last February. The livestock committee made a recommendation to the Board to allow live birds. Sheri made a motion to allow live poultry unless there is an outbreak of avian influenza that requires us to cancel them prior to fair. Julia seconded; the motion passed.
- Purchasing microphones for the animal show arenas is being explored. Carolyn mentioned that she would talk with the Friends of the Fair about it. The cost is \$450 per microphone, a total of four are needed.
- Race & Rodeo:
 - The race sponsors have agreed again this year and the committee is working to collect monies from them.
 - Valley Ag is donating the use of a water truck during the fair, which saves us some money as we had to rent the water truck from the county previously. Eider has one for us to use too, although it is smaller.
- Entertainment:
 - We had to withdraw from the Jimmy Allan contract and are looking for a new artist. There are offers for several artists but no word back yet on a replacement artist for this year's concert.
- Operations/Ag Evaluation Committee – They will start meeting soon.

2. Capital Improvements:

- The ground was soft where the race barns were destroyed because of all the water used when they were burned. Ramon mentioned that they are trying to get it dried out and are digging for water lines. They are about two weeks out for asphalt. Douglas County is going to do the paving for a price.
- Arena dirt – This is finished, and they are mixing the sand and dirt and hoping to be ready to start working it to be ready for the Junior Rodeo & Bible Camp that is upcoming.
- Ticket booths for the North and East entrances are being built. They will have power, Wi-Fi, air conditioning, etc. like the temporary office by the main entrance. They are being built by Rent-Me-Storage.

- Upgrades to the front parking lot are in process. Pipkin was awarded the contract and will begin laying gravel in the area next week. This project was funded by grant monies received from sales and use tax dollars.
 - Barn renovation – this is getting close to being completed, getting the electrical and outlets now. They are also working on the interior of the “dog barn” and developing a 5-year plan on renovations to electrical issues around the fairgrounds.
3. **Douglas County Cattlemen’s Representative:** Nolan Ruud was unable to attend the meeting, so Christy Asmussen spoke on his behalf. They would like to partner with the rodeo committee on a fundraising opportunity (such as a dinner, auction, etc.) and would be willing to share the funds on a 50/50 or 60/40 basis. Discussion ensued where the Board has, in the past, declined to allow other organizations to capitalize on our fundraising efforts. This serves to diminish the fundraising efforts by the Fair. It was discussed that if the Cattlemen’s group wanted to rent the Community Hall for their fundraising event, which would be acceptable. Or they could be “hired” by the Fair to provide a service during one of our events (such as the garbage detail during Fair, table washing, etc.).
- 4 **Monster Truck & Freedom Event** – The booth for the soda/water/chips/candy concession was staffed by the Cheerleaders last year. They are going to be staffing the gates and have other fundraising opportunities available to them and will not be operating this concession at the Monster Truck event. It was determined that the Rodeo Committee wanted to take this fundraising opportunity this year.
5. **Super School** – Carolyn is going to work on the planning of this event. She will propose some dates and would like involvement from all barn superintendents, including livestock. She will send out information for further review.
6. **Volunteer of the Year Nominations** – The Commissioners would like to receive nomination forms for consideration for more than one potential candidate for the volunteer of the year. Names were proposed by Christy and Ann; Ramon and Sheri will work on their nomination, and Julia will work on the form for her nomination.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:245 p.m. The next meeting will be held on July 13 at 6:00 p.m.

Ann Whitehall, Secretary