

**NCW Fair Board Meeting
Thursday, May 11, 2023**

Members Present		
<input type="checkbox"/> Christy Asmussen <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adam Foged <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Julia Goodman <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leon Grant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heidi Hedges	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chance Landon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Becky Matthiesen <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marie Overton <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bill Schneider <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Sheri Bock
Staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carolyn Morley <input type="checkbox"/> Nicole Sanders	<input type="checkbox"/> Ashley Freeman <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ramon Ramirez
Guests	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Adam called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He mentioned that if you have items to be added to the agenda, please do so.

Margaret moved, and Leon seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on February 9, 2023, as presented. The minutes were emailed to all Board members previously. It passed unanimously.

Carolyn gave a brief overview of the financial report. Funds received from the State grant were \$50,000 (\$78,000 was budgeted). The shortfall will need to be made up from somewhere else. Tickets are selling for everything except for exhibitor tickets.

Old Business

1. **Justin Boot Award for Excellence** was presented to Dan Love. He was present to accept the award and was thanked for his volunteerism on behalf of the NCW Fair.
2. **Dueling Pianos** is upcoming on May 20. Over 380 tickets have been sold, which is a little more than were sold for the comedy show last year.
3. **Beer Garden** – The liquor license was applied for. If granted, the Rodeo Committee will operate the beer garden for the Dueling Pianos event. Tillicum Riders will remain as back-up for other events.
4. **WSDA Committee** – This group needs to begin meeting and brainstorming ideas as to how to help the Fair improve upon its rating resulting from the inspection upcoming this year.
5. **Fair “Theme” for 2023** – The theme chosen by vote at the previous Board meeting was “Take me to the County Fair”. Carolyn is working with Jennifer Bourton on presentation ideas.

New Business.

1. Committee Reports:

- Livestock Committee:
 - Working to finalize the set-up of Fair Entry for use this year to have available for on-line registration, etc.
 - We have found Judges for all animal species.
 - The water line project from the east bathroom building to the corner of the swine show arena has been dug; pipe is being laid.
 - Update for wash racks for the goat/sheep barn will be completed in conjunction with the extension of the water line from the east bathroom building.
 - Transportation to move the ecology blocks from Central Washington Asphalt at Baker's Flat to Waterville has been found. Fuel expenses for the project will be paid from the livestock sale retains.
 - Sandwich board signage is being handled by Mansfield FFA students. They will cut vinyl letters for the newly purchased inserts for the four signboards.
 - Purchasing microphones for the animal show arenas is being explored.
 - Bill agreed to look at the sump pumps for the beef wash rack and the swine wash rack to see what routine maintenance is necessary. If they need to be repaired or replaced, we need to be proactive and get it taken care of sooner rather than later.
 - Acquisition of shade cloth for shelter over the grandstands by the swine/goat/sheep show arenas was discussed. Bill agreed to talk with Willy about the possibility of a temporary support system, that is feasible. Willy also has contacts within the Auvil Fruit organization; they use shade cloth extensively in their orchard holdings.
 - It was brought to the attention of management to review the condition of the sheep/goat barn due to a safety and soundness issue.
 - The binder project is nearing completion. Ann agreed to contact Marlene Poe, DVM, the Fair veterinarian, for verbiage relative to this issue.
- Race & Rodeo: They are working on resurfacing the arena. Obtaining sand has been an issue but recently was overcome. They need volunteers to complete this project.
- Entertainment:
 - Jimmy Allan has been named in a lawsuit for questionable activities. We are uncertain at this point how it may affect us. Carolyn is checking into it as he's lost his record label and his music is no longer being played. Our contract is with the record label.
- Operations/Ag Evaluation Committee:
 - The renovation of the horticulture/photography/arts & crafts building is shaping up.
 - The binder project is nearing completion.

- Working on ways to fill the barns will educational presentations.
- We need to find barn supers for various still life divisions. Everyone was encouraged to work toward solving this dilemma.

2. **Capital Improvements:**

- The two oldest racehorse barns were burned down April 29; working to clean the site up and prepare it for construction. Construction of the new stalls will begin mid-June.
- Arena dirt – Ramon received quotes and will get started on that project probably next week. He would like to have it completed prior to June 23.
- 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 went out to bid last week (there are two weeks remaining on the bid period). The parking lot is to be leveled and graveled.
- Barn renovation – this is getting close to being completed, getting the electrical and outlets now.

3. **Goat/sheep barn issues** – Support beams are sitting directly on the ground and are rotting in one area. The damage affects the structure, so it was sent to the Commissioners for their review. The County may have to fix it if it is a safety issue. We are waiting to see what the County has to say about it.

4. **Open Superintendent Positions** – Marie, Margaret, Ann, and Carolyn are working on this, trying to fill the vacancies. Everyone was encouraged to participate and communicate with any potential candidates that you may know.

5. **Exhibitor Guide Update** – Margaret and Ann are working on this with the assistance of Shellee Ludeman. The scheduled “print date” is May 20, 2023.

6. **Black and White Ribbon, Superintendents, Totes, etc.** – The Black and White ribbon can be awarded to a person or a barn, etc. The award is presented by the person from the State Fair Commission conducting the evaluation of our Fair. More information will be provided about this during our “super school”, which will be scheduled as soon as we find our superintendents. We want to be supportive of the Supers and need to know what they need; they need to know what all we need from them. Going forward the binders will “standardize” information provided to all barn superintendents. 4-H/FFA/Grange can add whatever they want to, but this gives us a place from which to start.

7. **#OurFairCares** – A way for our Fair to give back to those who support us.
 - a. Picnic Table Project
 - b. Potential partnership with WV Humane Society – perhaps giving away free tickets for two weeks during the summer to those adopting an animal.
 - c. Volunteer t-shirts (looking for a sponsor); a way to highlight volunteers.
 - d. Opportunity for all (possible partnership with Brave Warrior/Boat) for special needs children.
 - e. Free haircuts/backpacks before school (this is in the works with CVCH) – mullet/beard competition at Fair.

8. **Junior Fair Board** – information was handed out regarding the National Junior Fair Board Information Meeting that was attended by Adam Foged, including his thoughts on the project. Adam felt strongly that we should pursue this for our Fair later in the year.

9. **Department of Ag Evaluation Conversation** – Our featured ag exhibit will be provided by a local STEM organization with about 80 feet of hands-on activities. That will fill the area previously referred to as the “dog barn”.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m. The next meeting will be held on June 8 at 6:00 p.m.

Ann Whitehall, Secretary