NCW Fair Board Meeting
Thursday, July 9, 2026

Members Present		
☒ Colby Holaday ☒ Adam Foged ☒ Liz Marlow ☒ Leon Grant ☐	☒ Mark Johnson ☐ ☒ Bill Schneider ☒ Amy English ☐	☒ Jamey Jo Steele ☒ Margaret Viebrock ☒ Lori Beidler ☒ Ann Whitehall ☒ Sheri Bock
Staff	☒ Carolyn Morley ☐	☐ Karina Angeles ☐ Ramon Ramirez
Guests	☐	☐

President Leon Grant called the meeting to order at 5:56 p.m. He mentioned that if you have items to be added to the agenda, please do so. There were no requests.

Minutes from the meeting held on June 12, 2026, were reviewed for approval. The minutes were previously emailed to all Board members. Jamey Jo made the motion to approve the minutes from the June meeting; Sheri seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor of approval.

Carolyn mentioned that budget figures were unavailable. The budget was not discussed.

Old Business: This was not discussed.

New Business:

1. **Committee Reports:**
   a. **Livestock Committee** –
      - Registration for livestock entries will close on July 15. Thus far registrations total 327 animals (193 of that total are market animals). The breakdown is as follows:
        - 5 Alpacas
        - 13 horses
        - 2 milk cows (one with a calf)
        - 3 Pet goats; 12 pygmy goats; 6 meat goats; and 10 dairy goats
        - 51 market goats
        - 84 market swine plus 3 open class swine327 animals
        - 16 market sheep plus 3 “other” sheep
        - 42 market beef plus one bottle heifer
        - 44 poultry (includes 1 turkey, 1 duck, and 2 geese)
        - 43 rabbits
      - At a recent Livestock Committee meeting it was discussed that the subject of maximum weight for sheep was too low, resulting in an unfinished animal. Ann

contacted the packer who stated that, due to current breeding standards, the maximum weight for a finished lamb should be within the range of 160 pounds to 175 pounds. Currently exhibitors work to hold the lamb's weight at 140 pounds a couple of weeks prior to fair so that it doesn't exceed the maximum weight of 150 pounds at weigh-in. This results in a loss of muscle tone, etc. A motion was made by Jamey Jo to increase the maximum weight for sheep to 165 pounds. The motion was seconded by Sheri. The vote taken was unanimous in favor of the motion.

- We have been working to obtain stalls to finish out the swine barn. There are currently stall panels to construct 66 stalls. With the current configuration, there is room for 82 stalls, which is a much more manageable number for the number of swine we've been having exhibited. R&S Custom Panels in Moses Lake can make the panels for us and have them completed by the second week of August for a cost range between $12,500 and $15,000. The livestock fund has sufficient proceeds to cover the cost of these panels.
- The goat barn will be outfitted with about 90 stalls, and the remaining panels will be used to create stalls in the Critter Collective for the sheep.
- The livestock committee mentioned that it would be interesting to consider bringing back the carcass class. Grant County runs the carcass class without a refrigerated trailer. They have the carcass class animals judged early Thursday morning; a processor comes and removes the animals and dispatches them. Pictures of the carcasses are then provided and available for viewing. The costs for dispatch are borne by the exhibitor at the time of registration. The cutting and wrapping of the animal is at the discretion of the exhibitor and those costs are borne by thema as well. After brief discussion, it was decided this could be a discussion for another day, after fair 2026 is a wrap.

b. **Race & Rodeo Committees** –
   - Mark mentioned that he may get a side-by-side and a driver for the "rodeo shuttle" from the parking lot to the arena.
   - Colby met with Carolyn and they needed help with:
     - Preparing the grounds.
     - Looking for sponsorship for a hospitality tent.
     - Tasks to be completed during the rodeo.
     - He is looking for volunteer workers.
     - Further discussion to be held during the August meeting.

c. **Entertainment –**
   - Sales for both concerts are going well.
   - The stage is in process.
   - Artists are booked and coming.
   - The boys' basketball team will help to get things ready for the concerts.

d. Operations –

- G.O.A.T. EXPERIENCE is moved Saturday at 3:00 p.m. in the goat arena. Sheri will judge the event. Currently there are 7 participants. The desire is to make it more meaningful to the exhibitors. Sheri requested that Ann keep an eye out for pygmy goats and Nigerian dwarf goats and their exhibitors to be used as "buddies" for this event.
- Lori mentioned they have a lead on a floral barn superintendent. They still need a superintendent for the arts and crafts department.
- The "Super School" invitations were sent to meet on July 18. However, it will likely be moved to August 8 to coincide with the second workday.
- Their search for volunteers resulted in 15 people who were willing to volunteer to help with check-in and throughout the fair in various departments.
- They will have a booth at the Waterville Farmer's Market on July 11 to help folks with online registrations.
- August 22 is the date for drop-off of exhibits at Coastal from 9:00 a.m. until noon.
- August 22 is also the date for drop-off exhibits at the fairgrounds in Waterville from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Lori would need additional volunteers for that date. Sheri said she will have two volunteers representing Grange (Niath Richmond and Marie Overton) available at the fairgrounds in Waterville. Ann is available as well on Saturday at the fairgrounds.
- August 26 – check-in day. Lori will need extra volunteers to assist with check-in. Ann and/or Braxton can help with selling exhibitor tickets that day, as we have in the past.

e. **Ramon's Report --**

- The swine barn is almost finished. He is working on the plumbing and completing the wash racks. When complete there will be 82 stalls.
- The bathroom renovation project will not commence until after fair is over.
- Installation of the hand railings in the grandstands has been completed.

2. Awards –

- Nominations opened for the "Supporter of the Year". This could be a sponsor, an outstanding volunteer or group of volunteers, etc. After a brief discussion, Ann nominated Highline Grain Growers. Jamey Jo seconded the motion. The vote approved the nomination unanimously. Carolyn will move the nomination to the Douglas County Commissioners.
- The Lifetime Achievement Award will be given to Becky Matthiesen this year during the race and rodeo event. She was a board member and involved with horse races for over 39 years. Margaret has agreed to prepare some information for the presentation of the award.

3. **Workdays – 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.**
    - July 25
    - August 8

4. **Board Volunteer Needs**
    - Dances – Friday Bill, Carolyn, Marie & GB. Saturday Leon, Bonnie & granddaughter. Margaret thought she could send some from 4-H as well.
    - Race & Rodeo programs – Margaret will sell them on Saturday at 3:00 p.m.; Sheri and Leon will sell them on Sunday around 12:00 p.m.
    - Leon will run and MC the zucchini race on Saturday. Parents will be asked to put the wheels on their child's zucchini racer.

There being no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m. The next board meeting will be held on August 13, 2026, starting at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Whitehall, Secretary