

**10TH DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
May 19, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER: The 10th District Agricultural Association Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President Finley in Winema Hall. Moved to that location to accommodate social distancing.

ROLL CALL/DIRECTORS ABSENT: All directors were present. There are four (4) vacant board positions.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND STAFF: Also present were Cliff Munson, CEO; Michelle Eiler, AGPA; Mike Luiz, Senior Maintenance Worker; Cheryl Foster, Junior Fair Board Advisor; Janae Scruggs, Friends of the Fair President; Jim Sweet, Glen Rizzardo & Nadine Hittson, 10th District JLAC Representatives; Jacki Zediker, Siskiyou 4H Clubs; Jason, Stacey, Jaclyn & Luke Murieen, Grenada 4H Club; Jacob & Kellie Hargett, Etna FFA; Jill & Nora Harris, Yreka FFA; Nancy Sites, Tulelake Butte Valley Fair CEO; and Bill Choy, Siskiyou Daily News.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

CONSENT CALENDAR (Action by Board): After some discussion, Director Mercier made a motion, seconded by Director Hanna and carried to accept the consent calendar which included minutes from the April 21, 2020 meeting, contracts and cash disbursements for April and the current financial report.

Board Member	Approved (yes vote)	Not Approved (no vote)	Abstained	Reason of Abstaining
Brandon Fawaz	X			
Jason Finley	X			
Judd Hanna	X			
Darrin Mercier	X			
Lori Salters	X			
4 positions vacant				

No public comment.

BUSINESS REPORT & INFORMATION (Action by Board):

- Office Activities – CEO Munson reported that the office opened back up to the public on May 18th and we have been working on getting the open spots on the front sign filled. We have put contracts and partnership agreements on hold until we have a clear direction of the Governor’s plan for reopening. If we cancel, the funds received would be refunded to the businesses/organizations to help with their business and hope to get a renewal next year. Director Mercier suggested to send a letter with options to refund or donate to the fair. No public comment.
- Ethics Training Certificates – President Finley, Vice President Fawaz and Director Mercier still need to complete the training and submit the certificate to the fair office so it can be forwarded to F&E by the June 1st deadline. No public comment.
- Grounds/Maintenance Activities – Mike Luiz, Senior Maintenance Worker reported that he has been un-winterizing the grounds and fixing any necessary pipe issues. Continues to keep the grounds mowed and storage is moving out for the season. He has done some cleaning in the storage area of building 1 so we can better utilize the space. No public comment.
- COVID-19 Pandemic Update – CEO Munson reported that in his discussions with Shelly Davis, Director of Public Health, even though the county is accelerating through Phase II & into III there is no discussion of getting into Phase IV any time soon. The current Public Health report on reopening can be found on their website. No public comment.

CORRESPONDENCE (Information/Action): Included in the board packet were a Letter to Senator Dahle and Assembly Member Dahle regarding Emergency Funding for California Fairs Network; a Letter to Governor Newsom on the COVID-10 Economic Impact; a Letter from California Fairs Alliance to Congressman LaMalfa regarding Emergency Funding for the California Fairs Network; a Letter from CDFA Karen Ross, Secretary to all Fair Directors and Managers; Siskiyou Golden Speedway Test & Tune Protocol 2020. No public comment.

FRIENDS OF THE FAIR: President Janae Scruggs reported that they have been dark due to COVID-19 and all events they had on the calendar have been cancelled. Even though they have been dark they are still available and want to continue to support the fair/fairgrounds however they can as we move forward. No public comment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (Informational/Action):

- Junior Livestock Auction Committee – Director Mercier reported that they have another Executive Director Meeting tomorrow night to discuss further how to proceed. Representatives are gathering information tonight on what the fair plans on doing so both organizations can work together. No public comment.
- Junior Fair Board – Cheryl Foster, Advisor reported that they met last month via a zoom meeting. They are a fabulous team and want to help the fair. Their next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 26th at 6:30 PM. No public comment.

FAIR REPORT (Information/Action):

CEO Munson reported that as chairman of WFA and CEO of the fairgrounds he has been included in all communication with many entities (local and state) and has received firsthand knowledge which all state that mass gatherings will not be happening until there is a vaccine or herd immunity. Some kind of decision should be decided so that the community, staff and partners can move forward on fair preparation; we need to have a plan. There is the possibility still that the state or county could change their mind down the road on regulations and we are a state agency and if a natural disaster occurs that would take precedence for utilizing our facility.

Director Mercier asked the public for its input, following are items discussed:

- This is reality and the community knows and understand that it won't be the same fair; maybe it could return to how it was in the beginning and be just an ag fair. The fair needs to make sure that it is economical for them. Any fair that is currently moving forward is focused on marking animals. She has offered to help JLAC in any way she can. (Jacki Z.)
- Hold the decision off until June. Let the community know what they can do to help (projects, etc.). Do the kids need to sell their animals outright? How are requirements going to be changed if there is a show/sale? Can the animals be taken to other fairs? There has only been 5 cases in the county and they should take that into consideration (Stacey M.)
- Quality Assurance is available online and leaders should be in contact with the kids to ensure the quality of the animals. There have been several virtual and online shows so it is possible and by August we may have some wiggle room to do a live show, which we would prefer. There should be a map of what we think we can do. When there is a lack of communication that causes rumors and gossip. (Jill H.)
- To work on the plan, sections should be taken separately to see if it pays for itself. Possibly do virtual judging for exhibits outside of livestock. And the grounds may not look as good as they have in the past and that is ok. There is the possibility we would have a show and no sale. (Jacob H.)
- The state is starting to open if we can just hold off a bit longer, I don't want to see the fair cancelled. (Cheryl F.)
- There is a lot of pressure on JLAC right now regarding the auction as far as backing on funds, processing facility, online or live auction. Don't know if they will have the same credit with banks

as they have had in the past. If the fair cancels, we are still here to help the kids. Another thing to consider is that the local economy is not good so there is worry that the auction could go in the tank. (Glenn R.)

- There needs to be a show and some guidance for these kids. We should not have a sale if we do not have a show. (Kelly H.)
- Processing fees for the auction might be a problem because they require a USDA facility, so they are processed correctly, and they are swamped. (Jim S.)
- Bid Cal passes the kill fees on to the buyer along with the cut and wrap fees. (Mike L.)
- Being a state facility needs to be taken into consideration. For their auction they hold the exhibitors check until they have received 75% of the funds from buyers. (Nancy S.)

Vice President Fawaz stated that some things need to be confirmed this meeting to send a message to the livestock kids. We can't predict today what is going to happen in August so setting guidelines tonight is premature. It is a valid point that the sale numbers will not be as strong as in the past.

Director Mercier stated that we have three options: (1) have no fair but hold a livestock show, (2) have no fair at all, and (3) go another two weeks and decide then. Fairs farther down have already cancelled, and the kids and community need to understand that any plan that whatever we choose could still fail.

Director Hanna said that we should wait as long as we can and maybe we would have more clarity by June 1st.

After discussion, CEO Munson stated that social distancing will not be possible during the fair or large events. He does feel that we would be able to do some virtual contests and maybe even some displays. There is just too much gray and not a lot of black and white. All fairgrounds are unique and run differently, we need to look at our fair in pieces and be comfortable with what we think we can do.

Vice President Fawaz made a motion, seconded by Director Hanna and carried for the board to commit to having a livestock show (all market species) whether virtual or onsite for the 2020 fair season; details will be issued after the June board meeting.

Board Member	Approved (yes vote)	Not Approved (no vote)	Abstained	Reason of Abstaining
Brandon Fawaz	X			
Jason Finley	X			
Judd Hanna	X			
Darrin Mercier	X			
Lori Salters	X			
4 positions vacant				

No public comment.

Director Mercier made a motion, seconded by Director Salters and carried to cancel the fair event (grandstand, carnival, vendors, spectators) and focus on virtual and onsite show options open to all exhibits; the plan will be updated as the phases change.

Board Member	Approved (yes vote)	Not Approved (no vote)	Abstained	Reason of Abstaining
Brandon Fawaz		X		
Jason Finley	X			
Judd Hanna		X		
Darrin Mercier	X			
Lori Salters	X			
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No public comment.

Clarification was made that the livestock auction is the responsibility of the 10th District Junior Livestock Auction Committee and separate from the fair show and decisions that the board of directions makes tonight.

CEO REPORT (Information/Action):

- Events
 - Calendar of Events – CEO Munson reported that we are cancelling events individually as we get notice or determine we can not do due to regulations.
- Projects
 - Winema Hall HVAC System – CEO Munson reported that there is a walk through scheduled for May 29th. Fortunately, we have enough funding to over the fees up front and get reimbursed after the project is completed.
- Funding Issues – CEO Munson reported that the AB1499 funding was received last month. The Governor also included in in the May revision of the budget \$40.3 million general funds in 2019-2020 to support state-affiliated fairs that are projected to have insufficient reserves to pay legally mandated costs that may be incurred during the state civil service layoff process. The administration will work with fairs, local governments, and partners toward alternative options due to the lack of general fund subsidies available in this budget. In other words, they are trying to remove fairgrounds from state control.
- WFA Chairman Report – CEO Munson reported that it is a challenging time and the fair industry is no exception. He is in communication with numerous agencies every day: CDFA, F&E, CFA, WFA, etc. They are working on funding options with both State and Federal Legislators. The California Fair Network has lost over 100 million in self-generated funds already in 2020 and is projected to lose almost 400 million by the end of the year. We have calculated the network shortfall at 300 million to stay solvent. The COVID-19 shut down combined with the 2011 fiscal crisis where fairgrounds were defunded had decimated the industry.

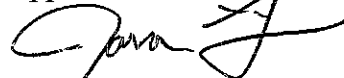
MATTERS OF INFORMATION:

- CEO Comments – CEO Munson expressed again that these last 10 years have been really hard in regard to fair funding.
- Board of Director Comments
 - Director Salters said thank you for keeping the board up to date and thank you to Cliff, Michelle and Mike during this difficult time; she is sorry for the outcome.
 - Vice President Fawaz asked if vendors would be offered their same space in 2021. CEO Munson responded yes that is our procedure.
 - President Finley said thank you to all that attended the meeting and for providing feedback at this difficult time. He thanked the staff also.
- Staff Comments – none
- Items Proposed for Next Board Meeting Agenda - none

NEXT MEETING DATE: The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 6:30 PM.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Approved:



Jason Finley
President

Attest:



Michelle Eiler
Secretary