



## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 3, 2025 • 10:00 AM  
*Zoom Meeting*

**DAVE DILLABO**  
**CHAIR OF THE BOARD**  
Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds & Event Center

**LAURIE GIANNINI**  
**VICE CHAIR**  
CEO, Calaveras County Fair

**CLIFF MUNSON**  
**VICE CHAIR**  
CEO, Siskiyou Golden Fair

**PATRICIA CONKLIN**  
**TREASURER**  
CEO, Dixon May Fair

**ALAN PHILLIPS**  
**SECRETARY**  
CEO, Imperial Valley Fair

**NANCY SITES**  
CEO, Tullake-Butte Valley Fair  
Cascade Area

**ALLISON KEANEY**  
CEO, Cow Palace  
Central Coast Area

**CINNAMON HOWELL**  
CEO, Merced County Spring Fair  
San Joaquin Area

**MATT REED**  
CEO, Butte County Fair  
Sacramento Valley Area

**MIC MOULTON**  
CEO, Redwood Acres Fair  
North Coast Area

**CARLENE MOORE**  
CEO, San Diego County Fair  
Southern Area

**ANDREW TRYGG**  
CEO, Nevada County Fair  
Mother Lode Area

**SARAH CUMMINGS**  
President & CEO

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- I. **Call to Order and Welcome** – CFA Board Chair Dave Dillabo called the meeting to order, welcoming board members and guests to the CFA Board Meeting. President & CEO Cummings called roll. Directors present were: Dave Dillabo, Laurie Giannini, Patricia Conklin, Alan Phillips, Nancy Sites, Allison Keaney, Cinnamon Howell, Matt Reed, Mic Moulton, Carlene Moore, and Andrew Trygg  
Directors Absent were: Cliff Munson
- II. **Approval of Minutes** – Chairman Dillabo called for a motion of the minutes. Director Howell made a motion to approve the minutes; Director Moulton seconded the motion. All board members were in favor; the motion carried.
- III. **Committee Reports**
  - a. **Legislative Committee** - Louie Brown provided an update including a recap of the current Governor's Budget for the State, noting the May Revise is presented in early May. Brown notes the budget is in a worse position than it was in January, which may make the passage of our bill more difficult.
  - b. **Branding and Marketing Committee** - Chair Laurie Giannini reported on committee progress including: elevated activity on the CFA Facebook page, recapped a successful Capitol Ag Day, the new CFA Brochure that was produced, the new webpage that she created, and that overall the 2025 campaign is moving forward. Chair Dillabo and Director Moulton noted appreciation for the work.
  - c. **Finance Committee** - Chair Patricia Conklin presented the first quarter financial report, noting income is short compared to budget. Conklin reviewed the details of the finances with the board, noting adjustments may need to be made to compensate for the lower dues income.
  - d. **Member Communication** – Chair Phillips reported that he is looking into Member Communication tools for future newsletters.
  - e. **Industry Relations Committee** – Chair Dillabo noted he will reach out to CDFCA for a shared calendar. Cummings noted a shared calendar existed before - WFA/CFA/CFSA/CDFCA had all contributed to a shared calendar in the past, it worked well. CEO Cummings offered to host a similar calendar in the future.
- IV. **Area Reports** –
  - a. **Mother Lode** – Director Trygg provided an update for the Mother Lode Area.
  - b. **Southern** – Director Moore provided an update, noting the area is surveying for meeting dates, and Fair season is in progress with Imperial Valley closing and LA County preparing to open.

- c. **Sacramento Valley** – the area noted that they will be hosting 3 Fairs in May and 2 Fairs in June; the area is busy preparing for an active Fair season.
- d. **San Joaquin** – also noted upcoming Fairs in May and June
- e. **Central Coast** – will host an Area Meeting at the Contra Costa County Fair and will also celebrate Joe's retirement at the meeting.
- f. **Cascade** – the area met and had some questions about Horse Racing. CEO Cummings provided an update on current Horse Racing, to answer the questions that arose.
- g. **North Coast** – Mic Reported for the area, and commented on the Horse Racing topic, noting that Humboldt County Fair is still trying to seek solutions for horse racing; the Fair has been told by CDFA and others not to pursue a horse race meet in 2025, despite board members are who still hoping to explore options to conduct a race meet during their fair.

**V. New Business**

- a. The board conducted a discussion, on legislative matters including AB 258, Fair Funding Reporting Recommendations and SB 493. Guest Sarah Pelle led a discussion on AB 493 on behalf of the sponsoring entity, CEERRVF. Director Conklin asked Pelle why the bill text was never sent by CEERRVF to the DAA Fairs. Conklin asked why the bill includes language that is already in code, including recharacterizing the position term; Pelle noted she was not sure why the authors did that. Conklin expressed concern for the long term implications of the bill, that recharacterizing is a concern. Director Moore noted concern for optics, since the CEO is being asked for support of a bill that directly benefits their personal compensation, but the CEO works for the Board who sets the CEO's compensation. There were also concerns mentioned about who holds the control to determine individual CEO compensation, as is not explicitly clear in the bill text. Director Moore noted she planned to present the bill to her Board of Directors for review and encouraged others to do the same. Chair Dillabo presented to the board – how do we get to a position of support? He noted the intent is great, the concerns are valid. Many board members expressed appreciation to members of CEERRVF representatives for sharing their bill information with the CFA Board.

**VI. Old Business** – CEO Cummings gave an update on Fairgrounds Appreciation Month, May 2025 and CFA Fairgrounds Days at the Capitol - May 14 and 15, 2025.

**VII. President & CEO's Report** – President & CEO Sarah Cummings provided the board with updates including a progress report on the annual Managers Conference, to be held in November, noting registration is open online.

The committee engaged in a conversation on multiple industry related topics, including a reminder from Vice Chair Giannini to send in photos for marketing uses; discussion on committee structures for Fair Boards; discussion on noticing Fair Board committee meetings; and Fair Board committee roles.

**VIII. Next Board Meeting** – will be May 1, 2025, 10:00 AM via Zoom. Chair Dillabo adjourned the board meeting at 11:25 AM.

