

# Elbert County Fair Board

## Minutes

**August 19th, 2024**

Ag Building Conference Room

7:00 pm

Present:

Tammi Schneider

Will White

Amanda Love

Dave Rook

Vicki Whitman

Krisiti Strachan

Ben Duke

Garrett Miller

Chris Carnahan

Sheri Trehal

Trevor Miller

Matt Summers

EXCUSED

Ralph Hinton

Aaron Thieman

Troy Kelty

Scott Maranville

- Call to Order by Tammi Schneider at 7:06 pm
- Pledge
- Tammi passes down thank you notes that were sent to Fair Board
- Approval of Agenda
  - Add to old business- expenditures Will would like to add expenditures Forty Mile Feed to Old business
  - Motion to approve agenda with addition of expenditures to old business motion to approve by Will to approve agenda with seconded by Chris Carnahan
- Approval of Minutes from our regularly scheduled Fair Board meeting on July 16<sup>th</sup> as well as Friday August 1<sup>st</sup> meeting during fair as well Will White to approve July 16<sup>th</sup> minutes ad Friday August 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, seconded by Trevor Miller
- Guests: (any guest not listed below must stand, give name and address and may address the board in 5 minutes or less) \*guests not present at this time of the meeting and not listed below may not address the board. After this period of the meeting has ended guests may not address the board or comment on subject matter during the meeting.

- i. Guest- Rod Kerchal
- A. Extension/4-H Report – Kali Benson
  - a. Kali commends everyone on the board for the Fair and how well it ran
  - b. General projects at state fair and state fair starting with shooting sports, rocket flying this past weekend
    - i. All general projects state results are up on the website
    - ii. Elbert County is doing very well
  - c. Posted agent application online
    - i. Please share and encourage to apply that would be a good fit
    - ii. The position closes at the end of the month
  - d. Master Gardener's
    - i. Moving forward with Master Gardner demonstration garden
    - ii. Application is online for master gardeners- encourage more
    - iii. Tammi would like to know if there is one lead or leads in the Master Gardener's that we could send a thank you to from Fair Board
      - 1. Per Kali she would say Margaret Coops- open class and Clifly Rider- for the booth and other items
        - a. Fair Board will need to send thank you's
    - iv. Tammi wants to know how moving them from the Ag Bay to the conference room was and how their new booth space in front of the open class was
      - 1. Kali reports that they gave feedback that the booth was in the open class they did not enjoy however for their space for the seminar there was good feedback
    - v. Per Kali she would like to look at possibly doing something in The Mercantile with them next year depending on space as they
    - vi. Tammi suggests next year maybe doing a scavenger hunt like she saw at Abeline County Fair
      - 1. They did a picture scavenger hunt i.e. take a picture with a certain weed, this seemed to bring a lot of interaction and more traffic down to the Ag Building
  - e. Tammi thanks The Extension for all that they do for the Fair
- B. County Facilities Report- Tammi
  - a. Stan would like any keys back from Fair
  - b. Appreciation to Road and Bridge and Facilities- they did a ton for the Fair Board
  - c. Extra bleachers did help with tent
    - i. Tammi has spoken to them about purchasing them instead of renting them
  - d. The pavilion is slated to be taken down and a one twice its size to be put in- half cement, half dirt per Gary Woirhay- Facilities Manager
    - i. The goal would be that we would not need a tent next year, if that gets accomplished this fall

- ii. Tammi asked not to tear down the current Pavilion until there are plans in place
- e. Per Tammi, they still have not upgraded the WIFI on the fairgrounds they did do an upgrade with Comcast but not an upgrade with fairgrounds
- f. Tammi would like to know if anyone has feedback regarding the Facilities
  - i. Vicki has concerns regarding sound during the shows with speakers and being able to hear
    - 1. County does manage the speakers and this year
    - 2. Peter did a great job for the Fair for us
      - a. Peter did have list of items that he is recommending the Fairgrounds to upgrade
    - 3. Ben Duke did appreciate that the speakers from the fair office to the grounds worked very well in compared with years past
      - a. Garrett notes that the beef barn for the first time could hear all announcements
    - 4. Per Tammi, depending on where our finances end up, Peter suggested Fair Board purchase our own speakers and microphones to be used ONLY for fair use
    - 5. Peter was only contracted for Fair and was very helpful to us as a Fair Board
    - 6. Trevor Smith notes that it took a lot of pressure off of all of us working on all of the time he spent
      - a. This took a lot of pressure off of Stan and the Fairgrounds staff
      - b. Total cost for Peter for the week of fair was \$2350
        - i. Will thinks that it should be less than the 2350 when the final bill comes in
    - 7. Tammi notes that for next year he could need a key, a gator, and an assistant
  - ii. Kali notes that he was here three weeks before the fair and notes that Peter would need keys so that he can access the grounds earlier to prep for fair
- g. Kali notes that set up sheets should be done the first or second week of July to help facilities prep better
  - i. Better set up times communication with Facilities, how they can prep better for each of the set-up times
- h. Emergency Phone Number
  - i. Tammi notes that a situation and the 24-hour phone service that was not answered during fair was concerning. She will be addressing this with Gary
    - 1. There was an end of bleachers that caved in during Fair and no one answered the Facilities Emergency Phone Number
      - a. Fair Board had to reach out to Road and Bridge to assist with this situation and this was only one of many

**C. Treasurer's Report-** Kristi Strachan

- a. Outstanding banner sponsors that need to be paid and money needs to be collected
  - i. Bino's Pizza-Will White will look into this
  - ii. Sun Valley Construction- Will White will look into this
  - iii. Advance Quality Auto- Vicky Whitman will talk to Dustin
  - iv. Lifetime Properties- Tammi notes that a check was given to her tonight from Trinette Miller-Lifetime Properties. Still outstanding Debbie Ullom- Trinette Miller
  - v. Berkenkotter- Possibly Ralph?
  - vi. Potestio- Tammi reached out again regarding their check
  - vii. Rock Bottom Propane- Will White
  - viii. Big Time Bucking Horse Futurity- Trevor Smith
- b. Revenue:
  - i. Report from Tammi from alcohol numbers. Revenue that Fair Board receives from sales We get \$8,483.50
    - 1. Last year per Tammi was around \$6,000
  - ii. Revenue:
    - 1. Made \$7100 from vendors
    - 2. \$8840 deposited after Bellamy Brothers concert after help was paid out
    - 3. Total Projected Revenue: \$164,595
    - 4. Spent thus far: \$134,436
      - Tammi-if we have a surplus, we could possibly request to use those funds towards prebooking our entertainment for next year and/or possibly purchase some of the audio equipment that Peter has recommended
- c. . Thinking we may have a \$25,000 surplus
  - i. If not spent by the end of the year, by December 20<sup>th</sup> then it does not roll over into the budget
  - ii. Tammi thinks that we may lose Excel as a sponsor next year but we have gained more new sponsors Big O Tires and Greenhouse
- d. Kristi needs all invoices asap
- e. Will White wants to confirm that Kristi has the port-o-potty invoice and facilities will be splitting that with us. She does confirm that she has this
- f. Per Kali Benson all will need to be reconciled by next Wednesday for a budgeting meeting
- g. Chris would like to know what we spent vs what we brought in on ticket sales- Kristi still working on final numbers and will have it finalized by next meeting
  - i. Per Kristi – estimated currently \$8840 mostly from online ticket sales
  - ii. Per Tammi \$32,000 for band, opening band, lights and sound
    - 1. Thinks we sold a little over 1200 tickets
- h. Vendor feedback
  - i. Food vendors and mercantile vendors all did well
- i. Chris would like to know if Elbert Booster Club would be bringing more money

- i. Per Tammi they have given \$1000 and will bring an additional \$800 at the September meeting

### **Old Business**

#### Additional Expenses for Forty Mile Feed for Fair Shavings

Fair shavings: Will would like to ask for additional 279.60 for shavings as we needed additional. All in favor to pay this – motion passed unanimously

### **New Business**

- A. 2024 Fair Review (overall fair and beef superintendent update)
  - a. Overall Garrett thinks everything went well-
  - b. Like to do set up Sunday
  - c. Minimal issues with rules that were taken care up promptly
    - i. Some electrical issues in the beef barn to be addressed but still overall better from last year
    - ii. Some set up time changes he would like see next year
    - iii. Discussed that he had received some people would like a homegrown steer show- asked by some families. Garrett encouraged them to come talk with fair board about possibly adding this
    - iv. Feedback on showmanship
      - 1. There were a lot of add and drops that occur for the beef show and showmanship
      - 2. Discussion regarding there not being enough time between showmanship and beef show
      - 3. Feels like a gap and not as much rush would be helpful
    - v. Tammi would like to know if showmanship on a different day would be helpful- discussion continues regarding this
      - 1. Can continue to look into this as developing 2025
  - d. Guest- Rod Kerchal- Breeding Beef
    - i. Felt like breeding beef show went well
      - 1. Appreciated help from the fair board
    - ii. Would like to see more heifers
      - 1. Wants to have increase in numbers- maybe bred and owned or ranch raised, or Elbert County raised classes open and 4-H classes to maybe increase numbers and interest
        - a. Open show being first, then if there is a ranch raised or Elbert County raised that wins grand or reserve then they wouldn't be eligible for the 4-H show in the same class
        - b. Garrett expresses concern that more club-like steers and heifers could/would compete
        - c. Rod needs to get it in a newsletter as 4-Hers would be looking to buy these soon and they

- would need to know this would be an option to show in
      - d. Ultimately in hopes to increase numbers
    - iii. Continued discussion regarding developing this type of class within the 2025 Fair
      - 1. Rules would really need to be crafted
      - 2. Rod thinks this would increase our numbers in the project
      - 3. Trevor Smith wants to know about we would know they were ranch raised and how do they validate this
        - a. Rod states that rules would include a need for a brand inspection possibly
        - b. Trevor continues discussion regarding the difficulty of verifying this with 4-Hers and validate they are ranch raised/county raised
    - iv. Tammi would like to have Rod help with crafting rules for this Ranch Raised and County Raised shows
    - v. Kali would like to know if any other counties do this so that we can talk with them- Possibly Yuma, Akron possibly
    - vi. Will White would like to make a motion to have Rod Kerchal start to look at starting a ranch raised, county raised class added for 2025 Fair seconded by Vicki Whitman- motion passed

B. General Review

- a. Dave Rook
  - i. Would like to see better seating for people to sit and eat
  - ii. Noticed that on that first Saturday, that horse show went all day long. Wants to have those kids more involved in the week of fair
    - 1. Kali Benson will look into this
    - 2. Tammi states that she has spoken with Gary about if there is a better way to incorporate horses on the grounds during the week of fair- as they would need stalling space
  - iii. Kali thinks that people would like to see kids on the grounds for shows. Thinks it could be great but could be added extra chaos. She maybe thinks only 5 kids that only do horses
- b. Vicki Whitman
  - i. Market sale went well
    - 1. Vicki will bring a report Sept/Oct
    - 2. Tammi wants to know if it going well means the total money in- Vicki says yes and will bring those number to next meetings to share
  - ii. General Projects- Would like to have more focus on general projects

1. would like to see general projects be brought to the Exhibit building

c. Kristi Strachan

- i. Horse Pull on Friday Night- went well and everyone enjoyed it, most people really liked having it on Friday night
  1. Tammi thinks that we finally found our thing for that night
  2. Tammi would like Will to reach out to book him for that night again
- ii. Feedback from Horse Pull vendor is that he would like more money for the show- this will be addressed next year
  1. Paid \$3000 this year
  2. Could bring more teams or more time for more money
  3. Will is going to talk with Joey (with Horse Pull) for this
- iii. Tammi thinks this was a great change for the Fair- only positive feedback

d. Ben Duke

- i. Felt like everything went well
- ii. Shout out to Extension
  1. Requests good chairs for the fair office
  2. Requests upgrade of electricity in front of the fair office
  3. Tammi will take this to facilities
- iii. Open premium class moved up to the Ag building from the fair office helped and just having 4-H premiums out of that office
  1. Still has concerns about requesting problems with access to that building during the premium payout day. The building was locked at times and was difficult to get back into which made it difficult for him to continue to function within that office
- iv. Requests for more outlets in the Fair Office and need for upgrade of electrical
  1. Tammi will take this to facilities
- v. Better communication with the barn superintendents regarding check out and premium payouts to decrease confusion
  1. Changes that Ben didn't know about from the superintendents meeting to the Fair Office and making sure that, that was communicated well to them
  2. Vicki states that she feels like Market Sale standpoint she feels like they dropped the ball on communication between Fair Office and will look to fix this for next year
    - a. When they take the sale things to the fair office, they feel like they need to staple the instructions of "what to do"

- b. Ben states he needs to have access to some information in order to communicate with the kids
      - c. Having Vicki sweep in and take paperwork from the fair office and not communicate well
    - vi. Commends the amazing superintendents bring to the fair
  - e. Garrett Miller
    - i. From a community member, it felt like it was a good fair
      - 1. Any hiccups were never seen by spectators
    - ii. Would love to have a band on that Friday night of Fair
      - 1. Would love to have many things on Friday night
        - a. Horseshoe tournament
        - b. Horse pull
      - 2. Tammi agrees this would be an important change to make to bring more fairgoers out and maybe gives something for parents to do while the kids have their 4-H dance
  - f. Chris Carnahan
    - i. Positive- having a bigger band to bring a lot of outside people
      - 1. Talked with someone drove from Kansas to see the Bellamy Brothers
      - 2. Had a lot of conversations with people about being new sponsors and wanting to get their businesses out there
      - 3. Check out slips went smoothly and transitioned faster
        - a. Helped to not have everything back up at the premium office
      - 4. Commend our board as a team and being responsive and supportive to each other
        - a. Good communication via text
      - 5. ARES radio—did they ask for permission? -Tammi ensures that they did have permission. Notes that they were very
    - ii. Negative
      - 1. Beer service
        - a. A beer service in the arena due to people traveling in and out-Concerns and complaints that people had to travel in and out
          - i. They need to have a station in the arena
          - ii. Tammi unsure about sheriff Norton approving this. We would have to get this approved with our capacity plan
            - 1. Had a concern about a person being overserved
            - 2. There was no proof that this was Cowboy up
        - b. Food in the arena or food staying open later



- i. Chaotic Kitchen did not come this year
  - c. Cowboy Up ran out of beer that evening and no beer the next day on Sunday
    - i. Tammi notes they sold \$12,000 of Coors Light and \$8,000 of Bud Light
- iii. Sheri Trehal
  - 1. Positive
    - a. Thought the fair was great agrees with everyone else on all positive things
  - 2. Negative
    - a. Trashcans
      - i. Would like to rent or buy more trashcans for the fair
      - ii. Trevor notes you can get re-useable from Uline, Tammi notes this for next year
      - iii. Especially with concert in the arena- needing those for the concert and the county didn't have any for the concert
  - 3. Stall signs for 4-Hers
    - a. Suggestions to have those be a requirement
  - 4. Champion Drives
    - a. Would like to make these more consistent with numbers
    - b. Discussion continues regarding a better way to do a champion drive with steers
- iv. Will White
  - 1. Good work on the buckles -Chris and Kali
  - 2. Sound was excellent during shows from his standpoint
  - 3. Thought schedule went really well
  - 4. Not much participation in the Seniors realm for Round Robin- can change
  - 5. Would like to look at possibility bringing back the carcass contest
    - a. Kali would prefer to do a carcass contest hanging
    - b. Maybe the meats team could go in and judge possibly
    - c. This to continue to be looked at for the 2025 fair
- v. Trevor Smith
  - 1. Thought poultry load in went well
    - a. Talk with Gary at facilities to discuss for fire access and discuss re-engineer the ramp along the new stands to gain access back through those gates

- b. If rabbits can check in on one side and poultry on the other side it would help
    - 2. Would like to see carcass contest as well
    - 3. Not lose sight of the spotlight of the youth and how well we develop them and that while we have grown and done great things wanting it to still stay focused on our 4-H youth
  - vi. Matt Summers
    - 1. Positives
      - a. Food vendors were good
      - b. Parking lot was a concern but thought it looked nice
      - c. Tammi notes that we had 18 spots for handicap spots and Gary and Tammi have talked about more
      - d. Need to do better with time management before 9 am
      - e. Concert was good and really enjoyed it
    - 2. Photographer was good for the animals- contracted this year with Flying M Photography
      - a. Family was declined to take a picture with the kids, not sure if that was the contract that had
        - i. Vicki said she would talk to Flying M about that
        - ii. Intent was to have two backdrops to be set up and that will be set up this year
    - 3. Round robin was good
    - 4. Negatives
      - a. Steer show was too crowded
      - b. Split them by divisions- especially on video
  - vii. Tammi Schneider
    - 1. Security
      - a. Invoice has gone to Kristi- that has been paid- M/T/W was really good. Thursday night no one showed up. Friday night no assistance Mark Glaser showed up Sat night with another security guard to cover that night.
      - b. Every morning they would give a report to Tammi. Only one incident on Tuesday night/Wednesday morning with one belligerent woman
      - c. Kids in the corn and on the rides caught during early morning
    - 2. Moving in rides early, corn early- solve that problem there were kids trespassing, issues with the corn
    - 3. Rides most of the kids liked them
      - a. Need to figure out about more security

4. Contracting EMS to be on grounds, we need to figure it out for busy days due to safety
5. Continue having conversations with Kali's office about animal welfare- need tougher penalties for any animal welfare issues/calls
  - a. Discussion around more education for the families, tougher penalties etc. importance of making sure that animal welfare is a priority

viii. Amanda Love-

1. Love to see the parade on opening weekend
2. Would like to see someone take over the food or adjust how we do the food now that we are established
3. More trashcans- help with trash
4. Electrical out in the southside of the arena if we continue to have larger bands so we aren't struggling to power these large busses
5. Help weather it is security or whomever to lock and close up the vendor building so that I am not the only person
6. Taking political booths out of the fair due to multiple complaints from fairgoers and year to year issues
  - a. Tammi will talk with legal about being able to take out political booth

C. 2025 Entertainment- Need to discuss so that we can pre book this year

- i. Shenandoah \$30,000
- ii. Oakridge Boys \$50,000
- iii. Mark Wills \$25,000
- iv. Diamond Rio \$40,000
- v. Blackhawk \$30,000
- vi. Little Texas \$30,000
- vii. Aaron Tippin \$35,000

b. Overall board vote to call Shenandoah first and then Blackhawk second

- i. Tammi will start on this and report back

- Adjournment- Tammi Schneider adjourns this meeting at 10:09 PM Amanda Love Second

NEXT MEETING September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024