



DOUGLAS COUNTY FAIR BOARD
THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2025
DOUGLAS COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS – KIRK HALL
MINUTES

Dean Elliott - Chairperson, called the Douglas County Fair Board meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. on June 22, 2025. The meeting was held in Kirk Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board Members Present:

*John Adams
Pat Candelaria
Scott Candelaria
Dean Elliott
Sarah Fischer
Tom Harris
Wes Jacobs
Scott McHenry
Debbie Mills
Phil Riesselman
Hayden Schmidt
Pam Spradlin
Lori Sorenson
Lora Talbert
Rob Tkach
Gary Turner
Lisa Turner*

Associate Members Present:

*Nick Candelaria
Tori Checkal
Josiah Fredericks
James Jamison
Linda Jefferies
Ryan Kennedy
Dick Sabulsky
Frank Silici
Ted Sorenson
Chris Spyke
Danny Talbert
Kate Wormington
Matt Wormington*

Other Guests Present:

*Marcus Ballinger
Terri Bohannon
Bailey Fischer
Mercedes Glenn
Tristan Hastings
Robin Vogel*

Staff Members Present:

*Laurie Anderson
Zach Burns
Lisa Goudy
Clay Gysin
Tim Hallmark
Sharon Hines
Michelle Mannes
Emily Schoelzel*

Board Members Absent:

*Jennifer Foss
Pat Salazar*

Associate Members Absent:

*Clay Adams
Matt Coyle
Deb Dilley
Lauren Heaton
John Holst
Chayce Lutz
Kyle Moore
Garrett Northrop
Ty Quintana
Patti Russell
Gabriel Ryan
Jean Sabulsky
Cynthia Tkach
Monica Wilson*

6:32 PM CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**Public Meeting**

Public Comment: None. Terry Bohannon is in attendance.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: Scott C. moved to approve the last meeting minutes. Gary seconded. No further discussion. All approved.

Consent Agenda: Pam asked that the spelling of Patti Russell's name be corrected. She also expressed disappointment with the BOCC's decision to end the Commissioner's Cookie Jar tradition at the Jr. Livestock Sale. Lori moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Gary seconded. No further discussion. All approved.

Treasurer's Report: Wes reviewed the budget and expenses by committee. Total YTD Expenditures: \$322,457.72; YTD Anticipated: \$1,025,976.11 YTD Remaining: \$754,567.97.

Reports From Other Groups

4-H Foundation: None.

CSU/4-H: Mercedes reported that Fair Entry exceeded 2024 entries and that 4-H has two interns this summer.

Youth Council: Tristan Hastings reported that the 4-H Youth Council has wrapped up the June shows and activities.

FFA: None.

DCSO: Nothing new for this meeting.

Staff Report: Lisa G. provided an update on green shirt volunteers. This year we are ahead of 2024 volunteers, but there are still 122 shifts to fill. Zach expressed the need for Fair Board members to help at the gates during the busy times. Teresa will send a form to sign up for a shift. Tori needs Fair Board's help with the Farm-to-Table set-up and Draft Horse Show.

Ticket Sales are 192% of 2024. Rodeos are selling fast.

The BOCC has added a drone show between the concert acts on Opening night. Tim reported that the goal is to stage the drones off-site. The show will include twice as many drones as previous shows and the Parks Department will fund and organize the show.

Zach provided an update on facility updates: Kirk Hall has been painted, flowers have been planted, lights have been added to the trees in the Midway, shade sales are being installed over the seating in front of the Midway stage, and the Branding Iron Lounge is going through final Fire Department review. Scott suggests selling brands to offset the cost.

Clay provided a safety presentation and updated staff contacts.

Regular Agenda

Committee Reports

Guest Services: Gary mentioned that golf carts with volunteer drivers will be available during peak times to transport VIPs, guests with mobility issues, and items around the fairgrounds.

Admin: Lora passed around a sign-up sheet for shifts during the shows and encouraged Fair Board members to be present at the shows. Additionally, shirts can be picked up after tonight's meeting.

Entertainment: Sarah mentioned the need for volunteers for the Farm-to-Table set-up and breakdown, and support for the Draft Horse Show.

Rodeo: John provided information on a recent incident that the Renaissance Festival experienced with PETA. John discussed the 60-page guidelines for animal handling provided by the PRCA, which DCF&R follows. DCSO Laurie reported that DCSO cannot stop protesters; they can designate a location for their activities. Protesters are not allowed to interfere with the activities or stop attendees. If protesters arrive during the Fair, please notify Laurie or Tim.

John also reported that in the event of an animal injury during the rodeo, stock contractors and bullfighters are trained to respond to those incidents and will be the first responders for the animal – all others should remain out of the way for the safety of all. If needed, a new sled will be on site and brought in by the FG team.

Additionally, this is a reminder that photographers with long lenses are not allowed into the fairgrounds without a media pass, which can be obtained at the Fairgrounds office. Only verified members of the press are allowed—when in doubt, contact Debbie M.

Livestock Sale—The Mock sale is July 16. Cowboys After Hours will rent the Branding Iron Lounge on Aug. 1. Online add-ons will not be possible this year. Staff is working with the BOCC to create a new activity to replace the cookie jar.

Awards: The committee is working on labeling awards. Buckles are not in. Hand Bid didn't work well, and there is a need to acquire more sponsors for the awards. Hometown Rodeo has sponsors.

Show Management: The committee met with Superintendents to review schedule changes, inventoried boxes, event plans, and worksheets.

Marketing: The committee needs assistance in distributing programs. The marketplace is full.

Old Business

Nomination Committee: The committee interviewed seven candidates. Sarah moved to nominate Patti Russell and Ryan Johnson to the Fair Board. Seconded by Phil. No further discussion. All approved. The board will recommend Patti and Ryan to the BOCC for final appointment. Once BOCC approves, the Fair Board's open positions will be filled.

New Business

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHD): Hayden reported that an Exhibitor had a confirmed case of RHD. The State Veterinarian and the USDA were notified. There was no cross-contamination. State Veterinarian guidelines require rabbits and their owners not to attend shows for 30 days after positive cases. RHD is often found in wild rabbits in Douglas County and is easily transmitted. Humans cannot contract. It does not transmit to other species. This case was near the Fairgrounds. There is no test available. Hayden introduced Robin Vogel, the rabbit superintendent, who believes that if the family is allowed in the show, there will be no judge, and Robin would pull out as superintendent. The American Rabbit Breeders Association requires a 4-month quarantine. Dean expressed concern about inconsistently following the State Veterinarian's guidelines in addition to the inconsistency between guidance sources.

Phil asked what the fate of sale animals would be if the processing plant didn't take the rabbits. If there is an outbreak and rabbits stop eating three days before death, the entire barn will need to be euthanized. The fate of the sale animals needs further clarification with the processing plant. Show Management will convene with experts and processors and provide updates to the Fair Board on Livestock Sale animals.

Hayden motioned to hold a one-day rabbit show, implement biosecurity measures, close the barn to the public, and not allow the family into the rabbit barn. The family can still show other species. Seconded by Scott C. No further discussion. All approved.

Rob motioned to change the Competition Rules for the Ranch Horse Show due to changes at State Fair to: Ranch Horse Show Junior Division Exhibitors are required to have passed the Introductory Ranch/Cow Horse Competency Test or above to be eligible for this show. Seconded by Scott C. No further discussion. All approved.

Adjournment at 8:15 pm**Next Meeting: July 17, 2025****Rules for Citizen Engagement at Fair Board Meeting**

To have orderly, efficient, civil, and productive board meetings, the following rules apply to all citizens who have a desire to address the Board:

1. Citizen comments will be heard during the public comment section at the board meeting.
2. All citizen comments must be addressed to the Board. Directing comments to staff or other members of the public is not permitted during Board meetings.
3. The public comment section is limited to ten minutes collectively.
4. Citizens are asked not to repeat comments made by others; merely indicate their concurrence.
5. Citizens will be asked to use a microphone so that Board members and the audience can hear their comments.
6. Clapping, cheering, booing, and the like are not permitted at Board meetings.
7. Failure to abide by the aforementioned rules of engagement is considered disruptive to the public process and will result in a warning to the violation citizen(s) by the Board Chair. If after that warning the citizen(s) continues to violate these rules, they will be asked to leave the meeting. If the citizen does not leave the meeting when asked, the appropriate steps will be taken by the Board Chair to have them removed from the meeting.

Mission Statement: The Douglas County Fair and Rodeo is the premier annual community event in Douglas County bringing together the best of Rural Heritage, Agriculture, Western Sports, Youth and Adult Exhibits and quality Entertainment.