



DOUGLAS COUNTY FAIR BOARD

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2025

DOUGLAS COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

KIRK HALL

MINUTES

Dean Elliott - Chairperson, called the Douglas County Fair Board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on October 23, 2025. The meeting was held in Kirk Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board Members Present:

Pat Candelaria

Dean Elliott

Sarah Fischer

Tom Harris

Wes Jacobs

Ryan Johnson

Scott McHenry

Patti Russell

Pat Salazar

Hayden Schmidt

Lori Sorenson

Lora Talbert

Rob Tkach

Lisa Turner

Associate Members Present:

Nick Candelaria

Linda Jefferies

Ryan Kennedy

Kyle Moore

Dick Sabulsky

Jean Sabulsky

Frank Silici

Ted Sorenson

Danny Talbert

Other Guests Present:

Cason Candelaria

Mercedes Glenn

Staff Members Present:

Zach Burns

Sharon Hines

Michelle Mannes

Lori Anderson

Sheriff Darren Weekly

Board Members Absent:

John Adams

Scott Candelaria

Jennifer Foss

Debbie Mills

Dr. Phil Riesselman

Associate Members Absent:

Clay Adams

Tori Checkal

Matt Coyle

Deb Dilley

Josiah Fredricks

Lauren Heaton

John Holst

James Jamison

Chayse Lutz

Garrett Northrop

Ty Quintana

Gabriel Ryan

Chris Spyke

Cynthia Tkach

Monica Wilson

Kate Wormington

Matt Wormington

6:30 PM CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**Public Meeting**

Public Comment: No public comment.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: Hayden moved to approve the September meeting minutes. Pat c. seconded. No discussion. All approved.

Consent Agenda: Lori moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Sarah seconded. No discussion. All Approved.

Treasurer's Report: Wes reported the overall Fair budget was \$1,534,616.00. Revenue was a total of \$1,213,264.00, with operating expenses totaling \$1,177,348.00. There are still a few minor items still to be recorded throughout the remainder of the year.

Reports From Other Groups:

CSU: Cason reported that Achievement Night went well from a Youth Council perspective. Mercedes agreed, stating that it was one of the largest Achievement Nights she is aware of, with approximately 350-400 people in attendance. The Extension Office is very appreciative of everyone's support, including the Fair Board and Commissioner VanWinkle for being in attendance as well. Shooting Sports dates have been solidified with a new schedule for the Fairgrounds activities on Tuesday and Wednesday of the same week.

Fair Foundation: Fair Foundation has their monthly meeting next week. Everyone should be receiving an email from them regarding an online auction for extra items that were not able to be sold at the Cowboy Ball. Please keep an eye out for that email and help support the online auction.

DCSO: Sheriff Weekly stated that he has a busy schedule but tries to attend Fair Board whenever he can. He is thankful for the partnership with 4-H and the Fair Board and was very grateful for the Highlands Ranch Law Enforcement Training Center to be recognized with the Friends of 4-H Award at Achievement Night.

Regular Agenda**Old Business**

Review Volunteer Event: Dean gave kudos to staff for putting on a great volunteer recognition event. It was a great event with good food, great music and beautiful decorations. It would have been great to have more attendance, but something we can strive for in future events.

Reminder of IAFE in December: The IAFE Convention will be in Denver at the Convention Center November 30 – December 4. If you are interested in attending, please reach out to Michelle by this Friday so she can get everyone registered.

New Business

Awards Discussion: The Awards Committee received another request to look at awarding belt buckles for reserve champion winners. The Committee investigated and determined that there would be an increase of approximately

\$16,000 to raise all reserve champion awards to the value of a buckle. This is not feasible for the 2026 Fair year.

Committee Updates:

Guest Experience: The Committee worked on their work plan and is pursuing additional activities for recruitment, as well as simplifying and helping the flow around the grounds.

Livestock Sale: The Committee is working on Competition Rule change recommendations, working on all vendors, moving forward with a red, white, and blue theme, and investigating online add-on opportunities.

Awards: The Committee presented the 4-H Youth Council options for awards in 2026 and asked them to bring their recommendations back to the November meeting. Pat is working on award consistency in Fair Entry and on the Master Spreadsheet. Ribbons will be ordered shortly.

Rules: Lori is deep in collecting rule change recommendations and putting them together for the Rules Committee to review. The plan is for the committee to meet several times in the month of November and for all recommendations to be brought to the Board at the December Fair Board meeting.

Rodeo: The Mountain States Circuit Finals are coming up this weekend. DCFR has been nominated for three awards. Anyone who wants to attend is welcome to join the group.

Show Management: The Committee worked on their workplan and met with Superintendents to get their feedback after the Fair.

Entertainment: The Committee reviewed suggested changes to the Farm to Table Event and worked on their workplan.

Admin: Working on the Holiday Party for the December meeting.

2026 Committee Workplan Discussion: Dean asked each chair to review their goals created for their workplans. These goals will help guide each committee's activities throughout the year, as well as the board's goals.

Appointment of Associate Members: Rob made a motion to approve the Associate Members from all Committees: Clay Adams, Nick Candelaria, Tori Checkal, Matt Coyle, Deb Diley, Josiah Fredericks, Lauren Heaton, John Holst, James Jamison, Linda Jefferies, Ryan Kennedy, Chayce Lutz, Kyle Moore, Garrett Northrup, Ty Quintana, Gabriel Ryan, Jean Sabulsky, Dick Sabulsky, Frank Silici, Ted Sorenson, Chris Spyke, Danny Talbert, Cynthia Tkach, Monica Wilson, Matt Wormington, Kate Wormington. Pat C. seconded. No discussion. All Approved.

Other Business

Director Comments: Dean recognized Debbie Mills for being awarded the WPRA Committee Member of the Year Award. She will be recognized during the NFR. Debbie is humbled by receiving the award and is Proud to represent DCFR.

Pat asked everyone to congratulate Michelle on her promotion to Fair & Rodeo Events Supervisor.

Adjournment at 7:15 pm.

Next Meeting: November 20, 2025

Rules for Citizen Engagement at Fair Board Meeting

In order to have orderly, efficient, civil, and productive board meetings, the following rules apply to all citizens that 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. 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.