



DOUGLAS COUNTY FAIR BOARD

THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2025

DOUGLAS COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS – EVENTS CENTER

MINUTES

Dean Elliott - Chairperson, called the Douglas County Fair Board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on July 17, 2025. The meeting was held in the James R. Sullivan Events Center. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board Members Present:

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

Associate Members Present:

*Tori Checkal
James Jamison
Linda Jefferies
Ryan Kennedy
Kyle Moore
Garrett Northrop
Patti Russell
Jean Sabulsky
Dick Sabulsky
Frank Silici
Ted Sorenson
Chris Spyke
Danny Talbert*

Other Guests Present:

*Cindy Duckworth
Tristan Hastings
Guinevere Nelson
Jessica Gottschalk*

Staff Members Present:

*Laurie Anderson
Zach Burns
Sharon Hines
Undersheriff Jason Kennedy
Michelle Mannes
Commander Andrew Sanders
Emily Schoelzel
Tori Thelen
Sheriff Darren Weekly*

Board Members Absent:

Phil Riesselman

Associate Members Absent:

*Clay Adams
Nick Candelaria
Matt Coyle
Deb Dilley
Lauren Heaton
John Holst
Josiah Fredericks
Chayce Lutz
Ty Quintana
Gabriel Ryan
Jean Sabulsky
Cynthia Tkach
Monica Wilson
Kate Wormington
Matt Wormington*

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

Public Comment: Jessica Gottschalk from Sterling Ranch addressed the Board, thanking them for their hard work and partnership with Sterling Ranch. She asked for the Board's support in their upcoming Cattle Drive and their Inaugural Equestrian Parade on August 8 & 9. Their goal is to have 100 riders on horseback, and anyone is welcome.

Dean informed the Board that the Board of County Commissioners has agreed to move forward with the two new Director nominations of Patti Russell and Ryan Johnson. Please welcome them to the Board!

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

Consent Agenda: John A. moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Pat C. seconded. There was no further discussion. All approved.

Treasurer's Report: Wes reported that the overall Fair budget is \$1,341,661.00. A lot of expenses and revenue are expected to come in the next few weeks. If everything comes in as expected, the final budget for revenue should be close to \$73,000 to the good after Fair.

Final walkthrough of the Fairgrounds**Return to the conference room****Reports From Other Groups**

4-H Foundation: None.

CSU/4-H: Guinevere reported that the Shooting Sports Competitions went well, and that Exhibit Day is coming up on Saturday. Everyone is invited to come and check it out.

Youth Council: None

FFA: None.

DCSO: Laurie introduced Sheriff Weekly, Undersheriff Kennedy, and Commander Sanders from the DCSO. Commander Sanders will work the swing shift, with Laurie and Sergeant Clarkson working the day shift. Feel free to stop them and say hi if you see them around the Fair.

Regular Agenda

Staff Report: Zach reminded the Fair Board of the parking plan and that parking on the grounds is tight. Please park in your assigned spots. Workday will take place on Friday, July 25, at 8 am. This will be where you pick up your packets, keys, and sign waivers for the year. The Entertainment Committee will need Farm to Table set up help on Saturday, July 26, from 12-4 pm please come help if you are available. The Security Team sent out a Code Red test alert this afternoon. If you did not receive it, please let us know so we can ensure you are on the list.

Committee Reports

Guest Services: Volunteer shifts are still low for ticketing on the Final weekend, with 44 vacancies. A volunteer orientation was held virtually last night, and two more are available in person. Sterling Ranch is interested in purchasing the Branding Iron Lounge on Thursday night.

Admin: The Committee will be available in Kirk Hall on workday to hand out packets, keys, and burrito tickets. 4-H wristbands will also be available for sale that day. During the Fair, the committee will have a history table in Kirk Hall to give a history of the grounds and Fair over the years.

Entertainment: The Midway Stage will host approximately three bands per day. The DCSO Canine Unit will also again demonstrate at the Wall of Honor. Final preparations are being made for the Farm to Table event and the Draft Horse Show.

Rodeo: This year's PRCA rodeo purse total is \$191,000, with 695 contestants. Approximately 100 Roughstock riders were turned away after entries were full. 151 of the contestants qualified for the NFR, with a total of 782 qualifications.

Livestock Sale: Simla confirmed that they are good to take rabbits this year. It has been decided that the kids who won the scholarships from the Buy-Back Sale proceeds will throw the cookies during the cookie toss.

Awards: All awards have officially been sponsored. Pat presented John A., Lora, Pam, Debbie, Scott C., Wes, and Phil with an engraved badge to signify at least eight years of service on the Fair Board.

Show Management: Lori, Rob, and Hayden worked hard on the Exhibitor Packet that was sent out earlier this week. The group is fielding a few last-minute things, but nothing major. Shooting Sports went well and was a great kickoff to start Fair! Creative Arts will have training for all data entry clerks on 7/23 if anyone is interested in attending.

Marketing: The souvenir programs are here. Pam and Patti worked very hard to make them. They will be taking a few around town to distribute, and the board is encouraged to do the same. Debbie asked the Board to support all of our sponsors in person and on social media.

Old Business

Final Fair Review: See individual committee reports above.

New Business

Emergency Tabletop Exercise: Dean reported that he, Scott C., John A., and Fairgrounds Staff attended an Emergency Tabletop Exercise with DCSO reviewing how to respond to different emergency situations at the Fair. It was discussed how important the Code Red system is, and to ensure that all Fair Board members are signed up and receiving the notifications. If a situation arises, a

Code Red message will be sent out with instructions on how to handle the situation from different areas of the Fairgrounds.

Dean reminded everyone that they are the eyes and ears of the Fair and Fairgrounds. If something doesn't look right during the Fair, everyone has a direct line of communication to the Command Center. DCSO and the Command Center are happy to investigate anything and would prefer to check things out and have it be nothing rather than not knowing about something and having it turn into a larger situation. It is better to be proactive.

Laurie asked the Board to let her, Zach, or Tim know if they see protestors. Once they are aware, they can get the protestors to the correct area of the grounds.

Director Comments

The Board was reminded of the shirt color order for Fair:

Thursday – Denim/Chambray

Friday – Red (Including Livestock Sale)

Saturday – White

Sunday – Blue

Dean ended the meeting by thanking everyone for their hard work. He reminded everyone to have grace with each other and to be kind to one another in the stressful moments of Fair. But overall, have fun and enjoy!

Adjournment at 8:00 pm

Next Meeting: August 21, 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.