



DOUGLAS COUNTY FAIR BOARD

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2025

**DOUGLAS COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS – JAMES R. SULLIVAN EVENTS CENTER
CONFERENCE ROOM**

MINUTES

Dean Elliott - Chairperson, called the Douglas County Fair Board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on January 16, 2025. The meeting was held in the James R. Sullivan Conference Room. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board Members Present:

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

Associate Members Present:

*Nick Candelaria
Tori Checkal
James Jamison
Ryan Kennedy
Kyle Moore
Patti Russell
Dick Sabulsky
Jean Sabulsky
Ted Sorenson
Chris Spyke
Danny Talbert
Monica Wilson*

Other Guests Present:

*Marcus Ballinger
Tristan Hastings*

Staff Members Present:

*Laurie Anderson
Zach Burns
Tim Hallmark
Teresa Kutt
Michelle Mannes
Tori Thelen*

Board Members Absent:

*John Adams
Debbie Mills
Gabriel Ryan*

Associate Members Absent:

*Matt Coyle
Deb Dilley
Josiah Fredericks
John Holst
Chayce Lutz
Kate Wormington*

6:30 PM CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**Public Meeting****No Public Comment**

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: Lisa moved to approve. Lori S. seconded. No discussion. All approved.

Consent Agenda. Rob moved to approve. Lisa seconded. No discussion. All approved.

Treasurer's Report: Wes reported that the 2025 budget sheets have been distributed to the Committee Chairs. The additional funds for rodeo and admin still need to be requested. Zach and Wes worked to reorganize some budget items, putting the right dollars into the correct budgets. This will simplify requests to the Board of County Commissioners and improve the distinction between one-time and ongoing requests. Dean thanked Wes and Zach for the clean-up efforts.

Reports From Other Groups

CSU Extension: No report

Fair Foundation: The foundation is working on the spring fundraising event. A kick-off event will be held at Wide Open Saloon on Feb. 7. All are invited.

4-H Youth Council: No report

REGULAR AGENDA**Staff Report:**

Concert Update: Zach reported that efforts continue to secure an artist for the Friday night concert.

OLD BUSINESS**Competition Rules Update**

Hayden and Dean provided an update on the Rules Committee's review and editing of the 225+ pages of rules for the 2025 Jr. Division and Open Class competitions. The rules committee will have all edits and formatting completed by the end of next week. Fair Board will have the final draft by January 24. The committee would like to call an emergency meeting on January 30 for the Board to approve the rules. Pat pointed out that the meeting would require a quorum. After ensuring the attendance to meet the quorum, Rob motioned to have the Fair Board meet to review the competition rules on January 30. Scott C. seconded. No discussion. All approved.

Farm-to-Table & Food Vendors

Sarah reported that bids for catering were being accepted for a breakfast-forward brunch menu for 200 guests. Farm-to-Table will take place on July 27 at 10 a.m.

Additionally, ten applications have been received for food vendor spots. The entertainment committee gives preference to vendors who can come on both weekends. The application is on the website.

Volunteer Recruitment

Dean is working on recruiting more committee members, and he asked for any contacts who might be interested.

NEW BUSINESS

Junior Division Tag-in

Hayden reported that beef tag-ins begin in March, and working with CSU, the board needs to consider using Electronic Identification (EID) Tags for this year's Jr. Division events. Tags are available but need to be ordered soon. CSU will plan, lead, and manage tag-ins this year. The goal is to create more structure to the process. This year, one Fair Board member and a member of Show Management will be in attendance during all tag-ins to represent Fair Board and answer questions only. Any other involvement by members of the Fair Board would be purely voluntary. CSU will recruit volunteers. There will be eight different tag-ins, and CSU will need help. CSU is building a work plan and documentation for the process.

Danny provided information on EID tags:

The manufacturer codes EID tags. There are two types of EID tags: 840 tags and 900 tags. Starting in November, cattle leaving and returning to the state must have 840 tags. Danny feels the 900 tags are what the Fair should require. Kids with cattle leaving the state must notify CSU if they use the 840 tag. Beef and bison are the only species that are regulated to use EID. Panel tags are used as a safeguard if EID falls off – which is very, very rare. Panel tags would have the EID numbers to help prevent tag switching. The State Fair no longer requires retinal scanning. If an animal's tag is replaced, the owner must legally update the tag number. The EID number is visible on the tag.

Hayden provided more information: Tattooing and photographs can still be done. Swine does not come to the grounds for tag-ins but CSU will determine a process for swine. Currently, swine is tagged by kids. Superintendents do go out to verify ear notches for swine and may be able to assist in the tagging process.

Fair Entry tracks and reports tag numbers. CSU runs everything until the animals arrive at the Fair. Once on the grounds, Show Management takes over. Every animal would be scanned at Fair check-in.

The owner will call CSU to get a new EID if an animal loses a tag. The old number is dead, and duplicate tags are not allowed.

Danny provided estimates on equipment needs: Scanners are \$1000, and EID tags are \$5 each. The cost of tags would come out of CSU's budget. Hayden recommends Fair buy the equipment (scanner and taggers).

The scanned numbers would go into an Excel spreadsheet and then be uploaded into Fair Entry.

Show Management can choose the number set of EID.

Hayden motioned to use EID tags for livestock at the 2025 Fair. Scott seconded. Phil and Wes oppose. Motion approved.

Special Events for 2025

Exceptional Rodeo will return. There will be no specialty acts during the rodeo performances.

NEW BUSINESS**Guest Services**

Gary informed the board that this year, the committee will not be attending the Farmer's Markets to recruit volunteers and is working on new efforts to improve recruitment. Lori presented stuffed animals that would be added to the merchandise sale efforts. The 2025 Fair will be a test year for items geared toward kids.

Gary motioned to approve the stuffed animal. Seconded by Wes. No discussion. All approved.

Awards

Pat C. reported that the Awards Committee met with Show Management to discuss rule changes in the horse department that will affect awards. The recommended rule change is to remove showmanship from each division and create a general showmanship division. This would require new awards but would create consistency in the horse department. The horse department would also like to add additional Walk-Trot classes and create an award for those 'introductory' classes. Pat moved to approve the additions of the walk-trot and general showmanship awards. Wes seconded. No discussion. All Approved.

Other Business

The list of Associate members was presented for approval. Wes motioned to approve. Rob seconded. No discussion. All approved.

Phil moved to add Patty Russell as an Associate member. Rob seconded. No discussion. All approved.

Adjournment at 7:40 pm**Next Meeting: February 20, 2025, at 6:30 PM****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.