

**Larimer County Fair Board
Meeting Minutes
October 29th, 2025, 6:30 pm**

The Larimer County Fair Board convened a regular session on Wednesday, **October 29th, 2025, at 6:30 P.M.**

Present:

Chairman: Stephanie Morrison

Vice Chairman:

Secretary:

Board Members Present: Vera Brown, Tiffany Bending, Michelle Wilcox, Jay Crouse, Ulf Borg, Becca Walter, Kristine Miller

Also Present: Larimer County Commissioner- Kristin Stephens, 2026 Larimer County Fair & PRCA Rodeo Queen- Addy Gregory, LCSO Lt. Brad Harkin, Fair Competition Coordinator- Laura Boldt, 4-H Youth Development Livestock & Equine Specialist- Bailey Schilling, General Manager of the Venue- Louise Romero, Guests Present- Caree Rineberger, RJ Saffell, Cindy Buckardt

Absent Members: Logan Lenz, Pat Young, Melinda Deal

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Stephanie Morrison called the meeting to order at 6:34pm.

INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Stephanie Morrison asked all present to introduce themselves.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Stephanie Morrison asked the board members if they had reviewed the agenda and if any additions or deletions were needed. Kristine Miller made a motion to approve the agenda as it stands. Becca Walter seconded the motion. Agenda was approved on a majority vote by the Fair Board Members 7-0. Motion passed.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes from the August 27th and September 24th meetings were distributed to all attendees via email prior to the meeting. It is noted copies of the minutes for both August 27th and September 24th meetings were available for review if needed. Jay Crouse notes that the Vice Chairman and Secretary titles are blank in the September minutes. Stephanie Morrison explains that Logan Lenz was absent and this was

documented in the Absent Members section and Dana Luther resigned so there is no Secretary currently.

Stephanie Morrison asked if everyone had the opportunity to review the minutes from the August 27th meeting and whether there were any additions or deletions to be made. After allowing time for final review, no changes were requested. Chairman Stephanie Morrison asked for a motion to approve the August minutes. Becca Walter made the motion to approve the minutes. Kristine Miller seconded the motion. The August minutes were approved on a majority vote by the Fair Board Members 7-0. Motion passed.

Stephanie Morrison asked if everyone had the opportunity to review the minutes from the September 24th meeting and whether there were any additions or deletions to be made. After allowing time for final review, no changes were requested. Chairman Stephanie Morrison asked for a motion to approve the September minutes. Vera Brown made the motion to approve the minutes. Jay Crouse seconded the motion. The September minutes were approved on a majority vote by the Fair Board Members 7-0. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

No Correspondence to report.

COMMISSIONER REPORT

Commissioner Stephens advised they are still working on the budget for 2026 which will be finalized and approved by December, 10th, 2025. There will be some budget cuts but nothing significant. She also advised that with the federal government shutdown and the possibility of no SNAP benefits for recipients in November, please consider donating and/or volunteering to local food banks and other organizations.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Stephanie Morrison advised the Chairman's Report will be in new business section of the meeting and it will be regarding clarification of Fair Board duties, roles as members, as well as appointments of Subcommittee, Chairman, and Co-Chairs.

FAIR BOARD PARTNERS / LIAISON REPORTS

a. Queen/Royalty: Addy Gregory reported she attended the Colorado Youth Outdoor Event, Berthoud Homecoming parade, 4-H Open House, presented the American flag on the field horseback along with the ROTC program at the Berthoud Homecoming football game, Mountain State Circuit Finals, Miss Rodeo Colorado send off in Greeley, and the Phase 2 Groundbreaking event at the Ranch. Addy reported that she doubled the amount of hours since the last meeting in September with 66 hours, 727 miles traveled, and has made 13 social media posts. Addy picked up her hats at Greeley Hat

Works that includes the Petrol colored hat, black hat, and buckskin hat. Addy and the Queen's committee met and went over the holiday schedule, upcoming November events, and brainstormed other fundraising ideas for the program. Addy reports that her buckle is in production now. She plans to attend the Origin building's ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday November 4th, CAFSS Convention in Douglas County, and the Larimer County Appreciation Dinner on November 18th. Stephanie Morrison reported she received a compliment from Greeley Hat Works about Addy and her posts on Instagram, they were really impressed with everything Addy has been posting.

b. Extension 4-H: Bailey Schilling reported the 4-H Open House was a success, there were approximately 80 families and over 100 prospective members in attendance. Bailey reports there were 13 clubs and project leaders represented. Bailey reports earlier this month, they had the Carcass Contest at CSU. There were 78 members in attendance and they were able to take a tour through the newly renovated Meat Science Lab at CSU that included the holding area, harvest facilities, and the fabrication facilities. Bailey and a few other members were able to utilize some of the carcasses to show differences in fat percentages and how fat is deposited on the animal. Bailey reports in the next few months, 4 youths are headed to the National 4-H College of Congress in Georgia, 2 teams are headed to the FCS Skillathon in San Antonio, and a team is going to the Consumer Decision Making Contest in January. Bailey reports they are planning livestock workshops for the end of January/early February, Livestock Field Day is coming up on February 21st, and tagging periods for livestock beef will be coming up on February 17th. Jay Crouse asked Bailey about a rumor that record book checks are moving from Fair check-in to somewhere in Wellington. Bailey advised the idea is to move record book checks ahead of the County Fair to take away from some of the stress that goes on during the Fair, whether it be set-up or check-in. Weld County started this type of model about 30 years ago where they have record book checks about 1 month ahead of the Fair. Bailey states there will be record book checks at 4 different times and 2 different locations (2 at the Ranch and 2 at ARDEC at the Cobank Center in Fort Collins) to capture different areas of the community. If members are unable to make any of those 4 dates, they will need to email Bailey Schilling by July 1st to set up a time to review the record book. Jay Crouse, Becca Walter, and Stephanie Morrison expressed concerns about the lack of communication to the 4-H Leaders and youth about the change. Bailey advised an email was sent out at the beginning of October and emails will be resent every month going forward so members will be aware of the changes. Bailey advised this information is also located in the Project Letters that will be coming out later in November or December 1st. This information is also in the Newsletter that will be coming out as well.

c. The Ranch, Rodeo & LC Sheriff's Posse: Lousie Romero reported the Phase 2 Groundbreaking ceremony took place on Tuesday October 28th. In attendance was the 2026 Larimer County Fair & PRCA Rodeo Queen Addy Gregory, Larimer County Commissioners, majority of the LC Sheriff's Posse, as well those involved in the project, and local business leaders including Embassy Suites. Louise advised instead of using shovels to break the ground since there is already a giant hole, buckets were used and filled with dirt to add our earth to the new earth project. The Iron Family dancers blessed the groundbreaking and reigns were passed to the Commissioners that represented the western culture in Larimer Country, the youth, and the County Fair. Louise reports all in attendance signed a giant blue water pipe that will be buried and used for the project. Louise advised the Annual Fair Report was presented to the commissioners on Monday and also shared this evening.

Accomplishments of the 2025 Annual Fair included: attendance of 103,800, record number of attendees to the Pancake Breakfast (2,129), First ever Jim's Wings Eating Contest, Launch of the Kids Entrepreneurial Market (70 vendors on Saturday and 45 vendors on Sunday), Sensory Day reached 952 guests supported by 30+ volunteers, 8,991 in attendance across all 3 nights at the PRCA Rodeo, and Carnival Americana had 25 rides, supported Sensory Day, and recorded 251,114 in ticket sales. The average dwell time at the Fair was 139 minutes. Visitors came from Loveland, Windsor, Fort Collins, Wellington, Berthoud, and Laporte. High crossover activity was observed from the Ranch Equestrian Center, Pedersen Toyota Center, and Thomas M. McKee Building. The 2025 Jr Livestock sale saw 264 animals sold generating \$1,071,758 for 4-H members. The Parade had 51 Float entries and recorded 2,600 in attendance (down by approximately 700 based on 2024's attendance of 3,300). 4-H Youth Livestock recorded a total of 927 animals and 478 exhibitors, Open Class recorded 1142 entries and 332 exhibitors, and General Projects recorded 556 projects and 359 exhibitors.

Louise reports the Fireworks will return for 2026 on Saturday and Sunday nights. There will also be a Drone Show for the 250th/150th celebration on Sunday night after the rodeo at 9:30pm. The drone show will be approximately 9 minutes and 30 seconds long and will represent Colorado starting with the finding of the Stegosaurus dinosaur. It will also include representations from different regions in Colorado to include Red Rocks. Louise recommended Larimer County be represented by Estes Park and the elk or Horsetooth Reservoir. Four logos will be present in the show: City of Loveland, Ranch Events Complex, Fair logo, and 4-H logo.

Louise reminded everyone the Larimer County Appreciation Dinner will take place on Tuesday November 18th at the Home Run Bar and Grill at Blue Arena. This will start at

6:00pm with food to be served at 6:30pm. Those in attendance will get to see the new renovations recently completed to the Home Run Bar and Grill.

Finally, Louise reported the Colorado Association of Fairs will take place in Douglas County this year. The International Association of Fairs and Events (IAFE) will be in Denver from November 29th to December 3rd at the Denver Convention Center with over 15,000 fair buddies across the US and the world planning to attend. Registration is required if you are interested in attending.

d. Fair Coordinator: Laura Boldt reported she will be meeting individually with species superintendents and open class superintendents in October and November to plan for 2026. They will review the fair book, schedule, and layouts and make recommendations. There are plans to tweak the schedule to stagger the check-ins at the barns. Open Class will be embracing the 250th/150th theme. Laura advised there is a need for superintendents especially in Creative Crafts, if anyone knows any Crafting Groups or Organizations. Tiffany reported that the 3 judges have offered to come back next year. Laura also reports check-in for items will be on Tuesday, judging on Wednesday, and pick-up the following Wednesday. Stephanie Morrison advised Laura Boldt they need to discuss changes to the cake decorating piece for Open Class.

FAIR BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Ranch Hands: Kristine Miller reports a meeting with the Ranch Hands committee will be called in November. The committee will be working on sponsorship agreements, and making a plan for 2026. Kristine advised there were approximately 25-30 volunteers last year with an ideal number of volunteers being 100. Kristine reports there is some interest in volunteering from the Community Corrections Board. Commissioner Stevens recommended looking for kids (ages 16 and older) that need volunteer hours for things such as 4-H, IB programs, or Scouts. Commissioner Stevens agreed to add a request for volunteers in the County newsletter. Other ideas presented include Corporate groups, junior philanthropy groups, and meeting with the Greeley Stampede volunteer coordinator. Laura Boldt reminded everyone to complete their volunteer hours in Volgistics.

b. Queen/Royalty: Michelle Wilcox reported Addy received her hats from Greeley Hat Works and there is an appointment scheduled with Skillman for the photo shoot. The Queen's committee has been working on planning for the BBQ fundraiser, planning regular sponsor visits to remind them of ways Addy can help especially around the holidays, and determining which holiday parades Addy would like to participate in. Michelle reports the dates have been locked down for the Pageant Competition and the

BBQ. Michelle reports Addy will be attending the Queen's Clinic in Douglas County in November.

c. Pancake Breakfast: Jay Crouse reports he confirmed with the Ranch that the tips the Lions received covered the amount of the bill this year. Jay has submitted the Work Plan to Stephanie Morrison. Louise Romero reported supplies for the Pancake Breakfast were found in the Equine arena concession stand and recommends that Jay look over the supplies, organize, and possibly clean items such as table cloths. Louise apologized for the confusion on the ending time of the Pancake Breakfast. The website listed the end time at 9:30am while the day sheets indicated it was 10am. Jay decided on the official time of the pancake breakfast, 7am to 9am, and recommended adding a disclaimer "while supplies last" to set expectations. Jay questioned if there was a budget for supplies for 2026 and was advised there is no budget for supplies and to discuss with Stacie at the Ranch.

d. Parade: Stephanie Morrison advised the Parade Committee will be formed soon and there are no details to discuss at this time.

e. Junior Livestock Sale: Becca Walter reported the Junior Livestock Sale committee meeting was held on Tuesday night. They voted on minor wording changes to rules. Positive feedback was received regarding the time change for the Sale. Jay advised that educating the community regarding the percentage that is taken out of the proceeds for capital improvements should be mentioned so there is no confusion and everyone is informed. Laura Boldt advised that checks have been handed out except a few which are college students and she anticipates all checks to be delivered during Thanksgiving break.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Work Plan Updates: Chairman Stephanie Morrison reported that Laura Boldt has created a new Google Drive since the previous Google Drive was created and managed by someone who is no longer on the Fair Board. Laura has organized the files on Google Drive. Stephanie advised there are few items missing from the Junior Livestock Sale that need to be added to the Google Drive. The Ranch Hands are working on creating a Work Plan since this is new for that Committee. Stephanie indicated a parade document has been created but not the Work Plan yet. Stephanie advised the goal is to pinpoint and update the remaining Work Plans in the next few weeks. Currently Laura Boldt, Stephanie Morrison, and Vera Brown have access to Google Drive with plans to share the link to the remainder of the Fair Board members.

NEW/OTHER BUSINESS

a. Reappointments: Commissioner Stephens advised the current Fair Board members who had to reapply for a new term (Stephanie Morrison, Becca Walter, and Michelle Wilcox) have all been reappointed.

b. Applications: Commissioner Stephens advised they have received 3 Fair Board Applications. Applications were open until October 15th.

c. Chairman Position: Becca Walter had created and sent out a Google Form to all Fair Board Members for nomination(s) for the Chairman Position in September. There was only 1 nomination, Stephanie Morrison. Laura Boldt received 2 proxy votes from Pat Young and Melinda Deal prior to the Fair Board Meeting. By a ballot vote from Fair Board Members 7-1, Stephanie Morrison will remain in her current position as Chairman.

d. Vice Chair Position: By a unanimous vote from Fair Board Members of 8-0, Becca Walter has been elected to the Vice Chair Position.

e. Secretary Position: By a unanimous vote from Fair Board Members of 8-0, Vera Brown has been elected to the Secretary Position.

f. Subcommittee Appointments: Stephanie Morrison advised there will not be any co-chairs appointed allowing the Chairpersons to choose their own co-chair. Kristine Miller will remain the Chairperson of the Ranch Hands. Michelle Wilcox will remain the Chairperson of Queens/Royalty. Jay Crouse will remain the Chairperson of Pancake Breakfast. Stephanie appoints Tiffany Bending as Chairperson of the Parade.

Junior Livestock Sale Committee: Logan Lenz has stepped down as the Junior Livestock Sale Chairperson. Stephanie Morrison advised a survey was sent out to the Junior Livestock Sale Committee to gather options on the appointment of the Chairperson. The majority voted for Tanner Adams, current Vice Chair, to be next Chairperson. Stephanie Morrison appoints Tanner Adams as the Junior Livestock Sale Chairperson and Caree Rineberger as the Vice Chair. Bylaws state there must be a liaison that currently sits on the Fair Board. Becca Walter has been appointed as the Fair Board Liaison since she currently sits on the Junior Livestock Sale Committee Sponsorship committee. Stephanie asked the board for a motion to accept Tanner Adams as the Chairperson, Caree Rineberger as Vice Chair, and Becca Walter as the Fair Board Liaison. Becca Walter made the motion to approve the appointments, Kristine Miller seconded the motion. Junior Livestock Sale Committee Appointments were approved on a majority vote by the Fair Board Members 7-0. Motion passed.

Ad Hoc Committee: Stephanie Morrison advised the Jr Livestock Sale Ad Hoc Committee will consist of Doug Pennock, Tanner Adams, and Biz Bopp. The committee will vote on the secretary position along with any open vacancies on any sub committee.

Announcements

a. Team Reach: Stephanie Morrison advised a Team Reach App was created for the Fair Board members for communication and calendar updates. Most members have already joined the App.

b. Sponsorship Work Sessions: Stephanie Morrison advised there will be sponsorship work sessions being scheduled. Details will be provided on the Team Reach App.

**Next Fair Board Meeting: January 28th, 2026 at 6:30pm McKee Building
Timnath/LaPorte Rooms**

Items for Executive Committee: No Items at this time

ADJOURNMENT: Becca Walter made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Kristine Miller seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a majority vote of the Board Members 7-0. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.