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Larimer County Fair Board
Meeting Minutes
June 25, 2025, 6:30 pm

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

Present:

Chairman: Stephanie Morrison
Vice Chairman: Logan Lenz (Absent)
Secretary: Dana Luther
Board Members Present: Jay Crouse, Pat Young, Kristine Miller, Vera Brown, Melinda Dea, Ult Borg, Tiffany Bending

Also Present: Larimer County Commissioner - Kristin Stephens, Fair Competition Coordinator - Laura Boldt, Larimer County Fair & PRCA Rodeo Queen - Maggie Livingston, Sheriff's Office Representative - Officer Rafael Sanchez, Guests Present- Janelle Kemper, Cindy Buckardt, Lori Borg, Paige Petrocco, Codi Poole, Addison Gregory.

Absent Members: Ranch Director- Conor McGrath, 4-H Youth Development Specialist Livestock and Horse Agent - Bailey Schilling, Fair Board Member Recebba Walter

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Stephanie Morrison called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Stephanie Morrison asked all present to introduce themselves.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Stephanie Morrison asked attendees if they had reviewed the agenda and if any additions or deletions were needed. A motion was made by Pat Young to approve the agenda and was seconded by Kristine Miller. Agenda was approved on a majority vote by the Fair Board Members 10-0. Motion passed

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes from the May 28th meeting were distributed to all attendees via email prior to the meeting. Stephanie Morrison asked if everyone had the opportunity to review them and whether there were any additions or deletions to be made. It was noted that a copy of the minutes was available for review if needed. After allowing time for final review, no changes were requested. A motion was made to approve the May 28th meeting minutes as presented by Vera Brown. Pat Young seconded the motion. The minutes were approved on a majority vote by the Fair Board Members 10-0. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

No Correspondence to report.

COMMISSIONER REPORT- Commissioner Stephens reported there is little new business as it remains a quieter period, though work continues on the budget. Discussion turned to the upcoming pancake breakfast, with decisions about invitees to be finalized by Tuesday. The board is considering inviting all county elected officials and possibly one representative from each City Council - either a mayor or council member - to maintain a manageable group size. Invitations may also extend to some congressional and state representatives, though those decisions are still pending. A key point of discussion was ensuring that the event remains non-political; attendees will be asked not to wear campaign shirts or buttons, and campaigning will not be permitted to maintain fairness for those not invited. Connor is drafting the invitation letter, and coordination will continue to finalize language that encourages participation while clearly setting expectations. No additional updates were presented.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT- Stephanie Morrison provided an emotional and heartfelt reflection about a recent 4H event featuring guest speaker Liza Jo, a remarkable young woman who is blind and has actively participated in 4H showing horses, pigs, and sheep. The event was well-attended, with about 65 people present despite a busy Friday night. Attendees were deeply moved by Liza Jo's story of perseverance, faith, and hope. One particularly touching moment was shared when a mother recounted her deaf daughter expressing, after hearing Liza Jo speak about her recent marriage, that she hadn't believed someone could love her because of her disability. The experience profoundly impacted both youth and adults, emphasizing messages of resilience, faith, and self-worth. Liza Jo credited her faith in God as the foundation that carried her through life's challenges, resonating especially with young people struggling with hope. The chairman expressed gratitude for the strong community support, donations, and attendance and hopes to have Liza Jo return to speak again in the future. The group agreed the event was a powerful and worthwhile experience for everyone involved.

FAIR BOARD PARTNERS/ LIAISON REPORTS

a. Queen/Royalty - Maggie opened her update by sharing excitement over new autograph sheets, highlighting improved quality and fun photo poses from a recent photo shoot. She recapped her busy month of events, beginning with the Elizabeth Stampede on June 6th, which included a luncheon, downpour adventure, and mutton busting - calling it a core memory. Maggie also announced that her horse, Wally, was diagnosed with Cushing's disease and will be out for the season, with her mare, Bella, stepping in for future events including the County Fair. She then discussed the upcoming Queen's BBQ, inviting everyone to attend and participate in a Hawaiian T-shirt contest, expressing appreciation for any help. Maggie participated in a horsemanship clinic, improving skills with Mirabella, and attended the Evergreen Rodeo and parade, sharing humorous moments and positive memories from the experience.

She completed a closing visit to Jack's, picking up a new belt and shirts, including one featured in an upcoming article for the *Loveland and South Magazine.* Maggie described the enjoyable interview and photo session, noting a new friendship with the photographer. She also spoke proudly about her best friend Lisa Jo's successful youth event, organized with Stephanie's help. Maggie confirmed she would send BBQ volunteer details via email rather than a sign-up sheet. Finally, ticket sales were promoted, and thanks were extended to all attendees for their support and participation.

b. Extension 4-H - Laura Boldt provided a brief Extension report noting that Bailey Schilling is concluding his livestock workshops and encouraging participation in the upcoming Round Robin clinic. No additional updates were provided from Rick Harris or the Rodeo Board. The group confirmed the distribution of rodeo tickets, with Mitzi Deal's issue resolved and Logan Lenz receiving both his junior livestock sale and parade tickets. It was clarified that each fair board member receives two rodeo tickets, and ticket pickup is now complete.

c. The Ranch, Rodeo & LC Sheriff's Posse - Laura Boldt provided the Ranch Report in Connor's absence. It was noted that fair planning is being finalized and work on the Ranch's master plan is ongoing. Large vehicles will soon begin moving the retaining pond on the east end of the property to prepare for additional parking, though this will not affect fair activities through October 1st. The Ranch remains busy with events, including the return of the Summer Slide reining show in the indoor arena, a recent home show, and an upcoming graduation in the Peterson Toyota Center. Fair and rodeo posters, along with volunteer recruitment posters, are now available for distribution.

d. Fair Coordinator - Laura Boldt provided an update on the 4H exhibitor schedule for the fair, noting that it includes detailed information for 4H projects and livestock events, though it does not cover open class events. The schedule is available online under the 4H exhibits section, with minimal changes from previous years aside from the Junior

Sale moving to 1:00 p.m. instead of 4:00 p.m. Registration began in June, and weekly reminders are being sent to leaders as some clubs still have no entries. Entries are reviewed and approved multiple times daily, ensuring they align with the participants' 4H projects. The registration deadline is July 7, with a $10 late fee window open for two additional days. Participants can edit their entries after approval. Judges are confirmed, though Laura is still seeking a Superintendent for Open Class Creative Crafts to manage project check-ins, judging, and returns. Awards, buckles, banners, ribbons, and trophies are in process, with sponsor names engraved on buckles. Final preparations are underway, with focus on confirming sponsor details and completing printing ahead of the fair. Overall, planning is proceeding smoothly.

FAIR BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Ranch Hands - Kristine Miller reported the committee held a meeting to review schedules and finalize volunteer needs. Volunteer numbers are slowly improving, with some great returning volunteers and a few new ones, but more help is still needed, particularly for the bounce houses and activity areas. This year, there will be three bounce houses, along with the block play area and Imagination and Ninja Nation, which are largely self-managed. Six sponsors have been secured for the Ranch Hands program, nearly covering the full budget for the first time. A reminder was given that bounce house volunteers need to be at least 16 years old. Discussion followed about golf cart training, which is scheduled for July 24th and July 28th, with potential for additional sessions once the carts arrive. Finally, a suggestion was made to create a Google Doc volunteer sign-up sheet and send it directly to all 4-H members and families, rather than relying solely on club leaders, to recruit additional help for the bounce houses. The idea was well-received, with hopes it might engage responsible older 4-H members for shorter, manageable shifts, especially as a community service opportunity.

b. Queen/Royalty - Michelle Wilcox provided updates regarding the upcoming pageant scheduled for July 12th, requesting volunteers to assist with setup and teardown. Anyone interested was asked to contact her directly to coordinate details. The tentative arrival time for helpers is around 8:00 AM, with further communication to follow regarding exact schedules and horsemanship times. Michelle Wilcox also reminded everyone about the BBQ on July 31st, noting that help with setup, teardown, and auction item donations is still needed. While the silent auction is well-stocked, they are still seeking a few additional high-value items for the live auction, including a full pig (to be auctioned in two halves), framed photographs, and custom metal signage. Leads or contributions for these items are encouraged. The meeting then moved into the mandatory contestant meeting for the Fair and Rodeo Queen competition, introducing the two contestants, Cody and Addison, who shared their backgrounds and enthusiasm for representing Larimer County. Former Queen Paige Petrocco was also introduced as a new committee member, assisting with sponsorships, social media, and contestant support. The meeting concluded with a welcome to the contestants and committee members.

Michelle Wilcox also provided a brief update on Lindsey Fancher Rule, a former rodeo queen, will be participating in rodeo activities and visiting during upcoming events, and her involvement is much appreciated. Additionally, it was announced that Lindsey Fancher Rule, the 2019 rodeo queen, is currently competing for the title of Miss Rodeo Colorado (MRC). The competition began that day, with speeches and media interviews scheduled for the next day, a fashion show on Friday, and coronation on Saturday. Attendees were reminded that some of these events require purchased tickets and to check event details online before attending. Lindsey Fancher-Rule will also be emceeing a local event regardless of the MRC outcome. The group expressed excitement and support for her.

c. Pancake Breakfast - JayCrouse confirmed that the dairy vendor is finalized and will provide juice and milk, with confirmation received from Dana Drake. The Lions Club is set, plates have been ordered from OVG, and the pancake mix is secured. A work schedule will be sent out in the coming weeks. The event is scheduled for **August 3rd from 7:00 to 9:00 AM,** with all fair board members asked to attend if possible to assist with clearing tables, refilling items, and mingling with guests. Commissioners and officials will handle the serving duties. Board members are asked to arrive by **6:30 AM** wearing their fair board shirts, preferably the blue ones, though any fair board shirt is acceptable. Jay Crouse confirmed that OVG will set up the tables, and overall planning is ahead of schedule compared to last year. One remaining item is locating or replacing the Lions Club banner, which has gone missing, but this will be addressed before the event.

d. Parade - The board moved on to parade planning updates in Logan Lenz's absence. It was confirmed that the parade permit is in place, barricades have been addressed, and police coverage is secured. Judges and Thompson Valley Ambulance are also confirmed. There was a brief concern about construction impacting the parade route, but it was clarified through the Chamber and Deanna Slope that the route remains unaffected - though it will impact the Corn Roast parade. The parade application is live, and Abby Marr at OVG is preparing a promotional e-mail. Parade flyers have been widely distributed on various community platforms and social media groups. A walkthrough of the parade staging area at the old fairgrounds will be scheduled soon to review logistics, station locations, and sign placement. A volunteer sign-up sheet will be sent out so fair board members can confirm or adjust their roles from last year. All fair board members are encouraged to attend and bring two volunteers if possible, though attendance is flexible. It was noted that the parade is critically in need of sponsors, and members were asked to help with outreach. An updated sponsor contact list will be e-mailed soon to avoid duplicating efforts across fair events. Additional logistics, such as contacting the Color Guard and finalizing a few details, remain, but overall, the parade is progressing well.

e. Junior Livestock Sale - Laura Boldt reported the Junior Livestock Sale committee held their third mandatory meeting for youth who missed the first two sessions, with strong attendance and positive committee updates. Reports were shared from buyer outreach, sponsorship, packing, logistics, and lunch volunteers, and while one member was absent, their report was submitted in advance. The next two months will focus heavily on volunteer recruitment for various sale-related duties, including set-up, livestock handling, and event management. The board acknowledged Logan Lenz for his leadership in a challenging role and commended the entire sale committee - including Tanner Adams and Claire Haeney - for their teamwork and progress.

Additionally, it was announced that after the fair concludes, Stephanie Morrison and leadership will schedule committee meetings in August to review work plans while details are still fresh. The goal is to consolidate updates into a single, well-organized sections for each group. A suggestion was made to develop a standardized workflow template for all committees to document highlights, challenges, and changes year over year, which was well received and will be drafted for future use.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Work Plan Updates - Members were reminded to submit any updates to their work plans to Dana Luther to ensure that records remain current and accurate. This will help maintain organized documentation and allow for effective tracking of committee activities moving forward.

b. Bylaws - The board confirmed that the amended bylaws, which included a few minor changes, have been officially signed by the Commissioner and are now finalized. Copies were provided for board members to review.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Golf Cart Training: Under new business, golf cart volunteer training sessions were scheduled for Thursday, July 24th from 6-8 PM at the McKee Building, and Monday, July 28th from 6-8 PM at the Peterson Toyota Building in the LCCC room. Attendance at one of these sessions is mandatory for anyone planning to operate a golf cart during events, particularly the parade, as important safety information will be covered. Participants are required to bring a valid driver's license. For those unable to attend either date, additional training sessions can be arranged as needed, preferably if more than one person requires it. No further new business was introduced.

Next Fair Board Meeting- July 25, 6:30 PM Pederson Toyota Center

Items for Executive Committee - No Items at this time

ADJOURNMENT- Vera Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Pat Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a majority vote of the Board Members 10-0. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm.