

**Larimer County Fair Board
Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2025, 6:30 pm**

The Larimer County Fair Board convened a regular session on Wednesday, **April 23, 2025, at 6:30 P.M.**

Present:

Chairman: Stephanie Morrison

Vice Chairman: Logan Lenz

Secretary: Dana Luther

Board Members Present: Jay Crouse, Pat Young, Kristine Miller(Via Zoom)
Rebecca Walter, Vera Brown, Melinda Deal (Via Zom)

Also Present: Larimer County Commissioner – Kristin Stephens (Zoom), Fair Competition Coordinator - Laura Boldt, 4-H Youth Development Specialist
Livestock and Horse Agent - Bailey Schilling , Larimer County Fair & PRCA Rodeo Queen – Maggie Livingston, Guests Present- Cindy Buckardt (Zoom)
Absent Members: Ranch Director – Conor McGrath, Michelle Wilcox

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Stephanie Morrison called the meeting to order at 6:33pm.

INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Stephanie Morrison asked all present to introduce themselves.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Stephanie Morrison suggested a few additions/ corrections April 23rd 2025, agenda. Minor edits/corrections are as follows: to change the date of the next meeting to May 28th 2025, along with the change to Review and Approval of February 26, 2025 – should be March 26, 2025 minutes to reflect the correct dates. Pat Young made a motion to approve the amended agenda, Logan Lenz seconded the motion. The Agenda was approved on a majority vote by the Fair Board Members 9-0. Motion passed.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Stephanie Morrison suggested a few additions/corrections to the March 26th 2025 minutes. Logan Lenz made a motion to correct the official title for Rachel Wildman from CSU 4-H Livestock Agent to 4-H Youth Development Specialist. Pat Young seconded

the motion. The minutes were approved on a majority vote by the Fair Board Members 9-0. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

No Correspondence to report.

COMMISSIONER REPORT

Commissioner Kristin Stephens reported a recent work session was held with Conor McGrath from The Ranch to review potential improvement projects, to the grounds you can find updates and plans and more up to date details on The Ranch's website. Conor McGrath is expected to provide a more detailed update at the next meeting.

In addition, Larimer County Commissioners are closely tracking the final two weeks of the legislative session. Due to significant budget cuts at the state level — including \$100 million from CDOT — there is concern about the potential impact on local programs and infrastructure. County Commissioners are also monitoring possible federal funding cuts and continuing outreach to state and congressional legislators to advocate for community priorities like Medicaid and essential services.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Stephanie Morrison provided an update on recent activities and discussions. One key topic raised was the potential for the Fair Board to explore organizing a fundraiser to support subcommittee expenses, particularly for the parade. Stephanie Morrison suggested convening a dedicated discussion in the coming weeks to brainstorm and plan for future fundraising opportunities.

Board member Becca Walter also shared that she had contacted a local business, The Human Bean, regarding potential in-kind contributions for the Junior Livestock Sale, noting they were open to providing complimentary items. This initiative could serve as a model for future fundraising.

Lastly, it was announced that the Larimer County member training session would be postponed to the May 28th, 2025 meeting, Fair Board members were reminded to review the emailed presentation slides and training packets in advance.

FAIR BOARD PARTNERS / LIAISON REPORTS

a. Queen/Royalty – Larimer County Fair & PRCA Rodeo Queen Maggie Livingston provided a detailed report on her recent activities including the Queen's Clinic, which was a great success with strong participation from girls ages 6 to 18. The event was well-received, with guest clinician Georgia Strimenos offering valuable instruction. A

new addition this year, the Queen's Round Table session, which consisted of current and past Larimer County Royalty. Maggie Livingston reported that attendees asked thoughtful, insightful questions and actively engaged in the discussion. Maggie Livingston shared the Queen's Clothing Sale that was held after the Queen's Clinic was successful.

In addition, Maggie Livingston reported she had attended a number of events including the CSU Skyline Stampede Rodeo, Maggie Livingston was also asked to film a recruitment video for the CSU College of Agricultural Sciences. Additional events and meetings included: Poudre Valley REA Annual Meeting, Harmony Hustlers, Desperados, and Bits & Pieces 4 H Club meetings. Maggie Livingston emphasized the importance of visiting both horse and non-horse clubs, offering support and promoting the Larimer County Queen's program. Maggie Livingston also shared that she will be attending the Dairy Workshop on April 25th, 2025.

b. Extension 4-H – 4-H Youth Development Specialist

Livestock and Horse Agent Bailey Schilling provided an update on recent and upcoming activities within the Extension office. Highlights included the following: The Bob Keirns Memorial Horse Show. Beef Camp was recently held with renowned clinician Kirk Stierwalt. Attendance was capped at 22 members to allow for personalized instruction. This year, a majority of participants were Larimer County youth. Upcoming clinics for the Sheep and Goat Camps that will be held in June, with clinicians Wes Tiemann (swine) and tentatively Bobby Strecker (sheep).

Bailey Schilling proceed in providing Project Numbers & Deadlines:

- **Swine Tagging:** 242 pigs have been tagged so far, with the May 2nd deadline approaching. This number is expected to increase slightly before the close of tagging.
- **Sheep and Goat Weigh-In:** Scheduled for May 7th, with participation numbers to be reported at the next meeting.
- **Market Project Enrollment:** 308 members are enrolled in market projects this year, exceeding last year's projected sale number of 266. In addition, there 420 total livestock and equine project participants currently enrolled.
 - **Species Breakdown:**
 - Beef: 66 members (steady from 64 last year)
 - Goats: 79 members (up from 70)

- Sheep: 60 members (up from 55)
- Swine: 122 members (up from 114)
- Poultry: ~30 (including 13 market chicken members, 16 turkey, 16 duck, and 6 geese)
- Pigeons: 4 members
- Rabbits: 10 members

c. The Ranch, Rodeo & LC Sheriff's Posse - In Conor McGrath's absence, Fair Competition Coordinator Laura Boldt reported that work is underway to issue Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for several upcoming Ranch projects, with plans for those to be distributed next week.

Additionally, a quarterly employee meeting was held, covering key updates including:

- Progress on various facility projects, the upcoming launch of a new Ranch website, ongoing marketing initiatives at the Blue Arena and announcements regarding new hires within the operations team.

The meeting was productive and provided valuable updates for Ranch staff. Members were reminded that any questions regarding Ranch operations or projects can be directed to Conor McGrath via email.

d. Rodeo Board – Fair Competition Coordinator Laura Boldt reported that Rick Harris has been officially appointed as Chairman of the Rodeo Board, with Conor McGrath designated to serve as the liaison for the board's reports and activities.

Additionally, it was mentioned that interviews are currently being conducted to fill an open position on the Rodeo Board. Conor McGrath and Commissioner Jody Shadduck-McNally were involved in these interviews earlier in the week. The board is hopeful to bring in new members soon to support ongoing efforts and upcoming events.

e. Fair Coordinator - Laura Boldt provided an update focused on enhancing public education and engagement during livestock competitions. A new "You Be the Judge" educational display rack will be introduced at livestock show areas, featuring judging sheets and fact sheets for various species including beef cattle, market goats, chickens, rabbits, swine, dairy cattle, sheep, pygmy goats, horses, and dairy goats. These resources will outline key qualities judges look for in each species and include educational facts. The goal is to offer Fair attendees a better understanding of livestock shows and to engage both the public and new 4-H members.

Additionally, there was a suggestion to place similar materials at the Fair's information booth to help visitors locate specific shows and enhance their Fair experience.

Laura Boldt also reported at the next Livestock Superintendents meeting where they'll review logistics for June and July events. Judges for livestock competitions have been secured and will be formally announced. Belt buckles, ribbons, and banners have been ordered, and sponsorship outreach is ongoing.

Fair entry registration for youth participants will open on June 2, with a final deadline of July 8.

FAIR BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Ranch Hands – Kristine Miller reported ongoing discussions with Chrissy from Ripple Effect Martial Arts in Johnstown, whose organization is eager to participate. A challenge exists as some of their volunteers are under 16; solutions are being explored to involve parents alongside youth participants.

Volunteer sign-ups are steadily progressing. Kristine Miller reminded all volunteers to complete their background checks promptly, emphasizing that the process is quick and primarily focuses on criminal history due to the involvement with youth programs.

Ranch Hands committee meeting will be scheduled in the coming weeks, likely coordinated with Laura Boldt and other team members. Efforts to expand the volunteer pool are underway through outreach to Larimer County, the City of Loveland, and an upcoming connection with the City of Fort Collins to engage additional volunteers.

To date, approximately \$3,500 in sponsorships has been secured, with a goal of reaching \$5,000 to cover all Ranch Hands program expenses. Kristine Miller also mentioned interest from members of God's Country Cowboy Church in volunteering and encouraged them to sign up through the online volunteer portal.

The committee continues to make steady progress and welcomes additional support as preparations for the Fair move forward.

b. Queen/Royalty – Chairman Stephanie Morisson provided an update in Michelle's Willcox absence. Chairman Stephanie Morrison reported on some recent and upcoming events.

Starting in mid-May, Paige Petrocco (Former Larimer County Queen) and Maggie Livingston will begin visiting sponsors to create short promotional videos for social media. Planning for the upcoming Queen's Pageant is also underway, and Michelle Willcox will present a sign-up list for the annual BBQ at next month's meeting.

Special recognition from Chairman Stephanie Morrison was given to Maggie Livingston for her poise and professionalism during the first night of the CSU Rodeo. Despite an

oversight that left the Colorado flag unavailable for her run, Maggie Livingston maintained a positive attitude, carried a sponsor flag, and performed admirably. She also actively engaged with the crowd by selling raffle tickets and participating in event promotions throughout the weekend.

Additionally, Maggie Livingston recently attended the Poudre Valley REA meeting receiving positive feedback, the Queen's committee Thanked Emma Wallace from the Ranch for chaperoning Maggie Livingston at the meeting. — Maggie Livingston showcased the program's new blue suit with whip stitch detailing. The committee credited Paige Petrocco and Michelle Willcox for their effective management of social media, which has significantly boosted public engagement and visibility for the program.

c. Pancake Breakfast – Jay Crouse provided an update on the preparations for the upcoming Pancake Breakfast. An inventory review was completed with Emma Wallace, and it was noted that additional plates need to be ordered. An inventory count of aprons was completed, with 12 branded aprons and 8 plain black aprons available, all cleaned and stored. These will be reserved for volunteers working the serving line. Additionally, syrup jars have been washed and sanitized in preparation for the event. A meeting is scheduled with the Lions Club on May 28th to further coordinate event details.

It was noted that Conor McGrath will begin inviting Commissioners, Mayors, and other dignitaries to help serve pancakes at the pancake breakfast, Stephanie Morrison will connect with Conor McGrath regarding this task.

d. Parade – Logan Lenz and Pat Young provided an update on parade preparations, noting that while progress is steady, adjustments had to be made due to changes in the permit application process, which has become more detailed this year. They are actively working through outreach to necessary contacts and coordinating logistics.

Mitzi Deal from God's Country Church, will be providing the horse drawn carriage carrying the Grand Marshal. Discussions were held regarding decorating the carriage, and the Grand Marshal banner will be ordered. A contract with Mitzi Deal's team is being finalized, and insurance requirements were confirmed.

Efforts are underway to obtain the Grand Marshal's biography and photo promptly so these can be uploaded to the website and included in promotional materials. The committee aims to have this finalized by May to allow adequate time for publicizing.

Additional updates included a reminder to update forms and documents to reflect current leadership and contact information. Plans are also being made to print and distribute parade flyers earlier than last year, with Abby Marr identified as the contact for flyer design.

e. Junior Livestock Sale – Logan Lenz provided an update on the Junior Livestock Sale, noting significant progress in planning and preparation efforts. The committee secured a new auctioneer, John Corey, known for his work with the National Western Stock Show, following less favorable feedback from last year's event. A photographer has also been confirmed.

A major focus has been on refining event logistics to streamline the experience for buyers, particularly improving flow through the show and sale ring areas to eliminate confusion experienced previously. Buyer outreach efforts have been highly successful, with outreach leads exceeding expectations, and sponsorship commitments are ahead of schedule compared to the prior year.

Committee members have worked collaboratively to finalize operational details, including buyer cards and sale meetings. Mandatory sale meetings for participating youth have been scheduled for May 16 and June 1, immediately following MQA sessions, and multiple communication channels, including Clover Connection and email blasts, are being utilized to ensure awareness and compliance.

Discussion also addressed a possible training for the Fair entry system, with Logan Lenz suggesting further evaluation on whether it's a necessary addition or an optional resource for participants.

Several board members and commissioners commended Logan and the committee for their leadership, resilience, and teamwork in navigating recent challenges. Positive feedback was shared from other board members who appreciated the transparent communication and effective leadership demonstrated by the Junior Livestock Sale executive group.

In closing, Logan Lenz expressed gratitude for the hard work of committee members, notably recognizing Laura Boldt for her critical administrative support and Becky for managing sponsorships. The meeting concluded with affirmation of the group's shared commitment to delivering a successful event and continuing strong collaboration.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Work Plan Updates - Facilitated a work plan update discussion, requesting all team members to submit their work plans to Dana Luther for consolidation and backup purposes, ensuring operational continuity.

b. Fair Board Applications - Addressed the status of current Fair Board applications, application submissions have closed and interviews may be conducted for select candidates, with follow-up coordination planned with Commissioner Stephens and Conor McGrath.

c. Bylaws - Reviewed recent amendments to the Fair Board bylaws, noting that updates were made by county leadership to align with other Board of County Commissioners' bylaws.

Summarized key bylaw changes, including:

- Clarification of the Fair Board Secretary's duties in alignment with Larimer County Administrative Policy and Procedure 100.1.
- Updates to membership qualifications, vacancies, committee meetings, grievance handling, and conflict resolution protocols.
- Adjustment of officer term dates to December 1–November 30 to coincide with member terms.
- Removal of redundant procedural language concerning appointments and voting privileges.
- Elimination of public comment procedures from meetings to comply with county policy.
- Emphasized that the bylaw revisions were largely administrative clarifications with no significant operational impact, requiring no board vote for adoption.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Volunteer Training Dates (Golf Cart)

Thursday, July 24th: 6-8 pm McKee

Monday, July 28th: 6-8 pm LCCC

Next Fair Board Meeting- May 28, 6:30 PM McKee Building

Items for Executive Committee - No Items at this time

ADJOURNMENT- Logan Lenz made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Pat Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a majority vote of the Board Members 9-0. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:46pm.

Chair: Stephanie Morrison _____

Secretary: Dana Luther _____