

**Larimer County Fair Board
Meeting Minutes
January 28th, 2026, 6:30 pm**

The Larimer County Fair Board convened a regular session on Wednesday, **January 28th, 2026, at 6:30 P.M.**

Present:

Chairman: Stephanie Morrison

Vice Chairman: Becca Walter

Secretary: Vera Brown

Board Members Present: Michelle Wilcox, Christy Bushong, Kristine Miller, Melinda Deal, Logan Lenz, RJ Saffell, Brittany Saffell, Tiffany Bending, Ulf Borg, Jay Crouse

Also Present: 4-H Youth Development Livestock & Equine Specialist- Bailey Schilling, Fair Competition Coordinator- Laura Boldt, General Manager of the Venue- Louise Romero, Larimer County Commissioner- Kristin Stephens, 2026 Larimer County Fair & PCRA Rodeo Queen- Addy Gregory, LCSO Lt. Brad Harkin, Guests Present- Cindy Buckhardt, Shannon Fancher, 2026 Miss Rodeo Colorado Lindsey Fancher-Rule

Absent Members: Pat Young

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Stephanie Morrison called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

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. Stephanie Morrison made a request to change the Agenda moving 2026 Miss Rodeo Colorado Lindsey Fancher-Rule to the Correspondence Section. Logan Lenz made a motion to approve the Amended Agenda. Ulf Borg seconded the motion. The Amended Agenda was approved on a majority vote by the Fair Board Members 12-0. Motion passed.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes from the October 29th 2025 meeting were distributed to all attendees via email prior to the meeting. It is noted copies of the minutes for the October 29th meeting were available for review if needed. Stephanie Morrison asked if everyone had the opportunity to review the minutes from the October 29th 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 minutes. Logan Lenz made the motion to approve the minutes. Kristine Miller seconded the motion. The minutes were approved on a majority vote by the Fair Board Members 12-0. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

Stephanie Morrison introduced 2026 Miss Rodeo Colorado Lindsey Fancher-Rule our Miss Rodeo Colorado 2026. Lindsey thanked everyone for allowing her to be at the Fair Board meeting. Lindsey recalls her time as Larimer County Fair & Rodeo Queen, providing her updates as Queen to this Fair Board and stating it was this very Fair Board, Fairgrounds, and this very Rodeo is the reason I am standing in front of you today. The dream when I was a little girl, around 3 years old, and my dad Richard Rule introduced me to the Larimer County Fair & Rodeo Queen, Sarah Baker, and her Lady in Waiting, Pilar Conway. Lindsey recalls they were the sparkliest, shiniest, most beautiful creatures on the planet, but what really stuck with Lindsey was their kindness. I was just this little insignificant girl and they took the time to go out of their way to make me feel like I was significant, like I was special, like I was going to amount to something. I felt this same way when I met Cassidy Miss Rodeo Colorado 2013 at this rodeo. She was carrying flags on my little horse, Bella, who had just competed in the Fair that very year, and got to carry the American Flag. Cassidy with this exact same crown on, did the exact same thing to me, she made me feel significant and special. This empowered and emboldened me to chase after this dream, and achieved as Miss Rodeo Colorado 2026.

Stephanie Morrison spoke for the entire Fair Board stating how proud we are of Lindsey Fancher-Rule and how amazing she is and how great she looks. Stephanie asked Lindsey if she wanted to speak about her fundraiser. Lindsey Fancher-Rule advises she gets to host a Miss Rodeo Colorado 2026 Sponsor Appreciation Dinner and Fundraiser, "Vintage Velvet" that will happen on February 27th, 2026 at M&M Farms. Tickets cost \$70 and includes a steak dinner, complimentary beverage, dancing, silent and live auction with all proceeds supporting Lindsey's year as the 2026 Miss Rodeo Colorado.

Lindsey was asked about an upcoming event on Valentine's Day. Lindsey Fancher-Rule advises there is a Miss Rodeo Colorado clinic over Valentine's weekend in which Addy Gregory will also be joining her. All proceeds will go to the Miss Rodeo Colorado committee. Lindsey Fancher-Rule was also asked about highlights from her first

National Western Stock Show. Lindsey Fancher-Rule advises she really enjoyed the stock show and was a part of all 29 rodeo performances in 18 days. Lindsey's number one favorite part was the Exceptional Rodeo, a rodeo with stick horses, fake bucking horses, and everything for special needs children. The Rodeo royalty and contestants help these special needs experience the rodeo. Lindsey enjoyed seeing their faces light up when they got to ride the bucking horse and I shouted 93 points for the first time, or going around the barrels with them, and handing out trophies. Empowering those kids and spending quality time with them was my favorite part.

Stephanie Morrison thanked Lindsey Fancher-Rule and asked if there was anything this Fair Board could do for her as we get closer to Vegas. Lindsey Fancher-Rule advised there will be a little fashion show at the Greeley Stampede Office that will occur in October around circuit finals if anyone wants to attend.

Stephanie Morrison asked Lindsey Fancher-Rule to advise the Fair Board what her main goal is as Miss Rodeo Colorado. Lindsey is advocating for agriculture and rodeo for the state. She is devoted to this state and our community. Lindsey Fancher-Rule has the opportunity in December to compete in the Miss Rodeo America pageant in Las Vegas. Miss Rodeo America is the official representative of the Pro Rodeo Cowboys Association for all of the United States. The pageant is a 9 day competition that includes two interviews, horsemanship competition, fashion show, and extemporaneous speeches.

Lindsey Fancher-Rule thanked everyone for the opportunity to come and speak to the Fair Board. It gives her practice thinking, breathing while standing, and speaking. She asked the Fair Board to notify her of any extemporaneous speaking opportunities to please reach out to her. Commissioner Kristin Stephens thanked Lindsey Fancher-Rule and asked her to let this Board know if there is anything we can do for her.

COMMISSIONER REPORT

Commissioner Kristin Stephens reported this week the Commissioners adopted the Ranch Master Plan. Conor McGrath and Portia Cook attended the meeting on Monday afternoon to talk about the master plan. As everyone can see, there is a lot of construction going on at The Ranch and it is currently in Phase Two. To recap, money was borrowed through certificates of participation to be able to finance the work that is being done. The end goal is that we will not have to rely on the Ranch Tax when it expires. As previously reported, the County Commissioners had a second opportunity to re-up this tax and due to other needs in the community, we did not re-up the tax. The Ranch has the opportunity to do work on the great lawn, have an amphitheater, modernize Blue Arena that includes providing some sort of expanded premium seating,

install sheets of ice that would be for practice since there is a great need in our area. They are also looking to add another hotel on the premises to allow us to expand and be able to host things like Conferences and Exhibitions. Commission Stephens encouraged everyone to go to the website and check out the Ranch Master Plan to see all that is happening.

Commissioner Stephens invited Lindsey Fancher-Rule and Addie Gregory to join her at an administrative meeting as her guest and they could have 10 minutes or so to speak. This meeting occurs on Tuesday mornings at 9am and is televised.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Stephanie Morrison welcomed the new Fair Board members and thanked everyone for being here this evening. She states that this is not just a board that has meetings, this is a hard working group that has a lot of fun and puts in really long days at the Fair. Stephanie appreciates everyone's involvement from those who are new, existing board members, and to those who have done this for years, thank you for making the Fair successful and it gets more successful every year.

Stephanie Morrison reported that she held a small meeting prior to the Fair Board meeting this evening with the new members to welcome everyone. She is working on creating a new member on-boarding process to make the process a little easier and more fun.

Stephanie Morrison acknowledges that the Agenda has clarification of fair board duties and roles as members. The chairman of each of the subcommittees is working on updating their workplans.

Stephanie Morrison advised that the new Sponsorship Agreements are finalized and everyone should have an email with a copy of this. Stephanie Morrison calls attention to the new section added to the bottom of the agreement that reminds the sponsors that they are not automatically registered in the parade and will need to complete the necessary paperwork and waivers online prior to the parade. This will help alleviate problems the day of the parade.

Stephanie Morrison reminds all subcommittee chairmans to review the Larimer County Fair website on a monthly basis so if there are any changes that need to be made the subcommittee chairman can email the Ranch Admin to correct.

Stephanie Morrison reports that it has been awhile since we met, our last official meeting was in October, and that led into the holidays. We had the Larimer County Appreciation dinner that went really great and Stephanie Morrison thanked The Ranch for putting that on. Stephanie Morrison states that everyone at this point should be designated to a subcommittee and we do have new board members who have also been assigned to a subcommittee. Stephanie Morrison asks everyone to make sure to reach out to our new members and make them feel welcome and is looking forward to this year.

Chairman Stephanie Morrison and Vice Chairman Becca Walter are working together to create operating procedures for all of the subcommittees to ensure everything is consistent across the different subcommittees. Stephanie Morrison and Becca Walter anticipate this will be completed in the next month or two.

Stephanie Morrison provided all board members with a spreadsheet that has everyone's phone number and emails. Logan Lenz advised that his email needs to be updated. Stephanie Morrison asks everyone to confirm that their information is correct so she can email out the updated spreadsheet.

FAIR BOARD PARTNERS / LIAISON REPORTS

a. Queen/Royalty: 2026 Larimer County Fair & PRCA Rodeo Queen Addy Gregory reported she attended the Grand Opening of the Origins Building on November 4th and was able to be a part of the ribbon cutting. Addy Gregory then made some visits to Sathers for her crown and attended the CAFS clinic where she got to spend two days learning all things Rodeo queening from Lindsey Fancher-Rule Miss Rodeo Colorado 2026 as well as other wonderful clinicians.

Addy Gregory reports that she got her official Skillman pictures done so she finally has her headshots in the infamous blue suit ready to go on autograph sheets. Addy Gregory attended the Larimer County Appreciation Dinner that was a lot of fun to see and visit with everyone.

After this, Addy Gregory advises she went straight into holiday events. Addy Gregory attended the Loveland Festival of Lights downtown and got pictures with Santa and the Grinch. Addy Gregory also was able to pick up her chaps and posted pictures on Instagram. Addy Gregory attended the Millikan Parade of Lights. Addy Gregory thanked Tiffany Bending and Blue Crew Services for decorating the truck not once but

twice. Addy Gregory attended a Christmas party with the Foster and Adoptive Families of Larimer County, She had a wonderful time visiting with families and children.

Addy Gregory attended the New Year's Eve Rodeo here at Blue Arena and it was the first time she got to present the American Flag in her title as 2026 Larimer County Fair & PRCA Rodeo Queen. Addy Gregory also attended the Loveland Big Thunder draft show here at The Ranch and was able to ride on the carriages.

Addy's first National Western Stock Show event was the Legacy building grand opening. They hosted a bricks, brands and benches event for the Legacy building. Addy enjoyed meeting all of the Queens, along with a personal meet and greet with Pete Coors. Addy Gregory attended the National Western Parade and that evening the Coors Art Gallery that happened in the Legacy for the first time. Addy Gregory was involved at the NWSS from January 8th through the 26th for a total of 11 days, 70 hours and 15 minutes.

Another NWSS for Addy Gregory was being invited to the Brown Palace for the presentation of the Overall Grand Champion steer and Overall Reserve Champion Steer event. Addy Gregory welcomed people to Denver on a Boston news channel and that evening she was able to help out with the NWSS Jr. livestock auction.

Addy Gregory thanked Stephanie Morrison and Tiffany Bending who spent a lot of time with her at the Stock Show. They visited every vendor at the Stock Show at some point. Addy's total hours are now up to 202 and she traveled a total of 2,713 miles and made 40 social media posts. Addy Gregory advises that her next event is the MRC Clinic and Lindsey's Fancher-Rules gala on February 27th.

b. Extension 4-H: Bailey Schilling reports he has been busy for the past couple of months. Project letters have been sent out and that covers the 40,000ft view of the project going through the different workshops, requirements, and other information such as levels and testing on the horse side. Rachel Wildman took a Family Consumer Science Team to San Antonio for their next contest earlier in the month of January. Bailey reports the leadership development conference just finished with quite a few 4-H members that were down in Denver following the Stock Show and got to tour the Capital building.

Bailey Schilling reports on Friday we'll have our horse program orientation again that gives some basics on horse management and husbandry. It will also cover horse

levels, testing, and clarifying questions and will start to stair step the workshop opportunities and become more advanced throughout the year.

The beef orientation was back in October 2025 and beef tagging will be coming up on February 17th, 2026 from 4-7pm in Origin Arena. Bailey Schilling reports last year they had a record number of 99 Market Beef tags, both steer and heifers, and plan to increase that number this year, and are happy with the growth on the beef side.

Bailey Schilling reports on February 21-22 they will have their Livestock Field Day at McKee and its MQA opportunity for a lot of youth. He states a lot of youth will have to either start the MQA workshop because it's their first year in a livestock project or they are moving up into the Senior division. Bailey Schilling explains that members that are in 4-H have to take the MQA twice during their career, once as junior and once as senior.

One workshop that Bailey invites all Fair Board members to attend with J.D. Sexton called Livestock 4 in 1 for showing livestock. J.D. was a former Larimer County alumni who participated in the 4-H program in Larimer County when he was a youth and is now an agent out in Logan County. He put together this session for his Fair Board and Sale Committee that discusses the differences of the county fair and what responsibilities fall under Extension, Fair Board, and Sale Committee. Bailey reports that every county operates a little differently but he spoke with J.D. and he will cater this a little bit more to Larimer County. Bailey Schilling thinks this will be good for everyone to understand more from livestock management and/or showing from both a fair perspective, specialist perspective, and a parent perspective as well as the collaboration amongst Extension Office, Fair Board, Sale Committee, and everything that goes into the County Fair. This session will take place on February 21st from 11 to 1 at the McKee building in the front rooms.

Bailey Schilling reports that Rachel Wildman has worked really hard this past year on the 4-H Festival which is a club fundraising opportunity on March 7th 2026.

Stephanie also asked if Bailey needed any volunteers to help on February 17th for beef. Bailey Schilling advised that he has contacted a few volunteers to help staff the event and some volunteers from the Larimer County Livestock Growers Association to help with some cattle handling. Bailey Schilling states he will never say no to volunteers, so anyone that wants to help on February 17th he would be glad to have the help.

c. The Ranch, Rodeo & LC Sheriff's Posse: Lousie Romero reports this year they partnered with Tourism Colorado and Visit Loveland so there will be a lot of exciting

things specific to the US and Colorado anniversaries. Louise reports the top 3 themes are America's 250th birthday and Colorado's 150th birthday, Let's Celebrate, and Colorado and Country- USA 250, Colorado 150. Louise Romero advises that these themes will be voted on by 4-H and the winner will be the theme of the parade and the fair.

Louise Romero also reports there will be special events for 250 and 150 and her team has been working with Visit Loveland, Historical Society and Larimer County Veterans Service Office. Louise Romero advises there will be fireworks on Friday and Saturday nights and a drone show on Sunday night. The fair will also have 15 banners that showcase historical documents of the Constitution and Declaration of Independence. Louise Romero states the banners are the size of window blinds and they will be displayed in 3 triangles so people can walk around one and then move on to the next one. They are also looking to try and get some reenactment actors involved as well. Louise reports there will be a time capsule and everyone in Larimer County is invited to sign a heart paper to put in the time capsule or bring any historical items from the Fair. The time capsule will be buried in the event lawn and there will be a ceremony with a plan to have it dug up in 25 years.

Louise Romero reports that Globe of Death, Ninja Nation, and the Petting Zoo will be returning and we will be moving away from the Bounce Houses. Louise and her team are still working on getting other entertainment acts confirmed. Dairy Farmers will be bringing a trailer this year and it will be positioned near the livestock barns and will feature an actual live Jersey milking cow for demonstrations and kids can actually try to milk cows.

Louise Romero advises the dirt work component of the Master Plan is completed and they have started laying all of the foundations for the concrete path so they are ahead of schedule thanks to the warm weather. All of the ground infrastructure will be completed prior to the Fair. Once the Fair is over, they will focus on the vertical infrastructure (gates, bathrooms, pavilion, etc), which they hope to have completed by next year. Louise reports the amphitheater will be at the end of the event lawn and hope to have it open by 2028. Louise and her team met with 4-H leaders about the archery range and realized their plans were too extravagant and they will be listening to the 4-H suggestions on what they need and would like to see for that space. There will be one really large outdoor riding arena with cross fences to divide up the space next to the Origins building instead of the multiple arenas we had previously. Once the equine area is completed they will start working on the parking lot that will be directly behind and will include proper fencing so trailers aren't getting lost in the parking lot. They will also be expanding the ADA parking lot to add 30 more spaces. Louise confirms what

Commissioner Stephens reported about the Blue Arena upgrades, the restaurant is already completed and a Grab and Go area on the top level has been completed.

d. Fair Coordinator: Laura Boldt reports they have the 4-H livestock, general projects, and family consumer science schedule on the website under 4-H exhibits. The livestock fair book is online now and there will be a date on the bottom of the book indicating the date it was last updated. Laura reports the layout for the schedule is a little different where it's just a single line instead of two columns and identifies the species. Animals will be housed where they normally have been. There will be changes to the check-in schedule with staggering times due to the congestion behind the barns (example- dairy cattle are coming in on Friday morning instead of Saturday). Laura Boldt reports the biggest change you will see is the Peewee shows. Previously they would have sheep, goat, and swine right before the youth showed their showmanship classes. Now they are going to try a Peewee Show Day that will be Tuesday afternoon from 4pm to 7pm and they will be putting together a committee to bring in some different ideas and open it up to 4-H members siblings that already have an animal at the Fair. Laura Boldt indicates those are the biggest changes you will see in the fair book and the changes are highlighted on the first 2 pages. One big change is Record Books are not going to be checked at Fair, they will be checked in early July and communication has already gone out about this.

Laura Boldt is in the process of hiring judges and working on awards. She has 820 awards of which 223 go to 4-H general and family and consumer science, 399 go to livestock, and 198 go to Open Class. Laura reports she has 56 businesses, 52 individuals, 13 4-H clubs, 13 organizations and 25 businesses that give gift cards for Open Class. Laura Boldt reports she spent \$30,000 on awards last year, had an ask of \$29,000, and the donations were only \$26,000, so she fell short of goal last year. Laura plans to start earlier this year and implement an automated system of reminding people to pay, so she knows if she needs to find more donors. Laura indicates her awards range from \$10 for record book awards, \$25-\$35 for trophies, up to \$125 for belt buckles, so it is not a huge ask.

Stephanie Morriosn asked Laura Boldt to discuss the email sent earlier today. Laura Boldt advises she sent out an email to all Fair Board members asking for permission to proceed with the mandatory background check. Laura Boldt asks everyone to just reply with "yes". Since there are 3 new members, she will make sure to get this sent out to them. Laura Boldt reminds everyone to record their time in Volgistics (app is called VicNet).

FAIR BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Ranch Hands: Kristine Miller announced she is glad there will be no Bounce Houses at the 2026 County Fair; it has been a problem getting volunteers to work in this area. Louise Romero indicates they are investigating a put-put golf course to possibly replace the Bounce Houses along with Ninja Nation and of the giant blocks that The Ranch owns.

Melinda Deal reports there are a lot of different sponsor areas (parade, livestock sale, Ranch Hands, and Queens) and she will start going to companies and corporations to start asking for sponsors and allotting that money based on their area of interest. Melinda Deal will be letting the companies choose the area they wish to support. Melinda Deal asks the Fair Board if you know of any companies that would be interested in sponsoring but you do not feel comfortable asking, she is willing to go and talk to them. Melinda also asked the Subcommittee Chairs to provide her with a small write-up explaining what donations would be used for so that she has that information available to provide to companies.

b. Queen/Royalty: Michelle Wilcox reported that Addy Gregory has been very busy and is doing a great job representing Larimer County. Michelle Wilcox reports that the Queens Committee met again and started planning for their clinics and getting those going, getting clinicians, and planning for the pageant. Michelle Wilcox will start working through all the items for the BBQ, including sponsors. Michelle reports that over the last couple of years, they have lost over \$6,000 cash sponsors for the Queen's program. Michelle Wilcox and the Queens Committee will start working on re-establishing those sponsors and making sure we stay strong for the Queen's program.

c. Pancake Breakfast: Jay Crouse reports that not much for pancakes has really started yet but will be getting started in the next month or two.

d. Parade: Stephanie Morrison introduced the new Chairman Tiffany Bending, Tiffany Bending stated that Becca Walter agreed to be her Vice Chair. Tiffany Bending reports that Logan Lenz has emailed her information so she will take time to review the information. Tiffany Bending asks that anyone interested in being on the Parade Committee let her know.

Stephanie Morrison reminds everyone that there was a medical emergency with one of the Color Guard members last year which required an ambulance. Stephanie Morrison mentioned it would be a great idea for the Fair Board to take a CPR Class. Jay Crouse will be putting this together and notify everyone.

e. Junior Livestock Sale: Chairman Morrison reports that Tanner Adams was appointed to the Jr Livestock Sale Chairman and Becca Walter has been appointed as the Liaison between the Fair Board and Jr Livestock Sale. Becca reports Tanner Adams is not able to make the Fair Board meeting tonight. Stephanie Morrison advises he has plans to attend the next meeting either via Zoom or in person so everyone can meet him.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Brainstorming ideas for fundraising. Tiffany Bending reports that she and Stephanie Morrison have been brainstorming ideas for fundraising such as a Car Show that could take place at God's Country Cowboy Church. There was also a fun fundraising event at the Stock Show called Goat Roping that raised money for Junior Livestock Sale. Teams were formed from businesses registered with the Denver Chamber of Commerce and they paid \$500 or \$800 to participate in different stations (stick horse racing, cow patty toss, roping). Teams were able to buy a Rodeo Queen to complete the roping for the Team. Ulf Borg will be looking into the event and report what information he finds at the February meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Fair Board Pictures. Chairman Morrison asks all Fair Board members, Commissioner Stephens, and Addy Gregory the 2026 Larimer County Fair & PCRA Rodeo Queen to meet at the Origins building at 6:00 or 6:15pm for a group picture in front of the mural inside the building or in front of the statue outside of the building. Fair Board members should wear their long sleeved, royal blue western Fair Board shirts for the photo. Stephanie Morrison invited Lindsey Fancher-Rule 2026 Miss Rodeo Colorado to be a part of the picture if she is available. Chairman Morrison will confirm the time and place for the Fair Board photo prior to the next meeting and notify everyone.

**Next Fair Board Meeting: February 25th, 2026 at 6:30pm McKee Building
Timnath/LaPorte Rooms**

Items for Executive Committee: No Items at this time

ADJOURNMENT: Vera Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Logan Lenz seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a majority vote of the Board Members 12-0. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.