

**Larimer County Fair Board
Meeting Minutes
February 25th, 2026, 6:30 pm**

The Larimer County Fair Board convened a regular session on Wednesday, **February 25th, at 6:30 P.M.**

Present:

Chairman: Stephanie Morrison

Vice Chairman: Becca Walter

Secretary: Vera Brown

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

Also Present: Fair Competition Coordinator- Laura Boldt, General Manager of the Venue- Louise Romero, LCSO Lt. Brad Harkin, Extension Service/4H- Rachel Wildman, Guests Present- Cindy Buckhardt

Absent Members: Commissioner Kristin Stephens, 2026 Larimer County Queen Addy Gregory

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Stephanie Morrison called the meeting to order at 6:39pm.

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. Logan Lenz made a motion to approve the agenda as it stands Melinda Deal seconded the motion. Agenda was approved on a majority vote by the Fair Board Members 13-0. Motion passed.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes from the January 28th 2026 meeting were distributed to all attendees via email prior to the meeting. It is noted copies of the minutes for the January 28th meeting were available for review if needed. Stephanie Morrison asked if everyone had the opportunity to review the minutes from the January 28th 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. Becca Walter made the motion to approve the minutes. Logan Lenz seconded the motion. The minutes were approved on a majority vote by the Fair Board Members 13-0. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

No Correspondence to report.

COMMISSIONER REPORT- Commissioner Kristin Stephens was not able to attend the February meeting due to a conflicting meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT- Stephanie Morrison reports the Fair Board presented a check to the American Legion for being the color guard in the parade. The Legion was excited and thankful and looking forward to next year.

FAIR BOARD PARTNERS / LIAISON REPORTS

a. Queen/Royalty - Addy Gregory was absent due to attending the volunteer dinner for the National Western Stock Show. She will have a report for the Fair Board at the next meeting.

b. Extension Service/4-H – Rachel Wildman provided the Extension Report. We had a competitor go down to the National Western Roundup in the Horse Administration contest and she received 3rd overall. Family Consumer Science Guillaton team placed 2nd in the Life Smarts Assessment at Nationals and 5th overall at Nationals. Consumer Decision Making Team placed 3rd in their Group Think Project and 4th overall at Nationals. A Stock Show previsit was held in Fort Collins and we had a total of 20 kids attend the Stock Show from Larimer County this year. We had 15 youth attend our Leadership Conference in Denver.

4-H enrollment closed with 871 total, including 779 4H members and 92 Cloverbuds. To date we have 269 volunteers registered. Rachel Wildman advises the enrollment numbers are similar to last year at this time. Beef tag in was completed and 92 market beef animals were tagged. Livestock Field Day and MQA training was completed and 100 youth took the MQA exam to prepare for livestock shows this year.

The dog, horse, poultry, and rabbit orientations have been completed. Market sheep and goat orientation is currently going on tonight in the building and swine orientation will take place tomorrow. Shooting sports orientations and annual safety meetings have started. Workshops that have gotten started between January and February were:

Cake decorating, Clothing construction, Cloverbuds, Small Engines, Scrapbooking, Beekeeping, and Leather Crafts.

c. The Ranch – General Manager of the Venue Louise Romero reports the fair theme winner is “Colorado and Country” which celebrates the 250th anniversary of the United States and 150th anniversary of Colorado. Posters will be launched in April. The Fair App details have been finalized and work on the App will commence soon.

Louise Romero reports they will be working with the Bohemian Foundation for the first time and they are going to introduce a new youth program to the stage between the 4pm and 5pm time slot, adding new youth bands and entertainment to the existing entertainment lineup.

Louise Romero reports an interview with the 2026 Larimer County Fair & PCRA Rodeo Queen Addy Gregory was conducted and it will be released on social media soon. The interview focuses on Addy Gregory’s experience at NWSS and her aspirations to become a First Responder.

d. Fair Coordinator – Laura Boldt advises a Fair Forum will be held on March 19th in the Fort Collins room at the McKee building at 6pm. The Forum will address questions about the Fair including roles, responsibilities, and how it all comes together. An email invitation was sent to the 4-H exhibitors from last year’s fair and the information will be included in the 4-H newsletter. RSVP is not required.

FAIR BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Ranch Hands – Kristine Miller reports volunteer recruitment is progressing well. Melinda Deal reports 5 sponsors have been secured but one potential major sponsor fell through due to the company’s financial performance. Melinda Deal reports that Immanuel Lutheran School will be in the parade this year. Jay Crouse will send Melinda Deal a lead on a potential sponsor. Christy Bushong provided Melinda Deal the contact information for Jake Kaufman and Son.

b. Queen/Royalty – Michelle Wilcox reported Addy attended the MRC dinner and clinic on February 27th, 2026, and is attending the volunteer dinner for the National Western Stock Show on February 24th, 2026t. Addy Gregory will be at Lindsey’s fundraiser gala this Friday and the upcoming 4-H Fun Fest.

Michelle Wilcox reports the committee is working on fundraiser ideas and preparing for clinics, including a Rodeo 101 Clinic. The annual Queen's BBQ will be held at the usual location at the Ranch. Michelle Wilcox also reports a buckle design is being created to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Queen's program as a fundraiser.

Michelle Wilcox asked the Fair Board for whiskey donations of at least \$30 in value or cash for the Whiskey Wall by the May Fair Board meeting. Cash donations will be used to purchase higher-end bottles of whiskey at a discount through a distributor.

c. Pancake Breakfast – Jay Crouse reports the Pancake Breakfast time is scheduled for 7am to 9am. Due to a mix-up last year with the times being incorrect on some sources, Louise Romero reports the Ranch will help ensure the schedule on the Fair App and website is correct this year.

d. Parade – Tiffany Bending is working on finding a marching band for the parade but having troubles as there is a band competition that same weekend. The Eagles drum line was suggested. The Army band is checking on availability for the parade weekend. Stephanie Morrison advises the possibility of a flyover has been explored over the years but it is expensive (\$10,000) assuming it's not a drill weekend. Other ideas include a drone or hot air balloon.

Tiffany Bending requested information about the Grand Marshall, horses, and carriages which Melinda Deal will provide so she can add this information into the playbook. Stephanie Morrison and Logan Lenz advise that ideas for the Grand Marshal are obtained from the Commissioners, 4-H, and possibly The Ranch and the committee picks someone from the suggestions.

e. Junior Livestock Sale – Becca Walter advises a work session was held in lieu of a February meeting to work on the Junior Livestock Sale. More information will be available next month.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Stephanie Morrison reminds everyone to review the Larimer County Fair website pages and email Laura Boldt with any changes or corrections.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Fundraising- Ulf Borg and Stephanie Morrison met to discuss the goat roping event at the NWSS and how we could mimic this as a fundraiser for the County.

Becca Walter is planning a fundraiser event similar to the “Cowgirls and Cocktails” event at the NWSS with a vintage market and vendors. The event is tentatively booked for the weekend of July 11th at the McKee Building. Becca Walter has not decided on a name yet and is open to any suggestions, so she can create a flyer. Logan Lenz suggested a Rocky Mountain Oyster Fry to go on at the same time to attract men to the event. Melinda Deal suggested looking to invite the same vendors that were at Loveland Thunder. Some name suggestions include: Sage Brush & Roses.

Other fundraising ideas included a Culver’s night or Texas Roadhouse night. Christy Bushong suggested doing a Sporting Clay Shoot. Stephanie Morrison advised that Bart Morrison is working on a fundraiser already with the Great Guns Club and suggested Christy Bushong and Bart Morrison be on the committee to get this setup.

b. 4H Fun Fest- Rachel Wildman advised the 4-H Fun Fest will take place on March 7th. They are all set for volunteers but welcome attendees, Rachel Wildman advises there will be a silent auction but no live auction.

c. Volgistics- Stephanie Morrison reminds the Fair Board to track volunteer hours from the website or the App (VicNet). Laura Boldt advises the volunteer year is September 1st to August 31st. If anyone is having issues signing into the website or the App, please reach out to Laura Boldt.

d. Subcommittee Procedures- Stephanie Morrison and Becca Walter have created procedures for each subcommittee that is in the same format as Junior Livestock Sale procedures for consistency. Stephanie Morrison provided each Subcommittee Chair with the procedures and asked that they review and provide any feedback to Becca Walter or Laura Boldt so they can be added to Google Drive.

e. Google Drive- All Fairboard Members should have access to the Google Drive. Stephanie Morrison warned everyone to be careful not to delete anything in the Drive. Becca Walter sent a link for the Fairboard members to be added to the Google Drive so people can request access if they do not already have it.

Next Fair Board Meeting- April 29th, 6:30 PM McKee Building Timnath/LaPorte Rooms

Items for Executive Committee - No Items at this time

ADJOURNMENT- Logan Lenz made a motion to adjourn the meeting, RJ Saffell seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a majority vote of the Board Members 13-0. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm.