MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Judith Basin County Fair Board Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2026 JB Co. Courthouse - Stanford, MT

Call to order at 5:35 pm by Fair Board member Powell Becker, also present were Fair Board members Kallie Probert, Billie Jo Holzer, Don Hajenga, Bruce Neumann and Sidney Stratton.

Minutes were approved by Billie Jo and a second was given by Kallie.

No Treasurer's Report was given.

No announcements or public comments were offered.

Judith Basin County Extension Office

Old Business

Fair Recap:

- Overall, there was positive feedback on the schedule – only change that was mentioned was to move the beef show later in the evening to avoid the heat of the day so instead of 2 pm moving to 4 or 5 pm as we don't typically have anything happening that time of day anyways other than an evening activity for the 4-H members.
- The sale went well this year with the new online program through Fair Entry and positive feedback for buyer check in and add-ons. Only updates would be to update the prices as the sale is happening through a different computer so that Ashton has prices for animals when buyers come to check out. We also need to pay closer attention to buy-backs and how that process works so that we can efficiently manage sale receipts and invoices for the proper animals.
- We will need someone to manage the processor's and reserving slaughter spots and destinations as Dawnita is leaving – this includes handling load out.

Fairground Repairs:

- The men's bathroom toilet is leaking and needs to be fixed prior to winterizing the fairgrounds. Powell will reach out to Jim Sheppard to see if he can fix this for us.

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Courthouse
P.O. Box 427
Stanford, MT 59479-0427
www.msuextension.org

Tel (406) 566-2277
ext. 104, 105
Fax (406) 566-2211
Email judithbasin@montana.edu

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Fairground Improvements:

- With the coming year, Sidney is turning over the responsibility to the Fair Board for the new building projects – this includes financing, and designing what needs to be done at the fairgrounds for improvements.
- The STRAND ranch grant will be applied for again this year for additional support in start-up funds, but big $ will be awarded next year around this time, so a set plan needs to be in place by Fall of 2027 to be implemented hopefully Spring of 2028. These may be bathroom renovations, food booth additions or new barns for livestock projects.
- Powell mentioned that it may be a good idea to have a joint meeting with one member from the 4-H Council, Fair Board, Stampede Club. Stanford Open and potentially the Stanford Beautification in partnership with the Commissioners to work together on the ideas for the fairgrounds.

New Business

Music Festival:

- The Commissioners brought forth this idea to Sidney to bring to the Fair Board to plan a potential music festival at the fairgrounds. Snowy Mountain Development has been in support of events like this and the Commissioners think that it could bring in great profit for the community.
- While this is still in the early stages, power is one thing to think about as well as who will manage and organize, whether it is in the Fair Board doing most parts or finding those who will organize. All members felt this could be a great event for the community.
- Potential names given for artists for the first year are Kyle Shobe or others that performed at Choke Cherry Festival in Lewistown or other areas around the state. Potentially this event will start mid-day and will have 3-4 artists performing for 2-3 hours at a time for a half-day event the first year but could build up to being a weekend event. Could also bring in a local brewery or Willie's Distillery to serve at the event. We will also need a stage and other items – could reach out to Lewistown and Harlowton to see what they do.

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- Accommodation may be an issue with hotels and current state of the fairground bathrooms and will need to be addressed.
- We will also need to pay attention to other festivals and their calendar of events around the state and Central Montana – could get a big artist on the way through to another town.
- This topic was tabled and will be discussed again at the next meeting.

Dawnita Letter of Resignation:

- Dawnita's letter was presented and Sidney will bring forth Ashton Deegan as a potential replacement to the Commissioners.
- It was moved that Ashton be presented as a replacement for Dawnita as not only a voting member but also to serve as the Fair Board treasurer given he is now employed by Stockman Bank and this position in the past has been filled by the person in his position.
    - Motion was made by Kallie and seconded by Billie Jo. Motion passed unanimously.

Term Renewals:

- Kallie will stay on for another 4 years – her term will be up again in July of 2030.
- Janet was not present for the meeting, so her term renewal will be tabled until the next meeting.

Officer Elections:

- Given that half of the Fair Board members were not present for tonight's meeting, we will table officer elections until the next meeting. We will be looking to vote on a potential Chairperson (President) and Vice President.

Next Fair Board meeting date set for **Tuesday January 19th, 2027 at 5:30 pm.**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:17 pm by Billie Jo, 2nd by Kallie.

Minutes prepared by Sidney Stratton, Ext. Agent

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