Judith Basin County Fair Board Meeting Minutes

April 22, 2024 JB Co. Courthouse - Stanford, MT

Call to order at 5:35 pm by Chairperson Janet Wertheimer, also present were Kallie Probert, Bruce Neumann, Don Hjenga, Dawnita Sampsel, Powell Becker, Sigrid Deegan, Brenda McCray, Kirstie Fiedler and Rebecca Martin.

Minutes from January were reviewed. Powell motioned to approve minutes as read and it was seconded by Dawnita.

Dawnita advised that the checking account has an approximate balance of $6,000 and all checks have now cleared.

No announcements or public comment were offered.

Old Business

- Open Class update was reviewed. Sigrid asked that some Engineering Classes be added to the High School Division. Sigrid will send Rebecca information on what classes should be added.
- Fairgrounds improvements
    - Dawnita has been in contact with a contractor to do the curb stop repairs on the bathroom facilities. The contractor will be coming to give an estimate after inspecting the job. Dawnita is hoping to have that estimate prior to June 30th.
    - Moving the 2025 fair dates was discussed. It was agreed that Rebecca would create a survey for the 4-H families to voice their vote on which week would be better for them. Last week of July or first week of August.

New Business

- Carcass Contest order of animals will be swine, beef, sheep/goat. Veterinarian will be bringing a portable machine so she can move around the barns. She will also be bringing a hog chute.
- Powell will confirm with Shobe to provide auctioneers.
- Board approved allowing poultry and rabbits to be kept at the fair grounds overnight. Kirstie reported that Stanford Scramblers have put in for a grant to build hutches. The existing kennel will be used to secure the animals overnight.
- Rebecca reported that most of the judges have been secured. Small Animal judge contract is still in the works.
- Powell will work on wood shavings with Roger
- Avian Flu Contingency is not a factor at this time but we will need to continually monitor JB Co.'s status
- Powell will verify that the electrical work has been done and is sufficient to avoid problems at fair.
- Rebecca will get information from Katie on having the scale inspected prior to fair.
- Dawnita reports that we will use the same processing facilities for butchering this year.

- Volunteers for fair were discussed. It was agreed that Rebecca would contact Cody in Fergus Co. about doing our weigh in as he is an official Ext. Agent. Rebecca will continue to recruit key volunteers.
- Dawnita will handle load out on Saturday evening/ Sunday morning.
- JB Co. Farm Bureau has expressed interest in making a final contribution. It was suggested that we propose a new permanent scale for the fairgrounds. Our current scale has been moved/loaned out and has been damaged frequently. The 4-H programs would like a scale that can not be moved or loaned out. Rebecca will reach out to Mary Hill to discuss.
- Fairgrounds work over the summer should be limited to the curb stop and some perimeter fencing. These should not interfere with events on the calendar but Dawnita will coordinate with Rebecca on the curb stop.
- The Commissioners will discuss any potential fee that might be charged in the future for the fairgrounds usage. Currently, the county does not charge to use the facility. Rebecca reported that the Record's office has not seen any increase in utilities since the renovations.

Next meeting date set for June 10, 2024 at 5:30 pm.

Motion by Kallie Probert to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 pm.

Minutes prepared by Rebecca Martin, Ext. Admin