

Weld County Fair Board Meeting

August 8, 2022

Meeting called to order by Vice President Aaron Helus at 6:00 pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Bledsoe, Isaia Aricayos, Christie Gabel, Ken Vaughn and Lauren Devers

EX-OFFICIO/STAFF PRESENT: Jenette Masarie and Hannah Swanbom

SPECIAL GUESTS: Bridget Holcomb and Cody LeBlanc

Agenda: No changes

MOTION to approve the Consent Agenda by Christie Gabel, second by Tom Bledsoe; motion passed.

SPECIAL GUESTS/REQUESTS:

- 1) Allan Halley – he supports a drug testing program, however, the procedure for administering the program needs to be changed; he felt the winners were forcefully and quickly put into pens for testing immediately following winning which didn't allow for pictures to be taken and time with family members, at one point he didn't know where his daughter was; the drug testing process did not have written consent forms and documentation of chain of custody of blood samples; there was also no request made for a second blood sample to be drawn; it was done without their knowledge or consent; he believes there was a gross lack of communication throughout process, no communication and respect given to families; he recommends a drug testing program be done by a third party separate from the Board and County removing any perception of bias or tampering
- 2) Nolan Stone – process of drug test for the goat show was not done well; second blood draw was disrespectful and not done in a transparent manner; Mr. Stone requests Christie resign from the fair board
- 3) Burnett Family – animal welfare is and should be of the utmost importance; after the champion hogs were selected the hogs were put in unclean pens without water
- 4) Jason Simpson – he is in favor of drug testing; however, the blood draw was not done without documentation, signatures and witness; he recommends there should be a discussion with tolerance levels for blood test results if anything is found – will it be a zero tolerance policy? results should perhaps be done through the county legal team and perhaps the commissioners leaving the Fair Board out of the process; he also was made aware of lamb carcass inspection for lamb winners only and feels singled out; the perception at this time is the board is looking for fault and not preventing drug use; drug testing has existed at county fair and there was documentation and signatures in the past; based on the process that was done this year the legality of processing the drug tests are in question – the veterinarians have separate regulations to adhere to and may be in violation of rules
- 5) Pfannebecker Family – steer was taken from the barn and shaved, the family was not notified or consulted and did not give permission; they found out by seeing the steer shaved; they tracked down Christie and Aaron for an explanation but was given misinformation that the steer was the property of the Fair; Pfannebecker's request Christie resign from the fair board; the family is asking for transparency from fair board

- 6) MOTION by Lauren Devers to disregard all Fair drug test results this year and to keep unopened samples from being tested; seconded by Ken Vaughn, motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- 1) None

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) Fair Recap – Pictures and photographer did an awesome job at for fair; the photos online and video have been well-received; vendors were positive and gave good feedback regarding attendance; Ranch Rodeo was well received with good attendance – attendees request rodeo continue to be free for admittance; community members also attended the event
- 2) Committee Reports (Board representation assignments drawn from hat annually)
 - a. Appreciation Lunches/Fair BBQ – **Aaron Helus** – Bridget and Cody – appreciation lunches went well feeding about 650 people (average 100 people a day served), Fair BBQ served around 1800 people; they planned for 2100; additional documentation pending to finalize budget results
 - b. Premier Exhibitor – **Isaia Aricayos** – Gus Sidwell/Bridget Holcomb – decision still pending on prizes, testing went well, participants liked it; non-livestock had some confusion on the many different types/categories of Premier Exhibitor requirements and timing of events; discussion of who will oversee the program in the future will need to take place
 - c. Carcass Contest – **Isaia Aricayos** – Larry Hooker/Christie Campbell – Hayes family did a great job conducting contest; both Becky and Craig explained ultra-sounding to each exhibitor to help educate the kids; everyone who turned in a sale card was asked to enter the carcass contest; a process and recommendation on a procedure and who should be eligible for the contest and how it will be conducted will be completed, reviewed and submitted for Board review
 - d. All Around Showmanship – **Christie Gabel** – Debbie Carpio – as a whole it went well, Cody helped to run small animal competition on Sunday morning
 - e. SNOW – **Christie Gabel** – Bridget and Cody – there was a recommendation for evening events kids could attend if possible, invoice received from Townsquare media, there will be a sponsor appreciation dinner on 9/17/22
 - f. Drug Testing – **Christie Gabel** – nothing new to add to the discussion at this time
 - g. Education – **Board Member** – Jennifer Seltzer – material set out on table this year, Jennifer has state she will not continue next year, it is recommended that a discussion be made with FFA to take help coordinate and facilitate Education for future Fairs
 - h. Jr Livestock Sale – **Board Member** – Board – \$1.2M off block, up to \$1.5M at this time with add-ons; issue with set-up miscommunication between Sale Committee and the City; we will need the Goat show ring to be kept up for All Around Showmanship as it was taken down this year; Vendors in sale area took up space so set up will need to be revisited

- i. Security – **Ken Vaughn** – Bridget Holcomb – issues include skateboard stolen from 4H building, requests have been made for security help in the building, there was a general lack of available security people and other issues with Orozco, rule enforcement is difficult, locking gates and homeless people/drug use on grounds; reimbursement request for an Derek Letchka's RV who was moved a couple times due to a security error; MOTION by Tom Bledsoe, second by Ken Vaughn to reimburse Mr. Letchka for his camper fees due to not having an appropriate available at the time of check-in; motion passed.
- j. Royalty – **Tom Bledsoe** – Bridget Holcomb – three ladies have been selected, coronation in October; Avery Lovelace will be queen, Katie Holcomb the princess, and Laura Stephens attendant; really good previous group of individuals; feedback for the girls have been very positive, they were very helpful with the open show and with other obligations
- k. Junior Livestock Animal Health – **Lauren Devers** – Bridget Holcomb – meeting next Monday, 6:30 PM

ANNOUNCEMENTS/GENERAL DISCUSSION:

- 1) Next Fair Board meeting will be September 12 @ 6 PM

Meeting adjourned by Aaron Helus at 9:31 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Isaia K Aricayos
Weld County Fair Board Secretary